

## PAM – UNESCO

### *InterParliamentary Forum of Science, Technology and Innovation for the Mediterranean Region*

*UNESCO, Paris 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> November 2010*

### **APPEAL BY FONDAZIONE MEDITERRANEO FOR CULTURE, RESEARCH, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION**

The present trend, affecting even the ruling class, to underrate the important role of culture, research, science, technology and innovation risks to produce many bad consequences in the future of the Mediterranean region.

The most advanced and industrial nations grant a lot of resources to research, and above all to basic research, that is not directly related to practical applications, but it is decisive in the long term. Besides, it allows to acquire competences that cannot be achieved in a short time and that can be very important for the flourishing, the development and the independence itself of the each Country: pursuing its current way, as for what concerns the technological influence of basic research, the Mediterranean region is meant to become more and more tributary to the most advanced nations, with serious repercussions on the industrial system.

According to the most recent economic theories, it appears obvious that the industrial societies, based on the couple raw materials/workmanship, will be based on the alternative pair knowledge/work, and depend on the continuous development of research.

Wealth and progress of a Country are more and more dependent on the research's guidelines and wide-ranging support in the field of humanistic and scientific culture, technology and innovation. The true wealth of nations is Intelligence. Encouraging and promoting the intelligence of the new generations represent more and more the decisive factor of progress for the Peoples. If it is true that public life must constantly be recalled to the highest values of justice and education, considering them irremissible necessities, the same thing has to be applied to culture, research, science, technology and innovation. A worthy ruling class should always keep in mind the warning pronounced by Erasmus, who stated that investing in culture is the secret of the shrewdest societies, whose wealth cannot be satisfied with the cash gold of coins. It is difficult that a nation could save itself if its fresher and generous forces are not brought up in the light of intelligence, knowledge, culture, science and research.

By the word "research" we do not refer just to a naturalistic kind of study. It is more and more necessary to get a unitary vision of culture that involves both naturalistic and humanistic research: all scholars are constructors of science. Besides, it needs to point out that research in humanistic disciplines, which involves the lowest costs, is necessary in order to define the cultural and

methodological premises for all kinds of research: especially the scientific and technologic research, founded on innovation. Research is not only the acquisition of brand new data but also the constant care of the products of human talent that include both the works of men and the image of the physical world within which men construct their history.

In a strategic perspective based on a long-term outlook, the very life of a country, of its institutions and citizens, gains new strength and its universities, schools, enterprises, professions can flourish if science, culture, research and innovation are enabled to play their irremissible guiding role. Young people must be put in a position suitable to benefit from the national and international cultural heritage, to exchange experiences at a high level, and deal, confidently and safely, with the questions of contemporary research.

For its own wealth, its future, the Mediterranean community, in its most organized form, must be far-sighted and support by every means, as an essential factor of civilization and not as superfluous luxury, the worthier forms of science and culture, both those cultivated in the institutions, and those that often develop, among huge difficulties, within the Civil Society.

The strong development of humanistic and scientific culture and of research could be the fundament of a new, modern and flourishing Mediterranean. As a matter of fact, the problems of the Mediterranean have not been resolved, on the contrary they have been, in the last decades, increased because of a widespread attitude that has often produced corruption and serious waste of money.

A strong development of culture and research in the Mediterranean region is moreover essential in order to give the Mediterranean a role and an important and specialized function in the Euro Mediterranean integration process. As many studies pointed out, the Mediterranean Arab and African world would not connect to the scientific system of Southern Europe if it were not of quality: it would skip it. The choice of its specific vocations, as it could be the holding of a new role in the Mediterranean area, is therefore connected to the quality standard of the system itself and its ability to link to Europe.

According to these assertions, to preserve the Mediterranean region and prepare a Euro Mediterranean intellectual class, a deep turning in favour of culture, scientific research and innovation represents an irremissible necessity. A region where the creative work has not seen any interruption and a lively sense of history has referred to its memory of the past to understand the present times and define future trends in a constant cooperation in the unity of the region that was formed in the course of an agelong historical process in which the Mediterranean has been involved thanks to its contributions in terms of thought and action.

