

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between
Interparliamentary Assembly
of Member Nations
of the Commonwealth of Independent States
and
Parliamentary Assembly
of the Mediterranean

The Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (further referred to as IPA CIS) and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (further referred to as PAM), and thereafter referred to as the ‘Parties’ to this Memorandum of Understanding (further referred to as MoU),

Taking into account the strategic importance of the Commonwealth of Independent States region and that of the Mediterranean as geopolitical areas for stability, security, democracy, sustainable economic, cultural and social development, as well as peaceful cohabitation of their peoples;

Noting the benefits of parliamentary cooperation and diplomacy, based on acceptance of necessity of respect for human rights and freedoms, social justice, the promotion of democracy and the rule of law, with regards to the interests of all member States of IPA CIS and PAM;

Considering as priority the objectives of safeguarding the security of their peoples, economic and social development of the CIS regions and the Mediterranean;

Recalling the strategic importance of IPA CIS and PAM, created by the sovereign decision of the national parliaments of their Member States as independent and equitable international and regional organizations operating both within the CIS and the Mediterranean areas respectively;

Acknowledging that IPA CIS and PAM, as partners of other international and regional organizations active throughout the respective regions, play a well-established and widely recognized role as Centers of Excellence and are actors for parliamentary diplomacy and democracy building, peace and confidence-building initiatives, harmonious relations to the benefit of economic exchange and development, sustainable use of natural resources and protection of environment, and, more generally, intercultural and interreligious dialogue;

Firmly convinced that peace, stability and prosperity of both regions are of global interest;

Acknowledging the specific mission entrusted to both organizations to promote, develop and facilitate sub-regional, regional and international initiatives, including those to improve and harmonize national laws of the member States in order to further socio-economic growth, regional

integration, sustainable development and the exchange of knowledge among and within the countries of both regions,

Agree to sign this Memorandum of Understanding.

I. OBJECTIVE OF THE MEMORANDUM

The objective of this MoU is to establish partner relations between IPA CIS and PAM, aimed at further development of initiatives with regard to special interests of all Nations and peoples in the respective regions.

II. INTENTIONS OF THE PARTIES

The Parties agree that it is the mutual interest of IPA CIS and PAM to cooperate on activities relating to CIS and Mediterranean issues. Accordingly, the Parties agree on the following:

- 1) Organized cooperation, exchange of information and consultation

The Parties hereby agree to keep each other informed of their activities that may be of common interest permitted by the regulations of each Party. Such exchange may include making available reports, statements and recommendations, and more generally, any publications on any subject of common interest issued by the Parties.

In this respect, the two Parties may co-draft joint reports, resolutions and other documents on issues expressing shared points of views, and they will be able to exchange Secretariat staff on a short-term basis.

The Parties are willing to cooperate in the observation of electoral processes to develop common monitoring standards, including participation in field-related conferences and seminars, organize meetings of leaders and members of international observer missions representing the Assemblies during their efforts to monitor elections, referendums, etc.

With a view to maintain partner relations, information exchange and cooperation, IPA CIS and PAM will exchange the status of Permanent Observers to each other, and each Party will designate a liaison officer who will be responsible for regular facilitation of information exchange.

The Parties are entitled to disseminate the information on this MoU and publish it as they think fit.

2) Joint activities

At any time, either of the Parties may make proposals to other Party about particular projects or events undertaken by other Party, which the recipient Party will take into appropriate consideration.

Moreover, the Parties may organize joint events on areas of common interest on questions relating to the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Mediterranean. These may include joint conferences, seminars, meetings of area-specific committees/commissions and working groups.

3) Offering advice on strategic issues

IPA CIS and PAM may provide both Parties with inputs for their debates and drafting of reports, model legal acts, recommendations and other documents as appropriate on, *inter alia*, strategic priority areas as defined by the Heads of States and Governments.

IPA CIS and PAM also may mobilize their liaisons with national parliaments to advise on and support decisions related to strategic issues of the respective regions.

III. ENTRY INTO FORCE, AMENDMENT AND SIGNING

This MoU shall not create any financial obligations.

The Parties shall treat the provisions of this MoU in accordance with their Rules and Procedures. All disputes and disagreements arising from interpretation and/or application of this MoU shall be settled by the Parties through negotiations and consultations between the Parties.

This MoU shall enter into force on the date of signing by both Parties and remain valid until such time as either Party informs the other Party of its intention to cancel the MoU by giving at least one month's written notice to the other Party.

Any amendments to this MoU shall be subject to written approval of both Parties.

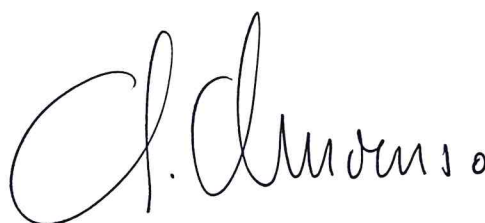
Done in the city of St. Petersburg on 24 November 2016 in four copies, two versions – in Russian and two versions – in English, all the texts being equally authoritative.

Valentina MATVIENKO



**Chairperson of the Council of the
Interparliamentary Assembly of
Member Nations of the Commonwealth
of Independent States, Speaker of the
Federation Council of the
Federal Assembly of the
Russian Federation**

Francesco Maria AMORUSO



**Plenipotentiary of the
Parliamentary Assembly of the
Mediterranean, President
Emeritus and Head of the
Italian Delegation to the
Parliamentary Assembly of the
Mediterranean**