



Dear Members of COMPSUD,
Dear interested/candidate Members of Parliament,



This is a short report of COMPSUD activities since the last meeting in Athens, November 2013. The report will be briefly presented during the closed session of COMPSUD that is now scheduled to take place on **November 5th from 16.30-17.30**

We invite you as members of the Circle (or interested/candidates) to also contribute with any actions and activities that you have done during this period in support of COMPSUD's promotion.

The previous meeting of the Circle (COMPSUD 10) took place in Athens (13-14 November 2013) and was held back to back with a Regional Workshop for Members of Parliaments on Climate Variability and Change in the Mediterranean Coastal Area in the framework of the GEF MAP/UNEP MedPartnership. On 14-16 November 2013, a field visit to Ancient Olympia and the coast-line of Iliia Region emphasis on coastal erosion, southwestern Greece, was hosted by the Chair of COMPSUD, Ms. Dionysia Theodora Avgerinopoulou.



COMPSUD participation in regional processes:

The **Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)** is an advisory multi-stakeholder body to the Contracting Parties (COP) of the Barcelona Convention. COMPSUD has been proposed by the meeting of the Focal Points to be a member of the MCSD and the next meeting of the COP (Athens, February 2016) is expected to formally approve the decision.

MIO-ECSDE, together with RAED and the EEB, represent Mediterranean stakeholders at the **Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Expert Group on Climate Change** which was mandated to be formed and meet twice a year by the UfM Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Change (May 2014, Athens). The messages and positions of COMPSUD are taken into consideration and were transmitted to the UfM Ministerial Meeting in Athens and to the three meetings of the Expert Group on Climate Change organized in 2014 and 2015.

COMPSUD was presented and promoted at:

- a series of activities related to Marine Litter in the Mediterranean. The activities were under the aegis of the Greek Presidency of the European Union and linked with the UfM Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Change (13 May) and the informal Meeting of EU Ministers of Environment (14 May 2014). The formal launching of the MARLISCO exhibition on marine litter was done by Mr. Janez Potočnik, EC Commissioner for Environment, together with Mr. Ioannis Maniatis, Greek Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change, Ms. Lila Iskanda Egypt's, Minister of State for Environment Affairs and Ms. Dionusia Avgerinopoulou, Chair of COMPSUD.



- an informal meeting of Commissioner Janez Potočnik with stakeholders, including COMPSUD, took place on the 13th of May in Athens to which the Chair of COMPSUD, Ms. Avgerinopoulou actively contributed.
- the UfM Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Change. Both the Chair and Executive Secretary of COMPSUD followed the sessions of the Ministerial Meeting.

- the Istanbul Summit: Women’s Perspectives on the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda, 31 May – 1 June 2014, Istanbul. Dr. Dionysia Avgerinopoulou, COMPSUD Chair, addressed the Summit making a presentation on Water, Women and SDG 6.
- the meeting of the Union for the Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly’s Committee on Environment, Energy and Water, Zagreb, 6-7 October 2014. Prof. Scoullou, COMPSUD Secretary General, was invited by Prof. Stefan Schennach, Chair of the Committee (Austrian MP).
- a celebratory side event of the EU Maritime Day, dedicated to the 40 years of the Barcelona Convention entitled Greening the Blue: Forty Years Together for a Sustainable Mediterranean, 29 May 2015, Athens, Greece. COMPSUD was represented by its Chair, Dr. Dionysia Avgerinopoulou.
- the International Conference on Education for Sustainable Development organized by UNESCO Russia, 8-11 June 2015, Khanty-Mansyisk, the Russian Federation.

Updates on ...

... the Water agenda

The 7th World Water Forum took place in April 2015, in Korea. A regional preparatory processes, coordinated by IME and GWP-Med, concluded with the Mediterranean Session. It focused on a range of IWRM issues including water governance, financing, non-conventional water resources management, transboundary cooperation and joint ICZM/IWRM approaches. The role of MPs was highlighted in the discussions and is referred to in the Conclusions of the Mediterranean Session.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) were approved by the UN Assembly in September 2015. SDG 6 is dedicated to Water, and is expected to promote action towards IWRM application and water security. Its implementation demands structured contributions from all stakeholders, including the MPs. Promoting the SDGs agenda at national and regional levels is of key importance for its success. GWP will be launching a global ‘SDGs Readiness’ Initiative in 2016 aiming at assisting countries in timely becoming organized to implemented SDG 6. At least two countries will be in the focus of the Initiative in the Mediterranean.

