

Parliamentarians call for the creation of a Euro-Mediterranean Migration Observatory

Strasbourg, 11.05.2007 – The Migration Committee of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) and the Greek Parliament's Migration Committee today called for the creation of a Euro-Mediterranean Migration Observatory in a [joint statement](#) adopted at a meeting in Athens. The Observatory, says the statement, should improve the common monitoring of migration policies and processes in the Euro-Mediterranean area, and better integrate migration and migrants into the economic, social, democratic and inter-cultural development of the region.

They welcomed the offer by the Greek authorities, reiterated by Greek Prime Minister Kostas Karamanlis in a speech to PACE earlier this year, to host the Observatory.

Greece and many other Mediterranean countries are facing what has become an annual phenomenon of mass arrivals of irregular migrants and asylum seekers. Co-operation between countries of origin, transit and destination is essential for tackling the smuggling and trafficking of migrants and addressing migrants' fundamental rights and interests, the parliamentarians said.

Given the geopolitical importance of this region between Europe, Africa and the Middle East, it is of fundamental importance to launch new initiatives for the improvement of co-operation, development, peace and democracy in this region, the parliamentarians said. Migrants may play a special and particularly important role for the advancement of this project, and for better intercultural understanding, which will open new perspectives for European migration policy, they stressed.

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