

SUSTAINABLE MEDITERRANEAN

MEDITERRANEE DURABLE • ΒΙΩΣΙΜΗ ΜΕΣΟΓΕΙΟΣ • MEDITERRANEO SOSTENIBILE

المتوسطة المستدامة

CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN



CHANGEMENT CLIMATIQUE ET LA MEDITERRANEE

Quarterly newsletter produced by the
Mediterranean Information Office
for the **Environment, Culture** and
Sustainable Development,

the **European Environmental
Bureau** and
the **Arab NGO Network for
Environment and Development**

Issue no 32
December • Décembre 2003

This issue of Sustainable Mediterranean
was financed by **MIO-ECSDE** with the
support of the **European Commission**



EDITORIAL

The effects of global climatic changes and uncertainties seem to be visible also in the Mediterranean region. The proper attribution of extreme climatic events to a long term systematic change is as yet uncertain and cannot be easily demonstrated. A certain consensus exists however, regarding this century, for a presumed increase in *climatic contrast*: in the south, a drier climate is more probable with intensified evaporation and accentuated droughts; in the north, we can expect the climate to become more contrasted with irregular rainfall in general, wetter winters and drier summers.

According to cautious and conservative prospects for the region in relation to climate change drier conditions are expected to be combined with a consistent drop in crop yields; the sea-level will rise moderately but it will be enough to cause permanent flooding of delta plains and prime farmlands. The more frequent occurrence of land sinking, partly due to current overpumping of ground waters, will further agitate these phenomena; salt-water intrusion will intensify degradation of groundwater; large groups of people will be displaced intensifying the phenomenon of environmental refugees.

In general, water resources in the Mediterranean countries will be affected in many ways by climate changes. Climatic contrasts will have the dual effect of reducing water resources and increasing water demand. The impacts on transboundary aquifers can also be considerable. In some regions they will result in increasing water recharge and in others in reducing it. The consequences of either of these impacts on abstraction, maintenance of wetlands, discharge to water bodies could be very serious.

Floods caused by violent surges in Mediterranean watercourses, as well as landslides and mudslides due to extreme rainfall levels represent, together with earthquakes, the main risk of natural disaster in the region. Moreover, the risks are amplified by the growing concentration of populations and human activity in exposed areas. Floods are a frequent phenomenon in most of the region, such as in northern Italy and the Balkans. In the south they are rarer but, as we have seen recently in Algeria, of greater intensity.

Les effets du changement climatique sur le plan mondial et les incertitudes qui en résultent semblent être également visibles dans la région méditerranéenne. L'attribution nécessaire des manifestations climatiques extrêmes à un changement systématique réalisé à long terme reste encore incertaine et ne peut être aisément démontrée. Il existe cependant un certain consensus concernant ce siècle, portant sur une croissance présumée des *contrastes climatiques*: dans le Sud, il faudrait s'attendre à un climat plus sec avec une évaporation intensifiée et des sécheresses renforcées; dans le Nord, nous pouvons nous attendre à un climat davantage contrasté avec, en général, des précipitations irrégulières, des hivers plus humides et des étés plus secs.

Selon des perspectives prudentes et conservatrices concernant la région par rapport au changement climatique, la sécheresse accentuée devrait être accompagnée d'une réduction considérable du rendement des cultures; le niveau de la mer ne devrait s'élever que modérément mais de manière suffisante pour provoquer des inondations permanentes des plaines autour des deltas et des terres arables d'importance fondamentale. L'affaissement de plus en plus fréquent du sol, provoqué en partie par les pompages excessifs des eaux de surface de nos jours, ne fera qu'inciter ces phénomènes; l'intrusion d'eau salée viendra intensifier la dégradation des eaux de surface; de grands groupes de personnes se déplaceront, intensifiant de la sorte le phénomène des réfugiés pour causes environnementales.

De manière générale, les ressources d'eau des pays méditerranéens seront affectées par le changement climatique de plusieurs façons. Les contrastes climatiques auront le double effet de réduire les ressources d'eau et d'augmenter la demande en eau. L'impact pourrait également s'avérer considérable pour les nappes aquifères transfrontalières. Dans certaines régions cela pourrait résulter en une augmentation de l'accumulation de l'eau, alors que dans d'autres pourrait advenir l'inverse. Les conséquences de quelconque de ces phénomènes sur le détournement des eaux, la préservation des zones humides ou le déversement dans le cours d'eau pourraient s'avérer très graves.

