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**FRENCH  
DELEGATION  
AP-OSCE**

**THE PRESIDENT,  
SPECIAL  
REPRESENTATIVE  
FOR  
MEDITERRANEAN  
AFFAIRS**

**AP-OSCE  
AUTUMN MEETING IN ISTANBUL  
MEDITERRANEAN FORUM  
19 NOVEMBER 2025**

**ADDRESS BY MR PASCAL ALLIZARD (REMOTELY)**

**UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION FROM THE ORIGINAL FRENCH**

Mr President,  
Dear Colleagues,  
Professor,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, please accept my apologies for having to speak remotely this morning, as I am currently in Paris, at the Senate, attending parliamentary and budgetary debates. I would have loved to be with you in person in Istanbul, a city I know well, having carried out several professional missions there in the industrial sector before becoming a Member of Parliament. Yes, I love this city, heir to a long and prestigious history, a crossroads of civilisations, traditions and modernity, trade and economic dynamism, proud of its past, rich in its present and looking resolutely towards the future. A future that lies both in the West and in the East, but above all here, at the centre, at the heart of the Mediterranean, this common space that we share. This is how I understand the motto of this session: to be at the centre, in the core, where

'it's happening', where we see the right perspectives, can really act and have an impact.

Indeed, where better to recall the central role of this *Mare Nostrum* that is our Mediterranean, a maritime, economic, political and human space that we would like to see unite rather than divide? In any case, we must work towards this goal.

I would like to thank the Turkish Parliament, the Turkish delegation and its chair, Selima Altinok, for their warm welcome and excellent organisation, which impressed my colleagues in the French delegation in particular, but also, I know, all the participants.

During your debates yesterday and the day before, Türkiye rightly emphasised the need to strengthen mediation, dialogue and trust in order to 'bring perspectives closer together' and, in these uncertain times, to move towards the common goals of our organisation: security and cooperation in the political, economic, environmental and human fields, and it is itself playing an exemplary role in this regard.

I would like to pay special tribute to the delegations from our Mediterranean partner countries, both those present in Istanbul and those participating remotely.

There are six partner countries, namely : Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan and Israel, from West to East, bearing in mind that we are

in regular contact with the Palestinian National Council , which we have always invited to express its views, at least since I became Special Representative, and I would like to thank President Pons for confirming me in this role.

**Together with President Pons, we took part in the mission carried out from 7 to 11 March in Israel and the Palestinian territories, alongside our President Emeritus Pia Kauma, Vice-Presidents Luis Graça and Kyriakos Hadjoanni, and our Secretary General Roberto Montella.**

This mission was in response to an invitation from the Israeli delegation to the OSCE PA, which is one of those we meet regularly as part of my mission to the Mediterranean partner countries. We also met with representatives of the Palestinian Authority based in Ramallah. During our mission, these contacts in Ramallah were facilitated by the Cypriot representation, but also by the Finnish representative.

**We met with a wide range of high-level political leaders in the field, both in Israel and in the Palestinian territories.**

Unfortunately, we were unable to visit Gaza, but we did travel through part of the West Bank.

**Before returning to the situation in Gaza, which is the subject of this morning's public debate, I would like to emphasise that, as you know, Mr Pons, and as the chair legations of the partner countries**

**present also know, I firmly believe in the usefulness and indeed the necessity of such field missions.**

**I am planning a forthcoming mission to Morocco and would like to arrange similar missions with our counterparts in other partner countries as soon as possible.**

**The situation in the Middle East, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in particular, have taken on increasing importance in the debates and concerns of the OSCE PA.** Although located on the periphery of the OSCE area, it nevertheless has a significant impact on the OSCE and particularly affects us Europeans and partner countries who share the Mediterranean.

My primary concern as Special Representative for Mediterranean Affairs is to **maintain dialogue with each of the parties to the conflict**, on the Israeli side and within Israeli civil society, but also on the Palestinian side, where the question of the Palestinian Authority's statehood and its structures clearly arises. Powerful and well-organised NGOs operate there, such as the Palestinian Red Crescent, with whom we had lengthy discussions at their headquarters in Ramallah. They control or supervise all humanitarian and health operations, including in Gaza, using sophisticated equipment and dedicated humanitarian teams.

Unfortunately, we were unable to meet with representatives of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), which has been completely dismantled by Israeli operations.

This link between the OSCE and the United Nations, which is a historic and founding link, is important, and I will come back to it because it also concerns other areas of the wider Mediterranean region, such as the Sahara, on which an important decision was taken by the United Nations Security Council on 31 October in New York, Resolution 2797, which explicitly enshrines the autonomy plan as the basis for a new political process.

