

*REPORT OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE ON MEDITERRANEAN AFFAIRS
PASCAL ALLIZARD FOR THE OSCE PA ANNUAL SESSION*

Standing Committee Berlin, 7 July 2018

In July of 2017, President Christine Muttonen appointed me Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs. 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 Winter Meeting, I hosted a visit of the Moroccan delegation to the OSCE PA to the French Senate in Paris. Moroccan Senators Mohamed El Bakkouri, Head of the Moroccan delegation to the OSCE PA and Senator Abdelkrim El Hams, Member of the Moroccan delegation to the OSCE PA came to Paris on 21 June 2018. We held meetings with Senator Jean Bizet, Chairman of





the European Affairs Committee and OSCE PA Member. We were also joined by Ms Sereine Mauborgne, Head of the French delegation to the OSCE PA, and by Mr Chakib Benmoussa, Ambassador of Morocco to France.

Discussions were initiated as a follow-up to the thematic visit to Rabat that we did in October 2017. Topics such as migratory challenges, economic developments and the need for increased cooperation in the Mediterranean region as well as the role of the OSCE in this framework were discussed. The Moroccan contribution to the OSCE PA by offering to host the 2019 Autumn Meeting in Marrakesh was highly appreciated.

On 25 June I was invited by Slovak Ambassador Radoomír Boháč, Chairperson of the OSCE Contact Group with the Mediterranean partners, to address a meeting dedicated to cybersecurity during which I underlined the fact that cyberspace is the latest battlefield in the fight against terrorism and that we need to be properly equipped, including by using OSCE tools, to face this challenge. I used the opportunity of this visit to Vienna to meet several actors of the OSCE Mediterranean partnership. I was notably able to hold frank and productive exchanges of views with Ms Faouzia Mebarki, Ambassador of Algeria, and Mr Mohamed Mezghani, newly appointed Ambassador of Tunisia to Austria and the OSCE.



Future steps:

I intend to undertake field visits to Morocco and perhaps also to Tunisia after the summer and I will be concentrating my energy to organize a successful Mediterranean Forum meeting in Bishkek in conjunction with our upcoming Fall Session in Kyrgyzstan in October.