Les risques principaux en matière de potentiels désastres naturels dans la région proviennent essentiellement d'inondations causées par la montée violente des cours d'eau en Méditerranée, ainsi que de glissements et d'éboulements de terrain dûs à des niveaux extrêmes de précipitations. Il ne faut pas oublier non plus les tremblements de terre. De plus, ces risques sont amplifiés par la concentration croissante des populations et de l'activité humaine dans des régions exposées. Les inondations constituent un phénomène courant dans la plus grande partie

The response and measures taken by the various governments to address the issue and the risks involved differ considerably both in nature and in the obtained results. In most Mediterranean countries certain institutional coordination mechanisms are already in place (UNFCCC focal points, RAMSAR, special commissions, etc.) that could be used to initiate national-level processes to develop national adaptation frameworks for action. Environmental organisations however are rarely part of such schemes, while the more that concerted action is delayed the more costly and difficult it will be for the natural and human environment to be protected from floods and the related phenomenon.

The purpose of this issue's dossier on *Climate Change in the Mediterranean* is to provide a clear picture as concerns the effects of climate change in the Mediterranean and the regional (and global) political and other initiatives that have or have not been expressed to address the phenomenon. The second part of the issue addresses a series of significant EuroMediterranean events and processes that have taken place in the last part of 2003.

Special acknowledgement and thanks are due to Ms. Vanya Walker-Leigh (economist and journalist), from the MIO-ECSDE Member organization Nature Trust – Malta, who has significantly contributed to this issue.

de la région, notamment en Italie et dans les Balkans. Elles sont plus rares dans le Sud, mais comme nous avons pu le constater récemment en Algérie, d'une plus grande intensité.

Les mécanismes de réponse et les mesures prises par les divers gouvernements pour faire face au problème et aux risques relatifs diffèrent considérablement, tant par leur nature que par les résultats obtenus. Dans la plupart des pays méditerranéens, il existe déjà certains mécanismes institutionnels de coordination (points focaux UNFCCC, RAMSAR, commissions spécialisées, etc.) qui pourraient être utiles pour initier sur le plan national des processus de mise en place de cadres d'adaptation nationaux concernant l'action. Cependant, les organisations environnementales font rarement partie de tels projets, alors que les grands retards en matière d'action concertée entraînent davantage de frais et de difficultés pour la protection de l'environnement naturel et humain contre les inondations et les phénomènes qui y sont reliés.

L'objectif du dossier sur les *Changements climatiques en Méditerranée* repris dans ce numéro est de présenter un aperçu clair des effets du changement climatique en Méditerranée, ainsi que les initiatives, politiques ou autres, régionales et mondiales qui ont ou n'ont pas été exprimées dans l'optique de ce phénomène. La seconde partie de ce numéro traite d'une série d'importantes manifestations et processus euro-méditerranéens qui se sont déroulés dans la dernière partie de 2003.

Nous exprimons nos sincères remerciements et notre reconnaissance à Mme Vanya Walker-Leigh (économiste et journaliste) de l'organisation membre de MIO-ECSDE, Nature Trust – Malte, qui a considérablement contribué à la réalisation de ce numéro.

The views and opinions expressed in Sustainable Mediterranean by individual contributors do not necessarily reflect those of MIO-ECSDE or those of our sponsors.

CONTENTS

CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

- MEDITERRANEAN VULNERABILITY TO CLIMATE CHANGE
- PROJECTED FIRST ORDER EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON MEDITERRANEAN HYDROLOGICAL SYSTEMS
- *IMPACTS DE PREMIER ORDRE PROJÉTÉS SUR LES SYSTÈMES HYDROLOGIQUES MÉDITERRANÉENS*
- CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN
- CLIMATE CHANGE NEGOTIATIONS IN MILAN: MODEST PROGRESS vs. GROWING ALARM
- Reference to Climate Change in the FRAMEWORK ORIENTATIONS FOR A MEDITERRANEAN STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- CLIMATE CHANGE, WATER AND WETLANDS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN
- FIRST EURO-MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE OF AGRICULTURE MINISTERS
- EUROMED ENERGY MINISTERS LAUNCH MAJOR FOSSIL FUEL PROJECTS, SIDELINE SUSTAINABILITY AND RENEWABLES

MISCELLANEOUS MEDITERRANEAN NEWS

- 2nd MEETING OF *THE CIRCLE OF MEDITERRANEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT* (COMPSUD)
- EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY ESTABLISHED

- CONCLUSIONS FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP, NAPLES CIVIL FORUM
- RAPPORT DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE, FORUM CIVIL DE NAPLES
- BARCELONA VI - THE 6th CONFERENCE OF EUROMEDITERRANEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS
- PREMI ONES MEDITERRANIA
- 2nd TASK GROUP MEETING OF THE MEDIES TYPE II INITIATIVE
- THE 8th AGM OF MIO-ECSDE, 13th DECEMBER, SAN PEDRO DEL PINATAR, SPAIN

CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

MEDITERRANEAN VULNERABILITY TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Many events associated to climate change threaten the balance of the Mediterranean ecosystems. The projected impacts of climate change will create a greater variability and extreme weather events, wetter winters and drier summers and hotter summers and heat waves.

The changes in temperatures and in precipitation levels and distribution will directly **affect the water demand, quality and watershed. Pollution will be intensified** by runoff in catchments and from urban areas. Rivers will have lower flows particularly in summer, and the sea temperature, salinity and concentration in CO₂, ni-

trates and phosphates will also be affected. The most visible impact will be the **floods** which will be higher and more frequent.

