

# **LAUNCHING CONFERENCE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK ON DIASPORA POLICY**

## **Draft Final Statement**

1. We, members of the parliaments of European and South Mediterranean countries, gathered in Lisbon on 7-8 September 2017 at the Conference organised by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) on the invitation of the Portuguese Parliament agreed to:
2. Create a Parliamentary Network on Diaspora Policy with the aim of promoting policy and legislative reforms regarding diaspora's role in the countries of origin and host societies;
3. Focus the activities of the network on:
  - 3.1. empowering parliamentarians to address the needs of diaspora communities and build inclusive societies;
  - 3.2. promoting political co-operation between countries of origin and host countries;
  - 3.3. promoting democratic participation of diasporas;
  - 3.4. promoting the role of diaspora associations in the integration of migrants in host communities;
  - 3.5. strengthening dialogue between members of the network and diaspora associations.
4. Appoint Mr Andrea Rigoni (MP, Italy) as co-ordinator of the network for one year period.
5. Entrust the Secretariat of the Committee of Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons of the PACE with the tasks of the Secretariat of the Network.
6. Convene the next meeting of the network in 2018.
7. Promote and declare the day of the issuing of this statement, 8 September, as European Day of Diasporas.

Done in Lisbon on 8 September 2017

Appendix: List of the members of the network