

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 654

Honoring the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 16, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (for himself, Mr. HOYER, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. ISSA, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. MCMAHON, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CLYBURN, Ms. WATSON, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. TANNER, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. MEEK of Florida, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Honoring the Organization for Security and Cooperation in
Europe Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation and for
other purposes.

Whereas the 1975 Helsinki Final Act and subsequent agree-
ments and the work of the Organization for Security and
Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), as well as its Parliamen-
tary Assembly and affiliated institutions, encompass what
is referred to as the Helsinki Process;

Whereas the 1975 Helsinki Final Act included a specific sec-
tion on “Questions relating to Security and Cooperation
in the Mediterranean” in recognition of the interrelation

between security in Europe and security in the Mediterranean region;

Whereas the long-standing relationship between the participating states of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation, currently Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia, dates back to the origins of the Helsinki Process and is rooted in the important geographical, historical, cultural, economic, and political links between them and the states of the Mediterranean region;

Whereas the OSCE participating states have declared their intention to promote the development of cooperative relations with the Mediterranean Partners and to encourage the development of mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields of economic activity and have sought to increase mutual confidence so as to promote security and stability in the Mediterranean region as a whole;

Whereas, since its establishment by the 1990 Charter of Paris, the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE has called for enhanced engagement with the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation and their constituent assemblies in the pursuit of improved economic cooperation, and security and stability in the Mediterranean region;

Whereas in the 1992 Helsinki Document, the leaders of the OSCE participating states committed to widening cooperation and increasing dialogue with the Mediterranean Partners as a means to promote social and economic development in order to narrow the prosperity gap between Europe and its Mediterranean neighbors and to protect the Mediterranean ecosystems;

Whereas in the 1999 Istanbul Document, the OSCE participating states encouraged the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation to draw on the expertise of the participating states in setting up structures and mechanisms in the Mediterranean region for early warning, preventive diplomacy, and conflict prevention;

Whereas the 2003 Maastricht Ministerial recognized that threats originating or evolving in adjacent regions are of increasing importance, and therefore the OSCE will intensify its cooperation with its Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Cooperation, and also encouraged the Partners for Cooperation to embrace the principles and commitments of the OSCE;

Whereas the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation participate as observers in the annual meetings of the OSCE Ministerial Council as well as the regular meetings of the OSCE Permanent Council and Forum for Security Cooperation;

Whereas, the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation actively participate in the work of the Contact Group within the Permanent Council, as well as OSCE yearly events, including the Annual Security Review Conference, the Economic Forum, the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, and the Annual, Fall and Winter Sessions of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly;

Whereas since 1995, the OSCE and the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation have organized annual Mediterranean Conferences to provide the opportunity for the OSCE participating states and the Mediterranean Partners to exchange views on matters of mutual interest and to strengthen their cooperative relationship;

Whereas in 2001, the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed the first Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs, Mr. Michel Voisin of France, in order to enhance engagement of members of parliament from the 56 participating states of the OSCE with members of parliament from the Mediterranean Partner states;

Whereas since 2001, successive OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Special Representatives on Mediterranean Affairs have been appointed by former Assembly Presidents, Mr. Bruce George of the United Kingdom, and Mr. Goran Lennmarker of Sweden, as well as by current President, Mr. Joao Soares of Portugal, reaffirming the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's commitment to the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation;

Whereas, under the leadership of then-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Mr. Bruce George of the United Kingdom, the Parliamentary Assembly convened its first conference dedicated to ensuring peace, democracy, and prosperity in the region of the Mediterranean in Madrid in 2002; and

Whereas the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has convened Mediterranean Seminars at its fall meetings since 2003, with the active participation of members of parliament representing the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) honors the People's Democratic Republic of
3 Algeria, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the State of
4 Israel, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the King-
5 dom of Morocco, and the Tunisian Republic for their

1 participation in the Organization for Security and
2 Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) as Mediterranean
3 Partners for Cooperation;

4 (2) welcomes the representatives of the OSCE
5 Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation to Wash-
6 ington, DC, on the occasion of the Commission on
7 Security and Cooperation in Europe Seminar on
8 OSCE Mediterranean Partner Engagement, July
9 22–23, 2009;

10 (3) encourages the OSCE to re-evaluate its past
11 practices and ongoing activities in the Mediterranean
12 dimension in order to further empower the OSCE
13 Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation in the work
14 of the OSCE, and to support the Partners' leader-
15 ship on matters which impact their citizens, their
16 governments, and the region; and

17 (4) encourages the OSCE Mediterranean Part-
18 ners for Cooperation to continue to work with the
19 OSCE participating states to enhance trade, eco-
20 nomic development, security, and stability in the
21 Mediterranean region, and to embrace existing
22 OSCE commitments, including those in the Human
23 Dimension.

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