The changes in the frequency of extreme events might be the first and most important change registered in the Mediterranean. That will directly impact the **vulnerability** of the poorest countries. Floods are the most common type of natural hazard in the Mediterranean region, after the earthquakes: only in the last decades all the Mediterranean countries have faced some massive flood and its associated catastrophic effects.

PROJECTED FIRST ORDER EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON MEDITERRANEAN HYDROLOGICAL SYSTEMS

Aspect	Representative Impacts
<p>More extreme weather events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › More frequent and intense storms › Increased number of days of heavy rainfall events and torrential downpours › More frequent and longer lasting droughts spells › Greater seasonal and year-to-year variation in precipitation, especially in semi-arid areas in the southern and eastern areas of the region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Higher surface runoff and drainage from catchments with less infiltration › More frequent and severe floods, especially over northern parts of the Mediterranean basin › Greater incidence of flash floods in small catchments › Increased soil erosion and sediment in rivers from intense storms › More severe floods in winter and autumn coupled with shifting seasonal precipitation patterns
<p>Wetter winters and dryer summers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › More precipitation in winter, less in summer over the Mediterranean region as a whole, with variability in basins › Earlier snowmelt (e.g. shifting to Jan, Feb, Mar) › More winter precipitation falling as rain and less as snow (in mountainous and colder climate regions) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Changes in the seasonal distribution of flows in the watercourse (runoff in a particular basin may increase or decrease on average) › Shifts in peak flows in rivers from spring to winter, especially in rivers fed by snowmelt › Earlier low water periods in most rivers › Lower groundwater recharge in dry summers, compensated (in some basins) with increased winter recharge › Marked deficits at the local scale during dry years › Less rainwater infiltration feeding inland and coastal water tables and fragmentation of aquifers
<p>Hotter summers and heat waves</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Warming trends greater in summer than in winter › Hotter and longer summers › Heat waves becoming the norm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Increased evaporation from reservoirs, lakes and rivers › Increased soil evaporation, plant evapotranspiration › Dryer and more erosion-prone soils coupled with less summer precipitation › Acceleration of desertification effects › Increasing water needs in human, agriculture and ecological systems

IMPACTS DE PREMIER ORDRE PROJETÉS SUR LES SYSTÈMES HYDROLOGIQUES MÉDITERRANÉENS

Aspect	Impacts représentatifs
<p>Davantage de phénomènes extrêmes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Augmentation de la fréquence et de l'intensité des tempêtes › Augmentation du nombre de journées pluvieuses et des pluies torrentielles › Augmentation de la fréquence et de la durée des épisodes de sécheresse › Les précipitations seront sujettes à de plus grandes variations saisonnières d'une année sur l'autre, particulièrement dans les régions semi-arides des secteurs sud et est du bassin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › L'accroissement du ruissellement en surface et le drainage des bassins versants limitent l'infiltration › Augmentation de la fréquence et de l'intensité des inondations, particulièrement dans les régions du nord du bassin › Multiplication des crues éclaircies dans les petits bassins versants › Augmentation de l'érosion des sols et des sédiments dans les rivières en raison des tempêtes violentes › Augmentation de la fréquence et de la gravité des inondations en hiver et en automne qui ira de pair avec la modification du régime des précipitations saisonnières
<p>Des hivers plus humides, des étés plus secs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Davantage de précipitations en hiver et moins en été dans l'ensemble de la région ; variabilité dans les bassins › Fonte des neiges plus précoce (p. ex. vers janv., fév. ou mars) › Davantage de précipitations hivernales sous forme de pluie (en montagne et dans les régions au climat plus froid) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Variations dans la distribution saisonnière des débits des cours d'eau (l'écoulement dans un bassin donné pourra augmenter ou diminuer en moyenne) › Glissement des débits maximums du printemps vers l'hiver, notamment pour les rivières alimentées par la fonte des neiges › Période de basses eaux plus précoce dans la plupart des cours d'eau › Moindre recharge par les eaux souterraines lors des étés secs, compensée (dans certains bassins) par une recharge plus importante en hiver › Déficits marqués à l'échelon local en année sèche › Moindre infiltration des eaux de pluie qui alimentent les tables d'eau côtières et intérieures et fragmentation des aquifères
<p>Étés plus chauds et vagues de chaleur</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › La tendance au réchauffement sera plus marquée en été qu'en hiver › Étés plus chauds et plus longs › Les vagues de chaleur deviennent la norme <p><small>Source: <i>Adaptation Framework for Action for the Mediterranean Region: views from the Athens Workshop "Climate Change, Water and Wetlands"</i>, IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, 2003</small></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Accroissement de l'évaporation des réservoirs, lacs et rivières › Accroissement de l'évaporation des sols, évapotranspiration des plantes › Sols plus secs et davantage exposés à l'érosion, moins de précipitations en été › Accélération des effets de la désertification › Augmentation des besoins d'eau des systèmes naturels et humains et de l'agriculture)

CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

Introduction

The world's climate is changing and will change, due to human intervention by means of emitting heat-trapping gases into the atmosphere at a greater rate than can be absorbed by vegetation, soil and the oceans.