The UfM Water Expert Group will reconvene on 23-24 November 2015, in Luxemburg. The last WEG Meeting took place in 2011, following an intensive consultation process (2009-2010) for the elaboration of the draft UfM Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean that did not receive consensus on political grounds in 2010. It is expected that UfM WEG will assist promotion of cooperation and synergies on policy and technical water issues in the region. COMPSUD is able to provide inputs to the process.

... Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

After the endorsement of the **Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development** by the 43 UfM Member Countries at the Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Change of May 2014 (<http://ufmsecretariat.org/euro-mediterranean-cooperation-on-environment-and-climate-change-ufm-holds-ministerial-meeting-in-athens/>) and its presentation at the Nagoya World Conference on ESD, MIO-ECSDE, through its Chairman and MEDIES, has been working on the development of its **Action Plan** (as mandated by the Strategy). The contribution and suggestions of Members of Parliament in the formulation of the Action Plan will be the focus of a special session on November 6th 2015. All of these efforts are also components of the **UNESCO Global Action Plan (GAP)** on ESD (2015-2020).

... Biosphere Reserves in the Mediterranean and South-Eastern Europe

The role of local and regional elected officials in the designation and management of Biosphere Reserves (not protected areas per se) as open sustainable development laboratories has been highlighted within UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB) lately. It is noteworthy that until now there is not even a single Biosphere Reserve designated in the east and shores of the Mediterranean. MPs can be crucial in proposing, promoting and shaping a supportive environment for local communities to have an open mind and be willing to embrace and understand the benefits and contribution of Biosphere Reserves to the sustainable development of their area.

... the Mediterranean Universities Network for Education for Sustainable Development (MedUnNet)

The Network aims to revitalize the Higher Education systems of the region towards sustainable development by providing a forum for consultation and radical re-thinking on ESD among academics, students, public administration representatives, future employers, NGOs, etc. Members of Parliament are invited to contact and propose well established Universities of their countries to join the network.

COMPSUD (Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development) is a light regional network of Parliamentarians that promotes dialogue, exchange of information and sharing of knowledge on sustainable development and water issues in the region. Formed in the wake of the Johannesburg Summit (2002), it operates with the technical and administrative assistance of the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE) and the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med). It regularly holds dialogue events. The informal status and light function of COMPSUD has proven effective in securing interest and participation of competent representatives even during times of political conflict and social turmoil in the Region.

Administrative/organisational issues

Preparations for the 11th Meeting of COMPSUD began in September when the opportunity arose to combine with the:

- the Final Conference of the GEF MAP/UNEP *"Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem"* (MedPartnership) and the *"Integration of Climatic Variability and Change into National Strategies to implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean"* (ClimVar & ICZM) Projects (4 November 2015).
- a Mediterranean Workshop of Members of Parliament and other Stakeholders on Climate Change Adaptation in Mediterranean Coastal Areas (5-6 November 2015).

The events are funded by the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med) within the framework of the GEF MAP/UNEP ClimVar & ICZM Project and the GWP Water, Climate and Development Programme (WACDEP), in close collaboration with COMPSUD and MIO-ECSDE.

The **closed session of COMPSUD** will consider the following items for discussion:

- Short Report of Activities and where the Circle stands now
- Procedural matters: classification of Members
- New Members
- Next elections

The membership of COMPSUD currently stands at 82 Members. The Members of Parliament attending the events that are not yet official members of the Circle, are invited to sign the COMPSUD commitment form and join the Circle.

Looking forward to working together next week!



Dr. Dionysia Theodora Avgerinopoulou
Chair of COMPSUD

- *f. Member of the Hellenic Parliament,*
- *Chair of the Environment Committee and Water Courses Sub-Committee of the Parliament*
- *Director, European Institute of Law, Science & Technology*
- *Attorney at Law, LL.M., J.S.D.*



Prof. Michael Scoullou
Secretary General COMPSUD

- *Chairman of MIO-ECSDE and GWP-Med*
- *Director of the Laboratory of Environmental Chemistry at the University of Athens*
- *Since 2011, holder of the UNESCO Chair and Network on Management and Education for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean*

Promotional video of COMPSUD

COMPSUD's promotional video is always available for download at <http://vimeo.com/63107210>. It includes a description of the Circle and its history and highlights from the latest meeting in Athens. Feel free to show it within your sphere of activities.