



INAUGURAL SESSION Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean

IA/PAM-2006/C.1
7 July 2006

CONVOCATION OF THE INAUGURAL SESSION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

Madam President,
Mr. President,

We have pleasure in informing you that, at the kind invitation of the Parliament of Jordan, the Inaugural Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean will be held in Amman (Jordan), on 10 and 11 September 2006 at Le Royal Hotel.

Aims of the Inaugural session

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean was established to give more stature to parliamentary diplomacy in the Mediterranean region. It is to provide the Mediterranean region with a unique parliamentary forum of its own, unattached to any ongoing process, where the members of the Assembly will be able to draw up and examine their own agenda. It will enhance the participation of Mediterranean States, thus enabling them to proceed beyond conceptual analyses to the drawing up of recommendations and opinions on questions of direct concern to them and to the Mediterranean space.

The main objectives of this Inaugural session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) is to adopt its basic statutory documents, elect the Bureau Members and finalize arrangements for the year 2007.

1. AGENDA

The agenda of the Assembly, as approved at the preparatory meeting in June 2005 in Naples, is as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Election of a President for the Inaugural Session
3. Adoption of the Statutes of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean
4. Discussion on and adoption of the Rules of Procedure

5. Election of the Members of the Bureau of the Assembly
6. Discussion and decision on the venue of the Headquarters of the PAM Executive Secretariat as well as the procedure and timing for the selection of the Executive Secretary
7. Discussion and decision on the PAM budget
8. Discussion and decision on the venue of the second session of the PAM
9. Discussion and adoption of themes for the agenda of the second session of the PAM
10. Discussion on and adoption of a Final Declaration
11. Closure of the Inaugural Session

2. PARTICIPATION

Article 5 of the draft Statutes of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean stipulates that:

- "1. *Upon request, the parliaments of the Mediterranean coastal States and Jordan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Portugal shall be ex officio Members of the Assembly.*
2. *The parliaments of countries that are geographically situated near the Mediterranean or that have common interests with the region and inter-parliamentary organisations that are active in the Mediterranean region may, on request, be invited to participate in the work of the Assembly as Associate Members."*

Article 11 of the draft Statutes of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean stipulates that:

- "1. *The principle of equality of the Members shall govern the composition of the Assembly and its decision-making process.*
2. *Delegations of the Member Parliaments at the Assembly sessions shall be composed of at most five members of parliament.*
3. *Members shall include male and female parliamentarians in their delegation."*

3. PROGRAMME AND TIMETABLE OF WORK

Date	Time	Meeting
Saturday, 9 September 2006	2 to 6 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrival and registration of delegates
Sunday, 10 September 2006	9 a.m. to 6 p.m. 2.30 to 4 p.m. 4.30 to 6 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration of delegates • Meeting of the Provisional Bureau • Meetings of the geopolitical groups
Monday, 11 September 2006	9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 2.30 to 5.30 p.m. 5.30 to 6.30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening Ceremony • Plenary sitting • Plenary sitting and close of the Inaugural session • Meeting of the Bureau of the PAM
Tuesday, 12 September 2006		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Departure of delegations

4. LANGUAGES

The Secretariat of the Inter-Parliamentary Union will provide simultaneous interpretation into and from the two official languages of the Union, English and French, as well as Arabic, at the Assembly.

5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE SESSION

Further information concerning the session will be provided in the "General Information" document (available before the opening of the Session) and the "Additional practical information concerning the organisation of the Session" document (distributed to delegations on registering).

6. REGISTRATION, HOTEL ACCOMMODATION AND VISAS

Delegations are kindly requested to note the following deadlines for the registration of delegates and for hotel reservations.

Registration of Delegates

All participants must adhere strictly to the registration deadline of 18 August 2006. Please return the registration form for delegations annexed to this Convocation to both the Parliament of Jordan and the IPU Secretariat by that date. The address is as follows:

Mr. Sufian Elhassan	Telephone: +9626 563 5100 /200
Director of Research and	Telephone: +962 795523921
Information Dept.	
House of Representatives	Fax: +9626 568 5970
Parliament of Jordan	
P.O. Box 72	
11101 Amman	
Jordan	
Inter-Parliamentary Union	Telephone: +41 22 919 41 50
Chemin du Pommier, N° 5	Fax: +41 22 919 41 60
Case postale 330	E-mail: postbox@mail.ipu.org
1218 Le Grand-Saconnex / Geneva	
Switzerland	

⇒ IMPORTANT

Hotel reservations

The hotel reservation forms annexed to the invitation from the Parliament of Jordan, which will handle all hotel reservations, must be returned to the following address by 10 August 2006:

House of Representatives	Telephone: +9626 563 5100 /200
Parliament of Jordan	
P.O. Box 72	Fax: +9626 568 5970
11118 Amman	
Jordan	

The Parliament of Jordan has sole responsibility for all matters relating to delegations' accommodation and visas. It is therefore important that any communication concerning these matters be sent directly to the host Parliament (see address above), and not to the IPU Secretariat.

We hope that your Parliament will be represented at the Inaugural Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean and that the delegation, under your leadership, will take an active part in the proceedings.

Yours sincerely,



Pier Ferdinando CASINI
President
of the Inter-Parliamentary Union



Anders B. JOHNSON
Secretary General
of the Inter-Parliamentary Union