This is the overwhelming consensus of the world's scientific community, as expressed through the reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

(<http://www.ipcc.ch>) whose work undergirds related ongoing international negotiations.

The need to halt and stabilize climate change, in particular the increase in global temperature, by reducing the emission of Greenhouse Gases (GHG's – including carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and CFCs) underlies the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992) and its resulting Kyoto Protocol (1997) (<http://www.unfccc.int>).

After adoption in 2001 of detailed operating rules for the Protocol so as to secure a first (and modest) reduction in global emissions by 2012, it has now been ratified by 120 countries. Entry into force requires 55 ratifications, but total CO₂ emissions of ratifying powers must equal 55% of global emissions. Present ratifications represent 44%, and with the Bush administration's withdrawal from the Protocol process, only Russian ratification, still pending – but unlikely until after the presidential elections of March 2004 – can bring it into force. The Contracting Parties to the UNFCCC are holding their 9th conference in Milan (1-12 December 2004). *Key outcomes are reported in the article "Climate Change Negotiations in Milan: Modest Progress vs. Growing Alarm" below.*

Climate Change Issues in the Mediterranean

While there are many technical difficulties in 'regionalising' global climate change models, 'best guess estimates' warn of severe impacts on the Mediterranean. Record summer temperatures in the last few years and reduced rainfall may indicate that the impacts have already begun.

In future years, the following can be expected: rising temperatures, less but perhaps more concentrated rainfall (violent storms), lower soil moisture content, higher evapotranspiration, loss of wetlands, decline or extinction of many endemic species of flora and fauna, including forest dieback, increased desertification and erosion, sea level rise involving loss of coastlines and saline intrusion into coastal water tables, decline of fish stocks due to increased sea temperatures and changes in sea water oxygen content.

Many key issues for the Mediterranean were addressed during the IUCN/GWP-Med/MIO-ECSDE Mediterranean workshop on Climate Change, Water and Wetlands, 10-11 December 2002 (Athens)¹. *See also relative article in this issue of Sustainable Mediterranean.*

Mediterranean Parties to the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol

Most countries have embarked on some kind of climate change policy process, whilst there is a regional GEF project for the three Maghreb countries. Nearly all countries

have submitted a First National Communication under the UNFCCC, which outlines the problems, prospects and policies (in progress or contemplated) regarding climate change in the respective countries.

(RC = Ratified Convention; RK = Ratified Kyoto Protocol; NC = submitted National Communication)

EU + Accession states, including Cyprus and Malta (RC and RK)

RC: Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Slovenia, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey

RK: Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia. (Signed: Egypt, Israel)

NC: All EU. Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia. Malta pending.

Climate Change in Mediterranean Regional Processes

Neither regional process (the Barcelona Convention-MCSD-MAP) nor the EuroMed Partnership have so far engaged the issue.

However, the recent 13th Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (November 11-14, 2003) adopted a series of guidelines for the design of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, (agreed to in principle at the 12th Meeting in 2001) for adoption in 2005. The UNEP/MAP co-ordinator confirmed that climate change issues would be addressed in the design process.

Within the EuroMed Partnership, the 2nd Conference of EuroMediterranean Environment Ministers (Athens, July 2002) resolved:

Climate Change

20. *The Conference greatly welcomes the outcome of the 7th Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Marrakech in November 2001*
22. *The Conference notes that the Mediterranean region is likely to be particularly adversely affected by climate change as well as the resultant sea level rise and welcomes the intention of the Commission to explore the possibilities for cooperation in the field of research. The Conference also welcomes the Commission's intention to explore further ways of taking appropriate account of climate change related issues in Euro-Mediterranean activities. Some eligible activities can usefully contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gases and to adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change.*
23. *The Conference considers that dialogue amongst*

¹ The conference CD includes 8 country baseline studies (Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Morocco, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey) and four cross-cutting thematic papers (flood management, drought management, climate change and wetlands, water resources management), as well as, presentations, discussion summaries and additional resource material on the topic. Most of this material is available in English and French and there are some documents in Arabic and Spanish. The CD also incorporates the Spanish and French electronic versions of the book *Change, Adaptation of water resources management to climate change* edited by IUCN and an electronic copy of the leaflet *Adaptation Framework for Action for the Mediterranean Region*, in Spanish, English and French, that was one output from the regional working process

the 27 Partners on the implementation of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol would be useful. This could address capacity building needs and priorities of Mediterranean countries and exchange views on the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) under the Kyoto Protocol which is expected to be a vehicle for the transfer of environmentally sound technologies in the Mediterranean area. Such dialogue could also take place both in ad hoc regional meetings and in the context of the Association Agreements.

