



Inter-Parliamentary Union

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PARLAMENT TA' MALTA



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MEDITERRANEE

الجمعية البرلمانية للبحر الأبيض المتوسط

Promoting better regional cooperation towards smart and humane migration across the Mediterranean

Conference for parliaments from the European Union and from the Mediterranean region organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Parliament of Malta and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean

16-17 November 2017, Valletta, Malta

PROGRAMME

In recent years, a growing number of people have made their way to Europe to flee on-going conflicts and repression or seek a livelihood in the absence of any economic opportunities in their countries.

The significant migration flows around the Mediterranean have an important impact on receiving, transit and countries of origin. Parliaments and their members have a critical role to play in adopting adequate legislation and seeing to it that effective policies are in place and implemented to ensure that migration is governed in a fair, smart and humane way and creating public support for such actions.

The proposed conference aims to bring together parliamentarians from the region in order to discuss concerted responses to current migration challenges and opportunities. In doing so, it takes inspiration from the recommendations contained in the IPU Declaration of October 2015 on "The Imperative for Fairer, Smarter and more Humane Migration" and the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants adopted at the United Nations in September 2016. The outcome of the conference will also contribute to a parliamentary perspective on the negotiation of a Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration that will take place at the United Nations between February and July 2018 and discussions on a Global Compact on Refugees in 2018.

Thursday, 16 November 2017

8 a.m. **Registration of delegates**

9 a.m. **Opening Ceremony**

- Mr. Angelo Farrugia, Speaker of the Parliament of Malta
 - Mr. Jorge Lacão, Vice-President of the Parliament of Portugal, Vice-President of the Portuguese Delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union
 - Mr. Pedro Roque, Member of Parliament, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) (Portugal)
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9.45 a.m. **Key-note address on “Migration across the Mediterranean: the need for concerted, coherent and holistic action”**

- Ms. Michele Klein-Solomon, Director, Global Compact for Migration, Office of the Director General (IOM)
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10.15 a.m. *Coffee Break*

10.30 a.m. **Session I: Ensure fair, smart and dignified labour migration: challenges and opportunities**

This session seeks to present trends on labour migration across the Mediterranean. It seeks to explore ways to further promote labour migration that is beneficial to migrants, receiving countries and countries of origin alike. The session will address the effects of existing bilateral agreements to channel labour migration. It will look at regional and national policies on labour migration and identify opportunities to expand regular labour migration. It will also look at lessons learnt in tackling labour exploitation.

- Mr. Patrick Taran, President of Global Migration Policy Associates
 - Mr. Pascal Allizard, Senator, OSCE-PA Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs (France)
 - Mr. Lhou Lmarbouh, Senator, PAM Vice-president (Morocco)
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12:30 p.m. *Lunch*

2 p.m. **Session II: Promote sensible political and societal discourse around migration**

This session will address the importance of politicians speaking out against xenophobia and racism and combatting stereotypes, the adoption of anti-discrimination legislation and criminal legislation against hate speech. The session will also look at ways to expand and use empirically-based knowledge and foster balanced public debate on the causes, challenges and benefits of migration, so as to inform national policies. It will look at best practices of including migrant perspectives in political and public discussions.

- Ms. Golda El-Khoury, Chief, Section for Inclusion and Rights, Sector for Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO
 - Ms. Shannon Pfohman, Policy & Advocacy Director, Caritas Europa
 - Ms. Cate Taylor, non-executive Director, “Stop Funding Hate”
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4.00 p.m. *Coffee break*

4.15 p.m. **Session III: Offer a safe haven to refugees**

This session seeks to explore ways to guarantee that refugees under the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol continue to receive swift and adequate protection. It will seek to address questions related to where and how asylum claims can best be handled with respect for due process, to inter-state solidarity to accept refugees as well as to the completion of a common European Asylum System. The session will also look at the importance of social and economic integration of refugees and look at concrete national examples of successful integration.

- Ms. Anne-Birgitte Krum-Hansen, Head of UNHCR Liaison Office to EASO (Malta)
 - Ms. Aleksandra Maletic, Member of Parliament, PAM Vice-President (Serbia)
 - Ms. Sophia Ioannou, Head of Communications, SolidarityNow and Mr. Ioakeim Vravas, Head of Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, Learning (MEAL), SolidarityNow
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6.15 p.m.	End of Day 1
6.30 p.m.	Welcome Cocktail on the premises of the Parliament of Malta

Friday, 17 November 2017

9.30 a.m.	<p>Session IV: Bolster border protection and the fight against people's smugglers</p> <p>This session will deal with strategies to promote stronger border control and management, including through the exchange of information and the sharing of responsibilities between countries across the Mediterranean. It will look at direct ways to tackle people's smuggling and to protect migrants, in particular those at risk of abuse during perilous journey through the desert or at sea, and the specific role of transit countries. This session will also look at ways to promote an effective and dignified return policy for irregular migrants and examine interesting examples of readmission agreements in line with applicable human rights standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Miguel Angelo Nunes Nicolau, Frontex Coordinator Officer• Mr. Mark Micallef, investigative journalist and researcher specialised in human smuggling and trafficking and expert at the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime• Ms. Gogé Maimouna Gazibo, Director General of the Nigerien Agency for the Fight against Human Trafficking
10:30 a.m.	<p><i>Coffee break</i></p> <hr/> <p>Session IV: continued</p> <hr/>
12:30 p.m.	<p><i>Lunch</i></p> <hr/>
2 p.m.	<p>Session V: Address the "push" factors of migration: the importance of promoting sustainable development in countries of origin</p> <p>The session seeks to address ways to promote social and economic development in countries of origin and transit, particularly so as to promote opportunities for youth. It will look more particularly at the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and at examples of bilateral and regional cooperation to promote such development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Roger Nkodo Dang, Member of Parliament, President of the Pan African Parliament (Cameroon)• Mr. Frank Engel, Member of Parliament, Member of the European Parliament (Luxembourg)• Mr. El Habib Nadir, Secretary General of the Ministry Delegate in charge of Moroccans living abroad (under the MFA) and Moroccan Co-Chair of the Global Forum on Migration and Development
3:30 p.m.	<p><i>Coffee break</i></p> <hr/>
3.45 p.m.	<p>Session V: continued</p> <hr/>
4:15 p.m.	<p>Closing session: Where do we go from here? Final reflections on migration in the Mediterranean and their relevance for ongoing discussions on a UN Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Patrick Taran, Rapporteur for the Conference• Mr. Carmelo Abela, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion of Malta
4:45 p.m.	<p>Closing remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Jorge Lacão, Vice-President of the Parliament of Portugal, Vice-President of the Portuguese Delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union• Mr. Pedro Roque, Member of Parliament, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) (Portugal)
