

**REPORT OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE ON MEDITERRANEAN AFFAIRS  
PASCAL ALLIZARD FOR THE OSCE PA WINTER MEETING**

**Standing Committee, Vienna, 20 February 2020**

In July of 2017, President Christine Muttunen appointed me Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs. Since July 2018, President George Tsereteli entrusted me to continue this mission. The main objective of my functions as Special Representative is to facilitate parliamentary dialogue in the region.

My mandate also includes:

- Enhancing the Mediterranean dimension of the Assembly's work, given that European security is directly linked to security and stability in the Mediterranean region;
- Maintaining contacts with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation and participating in events related to supporting relations between the Mediterranean area and the OSCE area;
- Encouraging meetings and exchanges with the OSCE Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, participating in the OSCE's annual Mediterranean Conference on behalf of the Assembly and conducting ad hoc visits when possible to Mediterranean Partner countries;
- Considering ways to strengthen the role of the Assembly's Mediterranean Forum;
- Considering instruments for stimulating the organization of a Mediterranean Forum under the auspices of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly;
- Reporting regularly on developments in the region, including on opportunities for improved co-operation.

Activities:

Since the successful Autumn Session of Marrakech hosted by our Moroccan friends from the House of Councilors, I visited the Arab Republic of Egypt together with President Tsereteli and Secretary General Montella in November 2019.



**OSCE PA delegation meeting with Speaker of the House of Representatives of Egypt Dr. Ali Abdel Aal Sayyed Ahmed, Cairo, 6 November 2019**

This visit to Egypt was the first in a decade by an OSCE PA delegation since the country hosted the OSCE Mediterranean Conference of 2009.

In Cairo, we met with the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Dr. Ali Abdel Aal Sayyed Ahmed, and held talks with Deputy Foreign Minister Hamdi Loza, as well as the Assistant Ministers in charge of Human Rights, Parliamentary Affairs, and Multilateral Affairs. I also held exchanges with experts from the International Organization for Migration. As part of this visit, we met with Coptic Pope Tawadros II to exchange on the role of interfaith dialogue in promoting stability in Egypt.

Discussions touched on recent developments in the Middle East and common issues of concern, including the fight against radicalization and terrorism, and the migrant and refugee crisis. The OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committees were cited as a good example of the contribution of interparliamentary exchanges to respond to transnational security challenges. The PA delegation also discussed with Egyptian counterparts the need to maintain the delicate balance between domestic security and the safeguard of individual freedoms.

Future steps:

I intend to meet with the Chairmanship of the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation (Sweden) on the margins of the Winter Meeting to coordinate our activities throughout 2020 and I will be actively engaging in the 2020 OSCE Mediterranean Conference that will be held this fall.

I will prepare the OSCE PA Mediterranean Forum to be held in San Marino in October 2020 in the framework of the 19th Autumn Meeting.

I also intend to undertake field visits to Jordan and to Tunisia in the nearest possible future.

Finally, I will pursue contacts I already established with Egypt and all the other Mediterranean partners.