However, only a passing reference was made to the Kyoto Protocol in the second Regional Energy Paper adopted by the EuroMed Energy Ministers' conference (May 2003).

In contrast, there were references to climate change in the recent declaration of the conference of EuroMediterranean Ministers of Agriculture, 27 November 2003:

Closer attention now needs to be paid to the link between agriculture and the environment in the Mediterranean area, particularly in the light of the climate change which we are now living; consequently, one of the priorities of jointly developed programmes must be the management of water resources. In this context, the Turin Declaration adopted at the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Integrated Local Water Management in October 1999 is of particular importance.

(proposed actions)

Promote a study on climate change and water require-

ments in the Mediterranean, together with the way these factors impact on Mediterranean production methods

A Role for Mediterranean Civil Society Advocacy

Mediterranean civil society, in particular the environmental NGOs should lobby to ensure that a coherent and comprehensive approach is taken within both regional processes as well as in the establishment of National Strategies for Sustainable Development (by 2005 according to the WSSD/JPOI) to climate change issues - in particular those of adaptation to and mitigation of climate change impacts; design of climate change-sensitive policies for energy, transport, agriculture, tourism and water management.

Such an approach would build on the achievements and lessons of national strategies and projects in the south Mediterranean countries, as well as on the EU approach.

Countries which have not yet ratified UNFCCC and/or KP would be urged to do so by local civil society groups.

A seminar of key civil society actors to follow up the IUCN/GWP-Med/MIO-ECSDE climate change workshop and plan an advocacy strategy should take place as early as possible in 2004, and at any rate before the next meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, tentative date May 2004 in Italy.

A personal communication by Vanya Walker-Leigh

CLIMATE CHANGE NEGOTIATIONS IN MILAN: MODEST PROGRESS vs. GROWING ALARM

COP9, the 9th Conference of Parties to the 1992 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1) in Milan made modest progress (2) on working out additional operational rules for the 1997 Kyoto Protocol - now ratified by 120 countries accounting for 70% of humanity, but still not in force.

Entry into force requires ratification by at least 55 nations, accounting for 55% of global CO₂ emissions; the 120 ratifying nations account for 44.2%. Following the 2001 withdrawal by the US (36% of the global total), only ratification by the other major emitter Russian Federation (17%), can activate the protocol - but Russia has made a series of contradictory statements about its intentions. Should the Democrats win the US presidential election, there are strong indications that the US would rejoin the Kyoto process.

The protocol provides for an overall 5.2% of CO₂ emis-

sions reduction below the 1990 level by a large group of industrialized countries, by the 'first commitment period' 2008-2012 over 1990 levels, with commitments for the second 2013-2016 period to be negotiated as from 2005. However, many industrialized nations will fail to meet the Kyoto targets on present trends, including all EU members except for UK and Sweden. The European Commission recently proposed a binding 1% per year energy saving target for 2006-2012, which by 2012 could cumulatively contribute almost half of the Union's CO₂ emission reduction obligation. A new €500 million European Investment Bank facility was announced in Milan to help companies participating in the EU greenhouse gas emission trading scheme starting in 2005 to reduce their emissions. Further finance might also be available for preparing projects under the Kyoto Protocol mechanisms, designed to earn investors (from developed nations) 'emission credits' from emission reducing projects in developing countries.

However, emissions by the developing country group, on present trends, are expected to overtake those of the industrialized countries in a couple of decades or less – but so far, the former will not hear of any policy commitment on their part to actually reduce emissions.

Whilst government delegates were cautious and evasive in their official positions about post-2012 action, statements from UN officials, as well as presentations at many ‘side events’ organized by NGOs, academics, business, scientists and some national delegations focused on increasingly alarming indications that climate change is taking place faster than previously thought. This will shorten time left for remedial action so as to lessen impacts while accelerating the prospect of dramatic dislocations in weather and cropping patterns, accompanied by massive biodiversity loss and increased natural disasters, disease and large movements of ‘climate refugees’ fleeing areas where food production or habitation becomes impossible.

During COP9, The global 340-member Climate Action Network (CAN) of environmental NGOs, which has been actively monitoring and lobbying the UNFCCC process since its inception, decided to adopt and promote a strategy built around “2 degrees max”. The increase in global temperature over pre-industrial levels should be limited to a maximum of 2 degrees – an increase which would already provoke serious but not catastrophic impacts - but as a ‘peak’ from which temperatures would then progressively decline due to remedial action.

The CAN policy document (3) “A Viable Global Framework for Preventing Dangerous Climate Change - CAN Discussion Paper” advocates differential strategies mandating deep emission cuts from major emitters, decarbonisation policies by switching to non-carbon energy sources for a wide range of countries, whilst preparing the poorest and most vulnerable to adapt to and prepare for climate change.

