



## **MEDITERRANEAN AFFAIRS**

### **Report from the Special representative, Pascal Allizard, to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Standing Committee, Bucharest, 29 June 2024**

I apologize for not being present, due to the snap elections campaign in France, thus I submit this to you in writing.

Since my appointment as Special Representative for Mediterranean affairs in September 2023, my work has mainly focused on the Middle East conflict.

It is our duty to call for a de-escalation of violence and for a full respect of international law, to side with both parties to convince them to reaffirm their commitment to a negotiated settlement and to refrain from any unilateral action that would prevent the conditions for achieving this from being met.

To achieve this goal, I travelled to Cyprus in March 2024, kindly invited par our colleague Vice-President Irene Charalambides. With President Christodoulides, I exchanged views on the security challenges arising from the current war in the Middle East and the changing geopolitical balance of power in the Mediterranean.

I also visited the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre in Larnaca, from where the 'Amaltheia' initiative is supervised, setting up a humanitarian aid corridor to Gaza, and which is also the control center for coordinating responses to distress calls, accidents at sea and other maritime emergencies in the area. The maritime corridor delivers humanitarian aid to Gaza from Cyprus, with the boats travelling 370 km to reach the port of Gaza.

I welcome US President Joe Biden's decision to build a floating port off the Gaza coast to transport humanitarian aid.

I had the pleasure to welcome Vice-President Irene Charalambides in Paris late march. Our discussions focused in particular on current issues in the Mediterranean area, the maritime humanitarian corridor set up from Cyprus to bring aid to the people of Gaza and the contribution of the OSCE PA to security in the Mediterranean and Europe.

I am monitoring with intense concern the evolution of the situation in Gaza and support all the efforts made in particular within the UN to bring a ceasefire and to end breaches of international humanitarian law.

As your Special Representative for Mediterranean affairs, I intend to spare no effort in liaising with all partner countries. I look forward to continuing working with all of them on behalf of the OSCE PA.

My last point concerns the work I am doing in collaboration with Mrs Daniela De Ridder, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration, and our colleagues from the Moroccan delegation. We are planning a joint visit to Morocco, probably in September, which I'd be delighted to report back to you on soon.