



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MEDITERRANEE
الجمعية البرلمانية للبحر الأبيض المتوسط

2nd Standing Committee on Economic, Social and Environmental Cooperation

Special Task Force on Disaster Management

Disaster Management in the Mediterranean

Rapporteur : Hon. José Junqueiro (Portugal)

*Resolution endorsed by consensus by the 2nd Standing Committee
at its 4th meeting on 25 June 2009 in Lisbon*

- Having regards to UN General Assembly Resolution UNGA A/RES/46/182 (and the following) on Strengthening of the Coordination of Humanitarian Emergency Assistance of the United Nations;
 - Taking into consideration the valuable work undertaken by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA);
 - Having regards to the European Commission's Civil Protection Mechanism;
 - Having regards to the Euromed Programme on the Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Natural and Man-made Disasters Programme;
 - Noting the EUR-OPA Open Partial agreement of the Council of Europe which include many countries from the South of The Mediterranean;
 - Recalling the unique role of the national societies of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent;
- I. Takes note of existing civil protection mechanisms amongst PAM members belonging to the United Nations and the European Union,
 - II. Takes note of existing bilateral and regional agreements on civil protection mechanisms in the southern Mediterranean,
 - III. Underlines the variety of preparedness levels to emergencies amongst PAM Members States,

- IV. Regrets the lack of overall effective and efficient coordination mechanisms between national, regional and international actors on civil protection matters in the Mediterranean region as a whole,
- V. Calls upon competent national authorities to provide briefings to their parliamentarians in the presence of national and international experts about current state of preparedness in all PAM countries,
- VI. Calls upon parliamentarians from the region to monitor the situation at national level as well as to participate to regional/international meetings on disaster management,
- VII. Suggests that the parliaments of the region host regional seminars on the matter in order to exchange knowledge and best practices with all PAM States with the aim to debate about existing regional cooperation mechanisms and/or strengthen such mechanisms,
- VIII. Urges competent authorities to include risk mapping, risk prevention and risk reduction as part of their civil protection policies,
- IX. Urges Governments and Parliaments of PAM member countries to act in order to accelerate the setting up, under the aegis of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation System in the North Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and connected Seas (ICG/NEAMTWS), of an efficient and coherent early warning mechanism for tsunamis in the Mediterranean,
- X. Calls for enhanced consultations with UN bodies such as the Office of the United Nations for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) so as to increase synergies of all expert bodies dealing with rapid response to disasters,
- XI. Stresses the importance of adequate training for the staff involved in disaster management,
- XII. Calls for simulation exercises including with foreign teams and/or regional/international bodies to be conducted on a regular basis,
- XIII. Calls for the upgrading of legislation, as appropriate, aiming at improving current situation, including requesting adequate resources (financial & personnel) for early warning and early response to disasters,
- XIV. Calls upon parliamentarians and competent authorities to contribute to the enhancement of public awareness-raising, including vulnerable groups, regarding the natural and man-made disasters”.