CAN warns that the 2 degree peak can only be achieved if the present levels of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere are cut by over half by 2025 – a target described as ‘politically’ (although not technically) impossible’ by many commentators. The Irish EU presidency has however shown interest in discussing this paper with CAN, while Prime Minister Tony Blair has stated his intention to launch a major new climate change initiative, co-designed with the US, during Britain’s G8 presidency in 2005.

In the weeks following the end of COP 9, further alarming indications have emerged in the media.

The British government’s chief scientific adviser, Sir David King urged that the US must take the threat of global warming more seriously stating that “climate change is the most severe problem that we are facing today, more se-

rious even than the threat of terrorism.”

A study issued in January by the University of Leeds (4) warned that 15 to 37% of the world’s species, up to 1.25 million, could be extinguished by climate change by 2050 – but the extinction could be prevented by a rapid return to pre-industrial global temperatures.

A book, ‘The Earth System: a Planet Under Pressure’, issued in February by the Swedish International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (5) warned that atmospheric pollution threatened to “trigger changes with catastrophic consequences” within present lifetimes including the disruption of the Gulf Stream causing a new ice age in Europe.

A report commissioned by the Pentagon, and shared with Fortune magazine (6) in February, highlighted the potential for ‘abrupt climate change’ triggering a cascade of geopolitical, as well as natural disasters.

Climate change impacts in the Mediterranean region are expected to be severe – even though there are many technical difficulties in ‘regionalising’ global climate change models. Record summer temperatures in the last few years, and reduced rainfall may indicate that the impacts have already begun.

The region may expect the following: higher temperatures, less but perhaps more concentrated rainfall (violent storms), lower soil moisture content, higher evapotranspiration, loss of wetlands, decline or extinction of many endemic species of flora and fauna, including forest dieback, increased desertification and erosion, sea level rise involving loss of coastlines and saline intrusion into coastal water tables, decline of fishstocks due to increased sea temperatures and changes in sea water oxygen content.

Several key issues for the Mediterranean were addressed in during the GWP-Med/IUCN Mediterranean roundtable on Climate Change, Water and Wetlands (Athens 10-11 December 2002) whose conclusions (7) urged the need for a regional strategy to mitigate impacts on water resources and wetlands, and to build flexibility and ‘climate headroom’ into policies. Regional measures should to be integrated with local and national policies, the roundtable concluded.

While a majority of Mediterranean nations have ratified the UNFCCC, only a few South Mediterranean countries have ratified the Kyoto protocol. However, nearly all countries have initiated climate change programmes or activities, while most have filed First National Communications to UNFCCC setting out policies.

The European Commission informed the author that “*Climate Change is always one of the top items included in our efforts for the better development of the National Indicative Programmes for Mediterranean Countries and in the*

National Plans currently in preparation under the Neighbourhood Policy of the Union. We intend to pursue this matter further in the context of the Environment Sub-committees we are currently establishing under the ratified Association Agreements.

The 2nd conference of Euromediterranean Environment ministers (Athens 2002) considered in its Declaration “*that dialogue amongst the 27 Partners on the implementation of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol would be useful. This could address capacity building needs and priorities of Mediterranean countries and exchange views on the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) under the Kyoto Protocol which is expected to be a vehicle for the transfer of environmentally sound technologies in the Mediterranean area. Such dialogue could also take place both in*

ad hoc regional meetings and in the context of the Association Agreements.

However the same Commission email stated “*The opportunity of holding a regional climate change conference will be decided on whether any practical gains will result from it.*”

In view of increasing alarm about climate change developments, and the need to mainstream related aspects into on-going Mediterranean processes such as the design of the MSSD and of Euromediterranean industrial, agricultural and energy policies, the Commission’s apparent intention to consider undermining the ministers’ wishes is, to say the least, unfortunate.

By Vanya Walker-Leigh

- 1) UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. <http://www.unfccc.int>
- 2) The UNFCCC secretariat report on COP9 is at: <http://unfccc.int/cop9/index.html> A detailed independent and factual report of proceedings is available from the International Institute for Sustainable Development: <http://www.iisd.ca> Critical evaluations were made by Climate Action Network Europe (<http://www.climnet.org>) and the Pew Center for Climate Change (http://www.pewclimate.org/what_s_being_done/in_the_world/cop_9_milan.cfm)
- 3) <http://www.climatenetwork.org/pages/publications.html>
- 4) C.D. Thomas et al., 2004, “Extinction risk from climate change”. *Nature*, vol 427. <http://www.nature.com/nature/>
- 5) <http://www.igbp.kva.se/booklaunch/>
- 6) “Climate Collapse: The Pentagon’s Weather Nightmare”. *FORTUNE* magazine, 9 Feb 2004. <http://www.fortune.com/fortune/technology/articles/0,15114,582584,00.html>
- 7) http://www.gwpmed.org/news/_i1.pdf

Reference to Climate Change in the

FRAMEWORK ORIENTATIONS FOR A MEDITERRANEAN STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

(sub-heading AIR POLLUTION)

Air pollution results not only from inefficient energy use and the transportation systems that are too much dependent on roads and vehicles and trucks, but also from rapid urbanization, lack of adequate and environmentally friendly waste treatments facilities and from environmentally clean production facilities. In many cases, there are no regular monitoring of air pollution in many cities or regions of the Mediterranean together with communication and exchange of relevant information, a situation that has to be remedied promptly in any strategy for sustainable development.

