

# ASE & AMESA Mediterranean Senators' Summit

Everything started in 2019 with the "Mediterranean belt", a potential collaboration between senators around the Mediterranean basin on various themes to be determined together.



In June 2020, Shadi Izmiqna (# 72568 Amman, Jordan) became the AMESA president and we started talking of a common project together in autumn. The exchanges between Shadi and Reynold made the project evolve little by little and led to the final version: the Mediterranean senators' summit.

We were really happy because such a project had never been carried out by two areas.

It seemed natural and logical to us because we shared the same concerns. Our aim was to help people to get to know each other better, allow better cooperation between our countries and enable our senators to collaborate in a relevant and effective way.

The 16 participating countries are: Catalonia, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Portugal, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey.



Our first official planning meeting happened on 22 February and Shadi told us he had been tested positive to Covid-19. He was full of enthusiasm, with ideas galore and relevant tools to realise them. We had no idea that he would leave us on 7 March.

In his memory, and because earth's greatest treasure lies in human personality, we decided to continue, like he would certainly have told us for sure. We are convinced that, where he is now, he is happy with us.



We had five meetings to organize the summit on June 5th. And, as a part of Africa is French-speaking, we decided to have a simultaneous interpretation in French, done by two members of the AMESA.



We created an attractive and varied program to ensure that senators have an enjoyable morning.



Special guests opened the session. ASE president Reynold (France), AMESA secretary Ryad (Mauritius), JCI president Ryubun Kojima (Japan - photo), JCI IPP Itai Manyere (Zimbabwe) and JCI secretary general Kevin Hin (Monaco). They welcomed the participants, encouraged them to meet regularly and to work together on common issues that allow for enrichment, sharing, discovery and making new friends.

**MEDITERRANEAN Senators' Summit**  
5th June 2021 | 10:00 CET (GMT+2)

**JOIN IT** Share your experience

**TO**

**MAKE IT** Guide the future

Breakout rooms | Group discussions | Kahoot session | Future collaboration

French interpretation will be available during whole session

In a second section, the senators were divided into four groups in breakout rooms. Each participant introduced him/herself and presented an unknown peculiarity of his/her country.

Then they started a group discussion on the topic: "How to make the Mediterranean Senators' summit a regular and attractive event".

After a small comfort break, we had the second part with the feedback from the groups in a plenary session. Here is a summary of the suggestions from our discussions.

#### Frequency & Organization

- Most people want one physical meeting and two or three virtual meetings per year, with regular group work between each meeting.
- Alternating organisation between the two areas is suggested.
- Events should be promoted well in advance so that people can better organise themselves.
- Senators asked for a live broadcast for those who could not attend the physical meeting.

#### Objectives

- Most of the participants would like a clear understanding of the objectives of the summit and structure it.
- A business aspect was suggested.
- As the summit has a limited time frame, it is necessary to focus on its practical side and concentrate on how we can best support the NOMs.
- The 'ordinary' senators would like to get a content for themselves and not just for those with functions in their respective associations.
- There is a lot of interest in exchanging good practice and how we help local and national organizations.
- Some want to build relevant projects together to combine synergies.
- Using the ASE business, networking and mentoring database and offering webinars and masterclasses to meet the demands of senators could be interesting.

#### Communication

- Appropriate and aggressive marketing of the event is expected.
- As well as the promotion of this summit to make it a must-attend event with more participants.

#### Working methods

- Many would like to conduct a survey of senators to find out their expectations and gather ideas.
- Sharing good practice and entrepreneurial experiences are ideas often put forward.

#### Conferences

Senators want to benefit from conferences with well-known speakers to inspire us, but also speakers from the European Parliament, the African Union or the Commonwealth or a connection to events like the Mediterranean summits.



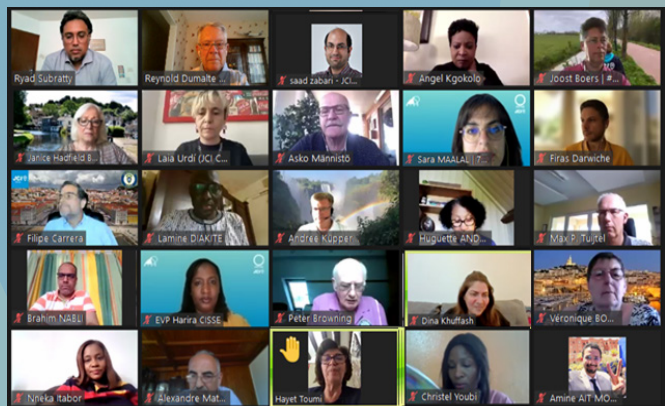
#### Francophony

The French-speaking senators who do not speak English wish to have a specific working group.

We ended the summit with a fun Kahoot session, facilitated by Filipe Carrera, an activity to be repeated.

The closing session allowed JCI EVP for Africa and the Middle-East Harira Cissé (Mali) to express her appreciation of our work and the pleasure she had in staying with us all morning.

AMESA secretary Ryad and ASE president Reynold confirmed these words and agreed to meet again at a future summit.



More than 70 senators participated in our AMESA/ ASE Mediterranean summit. They brought our project to life, came up with relevant ideas that will now allow us to build the future and meet again as soon as possible.

If all goes according to plan, we are considering meeting at the future EPM next February in Cyprus.



Living in Cyprus and close to Lebanon, our ASE ambassador **Zoe Aphas Darwiche** (# 73062) knows the region and its issues very well and, together with her husband Firas, they have brought their personal touch to our exciting adventure. No doubt we will find them again with original ideas in the next phase of the project.

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