Returning to Gaza, following last month's ceasefire agreement, we welcomed this agreement and the release of the hostages who were still alive, as well as the key elements of a peace plan for Gaza. This agreement marked an extremely important first step towards peace in the region.

We eagerly await the completion of the next stages of the peace plan, particularly the delivery of massive amounts of humanitarian aid to support the people of Gaza.

For the moment, **the issue of access for NGOs and humanitarian workers to Gaza remains acute, especially** since the ceasefire has been broken by the Israeli army, which has also attacked southern Lebanon.

On the Palestinian side, we had discussions in the spring with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Vice-President of the Palestinian National Council.

Now more than ever, it is important to rebuild a lasting order on the ruins of the emergency.

Here, as throughout the region, I want to promote a positive agenda beyond the din of bombs, because **there is a prospect for**

**reconstruction** that all our Palestinian interlocutors seem willing to embrace and that not all Israelis reject outright.

While reaffirming the relevance of the two-state solution, we must **be able, in concrete terms and starting now, to envisage "the day after", gradually, step by step, with the population of the Gaza Strip and longer-term governance.** That is my vision, it is the vision of France and of many other member countries represented here. Europe, too, in my view, should support this, so that it can finally become a player rather than a spectator in a process that could lead to a real solution.

The European Union, which continues to invest tens of millions of euros in humanitarian aid that is increasingly difficult to deliver and obstructed by multiple obstacles, but whose financial support is awaited by the Palestinian Authority. Europe, whose voice is hardly heard, but whose action is nevertheless expected. **This region is in such need of stability and peace!**

I will be happy to report back to the French Senate shortly on the Mediterranean pact announced by the European Commission, which is due to be launched at the highest level very soon, at the end of the month.

This pact presents a new vision for relations between the EU and the countries of the Mediterranean basin.

This partnership is intended to be exemplary and between "equals", based on the principles of co-creation and concrete joint initiatives. The pact is the result of a broad consultation process.

May we, at the OSCE PA, draw inspiration from such a method, and I hope to be able to move forward in consultations with our partners in Vienna, for our winter session, in the three dimensions of the OSCE.

- 1) The human dimension, because people are the drivers of change, connections and innovation: let us discuss the promotion of higher education, vocational training, employment, mobility, culture, tourism and sport!
- 2) The economic and environmental dimension : following on from your debate yesterday morning, let us discuss strengthening our trade relations, but also the ecological and energy transition of Mediterranean countries, which are bearing the dire consequences of climate change and, also, have so many assets to overcome them. Let us discuss strengthening our digital and transport infrastructure! Let us ask ourselves how we can unlock the growth and job creation potential of small and medium-sized enterprises, which account for 90% of all businesses in the southern Mediterranean countries.
- 3) The security aspect must also be addressed at the human level, to encourage actions aimed at addressing common challenges in the areas of security, illegal migration and border management. It is in all our interests to strengthen our collective response in the fight against organised crime and terrorism by enhancing judicial and police cooperation.

These are some of the directions I would like to see inspiring our discussions, while continuing, of course, in Gaza, Palestine, Israel and

the Middle East, to work towards **a political solution that goes beyond the humanitarian emergencies, which are obviously pressing.**

**More than ever, the OSCE PA must remain a player that encourages political dialogue, peace and security.**

In this context, the hopes for stability in **Lebanon** that we still had in Porto in July are, unfortunately, still far too fragile. I would like to thank our Turkish colleagues for inviting our Lebanese colleagues and regret that the situation does not allow them to make their voices heard today.

The situation in **Syria** must also alert us. We must remain extremely attentive to developments in both countries and do everything we can to encourage lasting stability and security through an inclusive transition in Syria.

There are other areas of extreme vigilance in the Mediterranean region, particularly in **Libya**, where it is imperative to restart the political process and strengthen security.

I am particularly pleased to hear from you this morning and to hear the voices of the representatives **of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean**, an international organisation created in 2005 by the national parliaments of the countries of the Euro-Mediterranean region. It has much in common with us, as it succeeded the Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean (CSCE), launched in the early 1990s.

The main objective of the PAM is to forge political, economic and social cooperation between Member States in order to find common solutions

to the challenges facing the Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf region and to create an area of peace and prosperity for its peoples.

**I would like to thank Türkiye for allowing us to extend this interparliamentary dialogue this morning to include parliamentary representatives from the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (PUIC).** Like us, this organisation has 57 member states and also advocates **the need for political dialogue, especially if it is focused on the constructive agenda** that I have tried to outline for you.

Let us therefore begin this morning **to establish this network of projects**, which I am very much looking forward to, and let us combine our efforts to transform this large region, which is most often perceived only as a hotbed of tension and crisis, into, I dare to hope, **a zone of construction, stability and development.**

Thank you.