The strategy will take into account the objectives of the Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol and the Vienna Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (UN-ECE) and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

It will address problems relating to the implementation of cooperation and market instruments envisaged by the Kyoto Protocol, including cleaner development mechanisms.

The Strategy will identify specific partnerships for energy and air pollution issues, particularly in relation to bilateral and multilateral financing in support of objectives, especially in Euro-Mediterranean countries and reconstruction programmes for the Balkans.

UNEP(DEC)/MED IG.15/10 14 October 2003

CLIMATE CHANGE, WATER AND WETLANDS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN CHANGEMENT CLIMATIQUE, EAU ET ZONES HUMIDES

This article is a brief presentation of the 2-day workshop held in Athens, Greece, in December 2002, on the anticipated effects of climate change on water resources and wetlands in the Mediterranean. The aim was also to establish a better sense of the important policy and planning linkages to improve the integrated management of water resources and wetlands, and to identify key follow-up activities to profile successful initiatives to share experience across the region. The workshop was co-organised by the Global Water Partnership Mediterranean (GWP-Med) and the Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation of IUCN and was hosted by MIO-ECSDE. The workshop brought together government, non-government, civil society, research and private sector organizations from countries across the Mediterranean region. A series of country reports (e.g. for Greece, Cyprus, Tunisia, Morocco, Italy, France, Turkey) and “horizontal” thematic assessments had been composed and circulated in advance. The present situation in the region was discussed and through working groups and plenary sessions it became evident that:

- a) the reaction of the various Mediterranean countries to address the issue of climate change differs considerably from case to case
- b) most actions taken until now focus on “mitigation” and more specifically in reducing the emission of green-house gases
- c) actions addressing “adaptation” to climatic

changes are rather few and definitely not systematic or specific

- d) a series of appropriate actions “not to regret” can be easily included in action plans, since many of them can respond simultaneously to current problems and do not require excessive costs or new investments
- e) these actions may include changes in prevailing technologies, hard and soft infrastructures, institutions or agricultural practices –cultivated species, etc.
- f) the role of education, public awareness and genuine public participation was emphasized as a key component to address the issue.

It was suggested by the co chairs of the Workshop, Prof. M. Scoullou, MIO-ECSDE and GWP-Med, and Dr. J. Skinner, IUCN, to continue collaboration with all relevant bodies, transmit the results to the global Water and Climate Dialogue that will present its first results at the 3rd World Water Forum, in Japan, March 2003, and promote the integration of a plan to address climatic change impact to water into the Mediterranean Sustainability Strategy, which is being drafted by UNEP/MAP. Dr. A. Hoballah, Deputy Coordinator of UNEP/MAP informed the meeting that there is relevant provision, as well as the opportunity to link the issue with the Strategy on Biodiversity in the Mediterranean, which will be prepared in the near future.

The climate change phenomenon is not new. Climate has always influenced patterns of human development in the Mediterranean where societies have lived with extremes of flood and drought. What is different today is that the vulnerability to changes in the climate system is arguably greater today than in previous times. Moreover, because we now consume a significant portion of the water resources in many river basins, coupled with dramatically larger populations and higher density of settlement in vulnerable floodplains, also means there will be less room to manoeuvre in future.

<http://www.iucnmed.org>, <http://www.iucn.org>

FIRST EURO-MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE OF AGRICULTURE MINISTERS

At their first and long overdue conference in Venice on 27 November, EuroMediterranean agriculture ministers issued a set of sustainability-aware conclusions (1) in sharp contrast to preceding texts composed by their trade, industry and energy colleagues over the years.

While 40% of the Arab South Mediterranean Partner’s population of 231 million live in rural areas, agriculture-related projects have received less than 10% of MEDA grants to date, and there have been few efforts to develop a regional approach. This despite the 1995 Barcelona Declaration’s provisions in which signatories “agree to cooperate in modernizing and restructuring agriculture and in pro-

moting integrated rural development...-(and) environment friendly agriculture”.

According to a recent study by IFAD, the United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development (2), agriculture accounts for a high percentage of the economically active population of most South Mediterranean countries – Turkey 43%, Syria 38%, Morocco 37%, Algeria and Tunisia 25%, Egypt 24% - only Jordan (12%) and Lebanon (4%) have much lower ratios. Rural areas also host a large share of these nation’s poor e.g. Algeria 53%, Egypt 60%, Morocco 64%, Syria 77%, with rural poverty fuelling both out-migration to urban areas and illegal entries into EU. Agricul-

ture's contribution to Gross Domestic Product ranges from 10 to 20%, as compared to around 3% in Europe.