One of the fundamental problems of the Mediterranean region is the inability to a rapid use of the existing knowledge with a consequent remarkable waste of research: to this end the political life and the relation between creativity and innovation must be reorganized. A model based on the relation between innovation and society must be fostered.



In particular, it is necessary to keep on doing research and experimentations on the diseases still afflicting the Mediterranean and mankind in general, as for example malaria: this pathology cannot be forgotten and we must support all the volunteers who carry out actions to reduce sufferings, especially for the peoples in the South of the world. Other important actions to be promoted in the Mediterranean region are high sustainability food productions in desert areas lacking in organic material: *agrohousing* in condition of *dry-culture*.

Therefore we call upon the Director General of UNESCO and the PAM Members of Parliaments gathered in Paris for the ***“Inter Parliamentary Forum of Science, Technology and Innovation for the Mediterranean region”*** to give a signal in demanded direction through the development of a regional Inter parliamentary cooperation on the crucial matters concerning culture, research, technology and innovation, also through the creation of a permanent *Inter parliamentary Forum*, opened to the requests of civil society and to institutions and organisations working in these fields: the objective is to promote exchanges of experience and information regarding culture, science, technology and innovation, sharing the achieved results and the examples of good practices.

*“The cultural value of scientific research and its formative character (of the high-end specialization levels of competence) have to be recognized by the State as a permanent common heritage, and object of long-term investments and promotion”.* (Carlo Bernardini)

**Appeal shown up by President Michele Capasso in Paris on November the 10th 2010 on the occasion of the World Science Day for Peace and Development and at the end of the Year for the rapprochement of Peoples and the Cultures.**

**First Signatories:**

- ❑ Michele Capasso, *architect and Euro Mediterranean area scholar, president of Fondazione Mediterraneo.*
- ❑ Caterina Arcidiacono, *community psychology professor and director of the Incoparde laboratory of the University Federico II of Naples.*
- ❑ Claudio Azzolini, *manager, former vice president of the Council of Europe.*
- ❑ Rudy Salles, *honorary president of Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean.*
- ❑ Francesco Maria Amoroso, *vice-president of Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean.*
- ❑ Sergio Piazzzi, *secretary general of Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean.*
- ❑ Faiq Bilal, *director of Science Directorate (ISESCO).*
- ❑ Moneef R. Zou’bi, *director general of Islamic World Academy of Science.*
- ❑ Ousmane Kane, *former executive director of the African Regional Centre for Technology of Senegal.*
- ❑ Luigi Amodio, *director general of Fondazione IDIS-Città della Scienza.*
- ❑ Salvatore Coluccia, *vice-rector of University of Turin.*
- ❑ Denis Godfroy, *publisher.*
- ❑ Ali Salem Chagaf, *president of Foreign Affairs Commission, Chamber of Moroccan Parliament Counsellors.*
- ❑ Mara Almeida, *Adviser, Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology of United Kingdom.*
- ❑ Carmine Nardone, *eco-sustainable agriculture expert and president of Futuridea.*
- ❑ Francesco Paolo Iaccarino, *medical researcher.*
- ❑ Gianni Lettieri, *president of the Industrialist Association of Naples.*
- ❑ Gennaro Ferrara, *vice-president of the Province of Naples.*
- ❑ Giuseppe Catenacci, *general secretary Aut. Bacino Campania N.O.*
- ❑ Francesco Caia, *president of the Union of Bar Associations of the Mediterranean*

- ▣ Abdelmaksoud Rashdi, *president of Euromed NGO Platform*
- ▣ Abdelhak Azzouzi, *president of the Moroccan Interdisciplinary Center for Strategic and International Studies*
- ▣ Rachid Benmokhtar Benabdellah, *president of President, Moroccan National Observatory of Human Development*