

## DECLARATION OF THE NINTH SUMMIT OF SPEAKERS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

The Ninth Summit of Speakers of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean took place on June 26, 2025, in Málaga, in the framework of the Spanish Presidency of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean. This Summit brought together Speakers, Deputy Speakers and representatives of the parliaments of the member countries of this Assembly and of the European Parliament. It was chaired by the Speaker of the Congress of Deputies, Ms. Francina Armengol, and by the First Deputy Speaker of the Senate, Mr. Javier Maroto.

The topic chosen by the Spanish Presidency for the 2024-2025 period was the **migratory situation in the Mediterranean from a comprehensive perspective**. Thus, the Spanish Presidency began with a special verification mission to Cyprus, to get to know first-hand the migratory situation in the said country. It was followed by a meeting of the Parliaments of the South of the European Union and of the Southern shore of the Mediterranean in Lanzarote, to address the specific challenges posed by migratory flows between the most affected origin, transit and destination countries. Following the commitment undertaken in the last Summit of Speakers of Parliaments members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean, held in Rabat on February 15 and 16, 2024, the first Forum on the Future of the Mediterranean was held with a view to addressing the causes of migratory flows in a cross-cutting manner. To this end, and along four working tables, the Speakers and representatives of parliaments, together with other guest international bodies, addressed the issues of open conflicts in the Mediterranean region, particularly the situation in the Middle East, the challenges posed by migration, climate change, youth employment and gender equality in the Mediterranean region. These coordinated efforts and dialogues have culminated in the following political statement, reflecting our shared vision and collective commitment to the future of the Mediterranean.

The Ninth Summit of Speakers and the 18<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean, held in Málaga from June 25 to 27, culminate the work of the Spanish Presidency, which shall be taken over by Egypt, adopting the conclusions that sum-up the agreements reached during the 2024-2025 working period.

The Speakers, Deputy Speakers and representatives of parliaments:

1. On occasion of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Barcelona Process, reiterate their shared commitment to enhance cooperation between the two shores of the Mediterranean, to further promote dialogue among the parliaments that make up this regional partnership and all other institutions with responsibilities in the field of regional and international cooperation, consolidating the efforts already deployed with a view to making the Mediterranean an area of solidarity committed to peace, security, stability, promotion and the respect for human rights. And reaffirm the unique role of national parliaments in the consolidation of peace through legislative diplomacy, scrutiny of executive policies relating to conflict resolution, and the ratification and oversight of international peace treaties.
2. Acknowledge that in recent years the Mediterranean region has registered significant migratory flows that pose a very important challenge for all the involved countries and that may put human lives at risk.
3. Are aware that structural factors are determining aspects in understanding and addressing the migratory phenomenon from a comprehensive perspective and for identifying viable solutions for sustainable cooperation in the Mediterranean basin.
4. Consider that regular migration can be understood as a development opportunity for origin, transit and destination countries and for migrant themselves, while aiming to address the challenges of irregular migration, and that human rights should be at the core of migration policies and international cooperation agreements.
5. Support the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2018, which calls on all countries to work for a safe, orderly and regular migration. And welcome the progresses entailed, at regional level, by the adoption of the Pact on Migration and Asylum, which is currently being implemented and will enter into application as of June 2026, within the European Union, as well as the national laws on migration and asylum of Mediterranean partner countries.

6. Follow with interest the negotiations undertaken by the European Commissioner for the Mediterranean with a view to the adoption of a new Pact for the Mediterranean, whose main outlines were presented at the Forum on the Future of the Mediterranean held in Granada on April 2 to 4, 2025.
7. Commit to building a more integrated Euro-Mediterranean market, with broad partnerships between countries aimed at developing regional and inter-regional educational programs, as a strategic investment in the medium and long term and for the creation of quality and stable employment in a level-playing field, particularly for young people and women, as well as to the fight against climate change and the protection of the environment, with special emphasis on water, pollution and biodiversity.
8. Denounce racist and xenophobic speeches and urge to set up measures and awareness programmes on the migratory reality, together with training and labour mobility programmes, within the framework of agreements on circular migration aimed at facilitating recruitment at source of the growing young population in the African continent ensuring full respect for the human rights and dignity of migrants and refugees, fair labour conditions, and close cooperation with countries of origin and transit, while creating the conditions for the training and employment of young people in their countries of origin.
9. Commit to continue following the development of the Intergovernmental Monitoring Mechanism on Gender Equality in the Member States of the Union for the Mediterranean and provide recommendations to policy-makers in the Union for the Mediterranean Member States, to identify viable solutions in the medium and long term.
10. Commit to promoting renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind and hydropower, as well as research and development of clean energy technologies, with a view to the transition to a sustainable energy that can help mitigate climate change and its impact on water availability and quality, being aware that the Mediterranean is home to 60% of the world's water scarce population and of the link between water security and poverty. In this sense, they commit to eliminating the obstacles hindering the development of investment projects in the region, particularly as regards key sectors for regional integration such as energy connectivity.

