

JOINT STATEMENT

Interparliamentary Meeting of the Foreign Affairs Committees of the EU MED9: The Mistral of Change: The Mediterranean as a Source of Strength for Europe's Future?

Split, 25–26 May 2026

We, the participants of the Interparliamentary Meeting of the Foreign Affairs Committees of the MED9, held in Split, Croatia, on 25–26 May 2026, in the presence of Commissioner for the Mediterranean Dubravka Šuica, reaffirm the increasing central importance of the Mediterranean for the European Union's prosperity, security, and global role.

We stress that the Mediterranean is not only a shared geographical space but should also be a strategic pillar of European security and prosperity. We support strengthening the parliamentary dimension of the MED9 and the continuation of the Interparliamentary format under future Presidencies, recognising parliamentary diplomacy as an important platform for articulating Mediterranean priorities within the EU agenda. We consider it important that the MED9 parliamentary format continues to serve as a forum for advancing Mediterranean priorities, as it goes far beyond a geographical group and should contribute to ensuring that the strategic importance of the Mediterranean is adequately reflected in future European policy and that our arguments, themes and conclusions are recognised as a strategic priority in the next Multiannual Financial Framework of the European Union.

We underline the importance of enhancing the Mediterranean's resilience through increased cooperation in security, combating illegal migration, sustainable development, connectivity, energy security, and adaptation to climate change.

We strongly support the European perspective of the Western Balkans and other candidate countries and encourage the continuation of open, constructive exchanges of views with parliamentary representatives from those countries on developments in the region within parliamentary platforms, thereby contributing to a better understanding of the situation in these countries and the challenges they face. We believe that parliamentary dialogue directly advances a better grasp of regional realities and cooperation, strengthening trust and stability throughout the Mediterranean and Europe.

For us, the Mediterranean is a shared space of cooperation, security and prosperity, which must be safeguarded from the activities of criminal networks, irregular trafficking routes, hybrid threats and other challenges that undermine regional security and stability.

The Mediterranean should unite shores and peoples; it must be a sea of cooperation, a sea of understanding. Our sense of responsibility, solidarity and understanding towards the peoples living on the African and Middle Eastern shores of our shared ancient sea calls upon us to deepen cooperation with our partners in the region in pursuit of lasting peace, stability and prosperity throughout the Mediterranean.

We, the European nations living on the Mediterranean, underline its comprehensive importance and, above all, its geostrategic significance in shaping the European Union's policies and strategic priorities, making it a source of strength for Europe's future.