11. Acknowledge that the ongoing armed conflicts on the Eastern and Southern flanks of the European Union, in Sahel and in the Middle East, have a decisive impact on the evolution of migratory flows in the Mediterranean region. And underscore the necessity for enduring political solutions founded upon inclusive dialogue, transitional justice mechanisms, and the demilitarisation of humanitarian access corridors.
12. Stress that the resumption of hostilities in the Gaza Strip pose serious threats to international peace and security and undermine regional and global stability. Recall that civilians, including children, and civilian infrastructure should be protected under international law. Call for an immediate and permanent cessation of hostilities, including the unconditional release of all hostages, and an immediate return to dialogue. They demand an immediate unimpeded access and sustained distribution of humanitarian assistance at scale into and throughout Gaza, to meet the growing needs of the civil population. They express their full support to the two-State solution. They welcome the Egyptian initiative for the early Recovery and Reconstruction of Gaza presented at the Cairo Summit of March 4, and adopted by the Arab League and the Islamic Cooperation Organization (ICO), which represents a serious basis for discussions on the future of the Gaza Strip. Amid the recent Israeli - Iranian escalation, they stress their strong commitment to regional security, including the security of the State of Israel. It is important that all sides abide by international law and refrain from further steps which could lead to serious consequences such as potential radioactive release. Diplomacy must prevail. They underline the importance of future normalization efforts in the Middle East.
13. Follow with interest the processes for the consolidation of the ceasefire between Lebanon and Israel, and the political and constitutional transition in Syria, pursuant to Resolutions 1701 and 2254 of the United Nations Security Council. Call for the active engagement of youth in peacebuilding efforts, in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250, recognising their critical role in fostering intercommunal dialogue, preventing radicalisation and sustaining peace.
14. Urge to comply with all the United Nations Security Council resolutions that make up the Women, Peace and Security Agenda of 2000, which call for an increased

participation and representation of women in conflicts' prevention, management and resolution, to protect women and girls, from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual assault in situations of armed conflict, and to ensure the respect of their human rights.

15. Endorse the Declaration of Granada of April 4, 2025, adopted on occasion of the *First Forum on the Future of the Mediterranean*, and reiterate the multi-causal impact of migratory phenomena on the Mediterranean basin. Hope that the next Presidencies of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean shall continue to hold the next editions of this Forum on the Future of the Mediterranean. Consider that this Forum may facilitate structured dialogue amongst parliamentarians from regions affected by conflict and to advance durable solutions through confidence-building, mediation and reconciliation initiatives.
16. Welcome the contribution of the Anna Lindh Foundation with the launching of the new 2025-2028 multiannual programme and its active involvement, both in the Forum on the Future of the Mediterranean and in the Ninth Summit of Speakers of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean. Trust that this cooperation shall be consolidated in the future Presidencies of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean. Advocate for the development and dissemination of peace education, inter-cultural understanding, and reconciliation programmes through parliamentary collaboration, educational curricula, and youth exchanges across the Mediterranean region.
17. Note that strengthening the role of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean provides a unique opportunity to complement the efforts deployed by the Union for the Mediterranean anchored in democratic legitimacy as well as the Euro-Mediterranean parliaments' capacity for mobilisation and dialogue. In this sense, they welcome the work of the Assembly's Committees during the year of the Spanish Presidency. Encourage future Presidencies of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean to keep a regular agenda of meetings and encounters and to actively participate in the Regional Fora of the Union for the Mediterranean to engage in active cooperation between the executive and parliamentary branches. In particular, encourage the next Egyptian Presidency to hold a parliamentary meeting to celebrate the Day

of the Mediterranean, on November 28, on occasion of the X Regional Forum, to take stock of the challenges and progress achieved during these decades.

18. Acknowledge the effort deployed by the Spanish Presidency to revive the work of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean, in close cooperation with the former Presidencies of the Parliament of Morocco and the European Parliament, whom they also thank for their task as Permanent Secretariat, as well as the incoming Presidency of the Parliament of Egypt.
19. Express their trust that the next Presidency of the Parliament of Egypt will continue with these shared efforts in the common goal of strengthening the partnership.

Malaga, June 26, 2025