South Mediterranean agriculture is beset by a host of environmental, social and economic problems, IFAD states: a harsh climate alternating droughts and floods, aridity, scarce and declining water resources, decreasing soil fertility, erosion, desertification, skewed land ownership patterns, serious gender imbalances in policies and structures, pervasive malnutrition, poor management of common pool resources, extremely low levels of public investment and thus deficient social and economic rural infrastructure. IFAD warns that the shift from state control to market oriented systems means both opportunities and risks for the rural poor.

Against the background of on-going reforms in the EU Common Agricultural Policy, Enlargement, the stalled WTO negotiations, as well as the drive to trade liberalization within the Partnership, the Venice conclusions state that "*closer attention now needs to be paid to the link between agriculture and the environment in the Mediterranean area, particularly in the light of the climate change which we are now living*". A study on climate change and water requirements is advocated, as well as joint programmes for water resources management.

Invoking the 'complementarity' of Mediterranean agriculture, the conclusions propose a threefold work programme, to be developed jointly EU and South Med. states: a) to enhance rural development, in particular with regard to agriculture and environment b) to promote quality of agricultural products c) to initiate actions in the field of organic farming

The conclusions also call for "*stronger agricultural ties between the countries around the Mediterranean and the creation of a common platform for certain areas of agricultural policy will contribute to the European Community's new "neighbourhood" policy, intended to promote intra-regional, sub-regional and cross-border cooperation*. Another key goal would be to "*to promote common positions in the international consultation and negotiation fora...*"

Commission sources indicated to *Sustainable Mediterranean* that the platform for a Euro-Mediterranean dialogue on sustainable rural development will convene its first meeting in mid-2004. A separate meeting focusing on product quality standards and co-financed by the World Bank is also slated for the summer.

MEDA commitments for 2004-2006 are being reviewed they add, to place greater emphasis on rural development, while the forthcoming Wider Europe Initiative fund could perhaps become a source of financing for larger projects.

While only 8% of the South Mediterranean Partners' (SMPs) exports are agricultural products, 45% of this total go to the EU, but only account for 6% of EUs agricultural imports from

non-EU countries. One-third of the SMPs agricultural imports, worth \$6 billion, are from the EU.

The Venice conclusions recall that Association Agreements provide for progressive and reciprocal liberalization of agricultural trade by 2010. Barcelona V mandated the Commission to conduct an impact study on agricultural trade liberalization, which was submitted in Venice, though not formally considered there, and will serve as the basis of formal Commission proposals to emerge later this year.

Written by FEMISE, the network of EuroMediterranean economic research institutes, the study (3) warns of the high social costs in the SMP rural areas, of full and rapid liberalization, since their cereals, meat and dairy sector could not compete with imports from the EU. Full bilateral liberalization unaccompanied by any support measures would be 'catastrophic' for southern smallholders and rural consumers and a major rural exodus would ensue. While SMPs have a comparative advantage in fruits, vegetables and fish, liberalization would have strong impacts on competing sectors in Mediterranean areas of several EU states, while in the South most liberalization advantages for these products could go to the large-scale producers rather than smallholders.

FEMISE advocates cautious and 'asymmetrical' liberalization viz faster for the EU than SMPs, based on regional agricultural 'interdependence' designed to 'stabilise' rural areas as far as possible, containing increased poverty and rural out-migration, by supporting the upgrading of SMP agriculture within a regional policy framework anchored in the 'complementarities' of regional agriculture. Key instruments would be rationalization of water use and a transparent pan-Mediterranean regulatory system for quality standards.

Trade liberalization risks also received central attention from a forum (4) in May 2002, co-organised by the UNEP MAP's Blue Plan and the CIHEAM (International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies). In a keynote statement, the Blue Plan director Guillaume Benoit, maintained that the South 'had more to lose than gain' from trade liberalization, questioning whether the resulting rapid reduction in SMP agricultural employment could be 'politically and socially tenable'.

Mr. Benoit advocated a system of 'regional preferences' for Mediterranean agricultural products rooted in strong sustainable agriculture and rural development policies. An alternative could be liberalization linked to modernization of SMP agriculture, but flanked by protection of 'traditional agriculture'.

Strongly convinced of the potential for building on agricultural complementarity while cautiously supporting trade liberalisation, the Mediterranean Committee of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP) publicly welcomed the Venice conclusions (5) and subsequently reported ranging talks with the European Commission at the be-

gining of December. (6) IFAP demanded that farmers be fully involved in the formulation of MEDA and other programmes, called for the launching of a 'Mediterranean quality label' which would require upgrading of SMP products and was encouraged by the Commission to develop their proposals in an on-going dialogue.

Post-Venice EuroMed agricultural activities coincide with a number of other initiatives of regional significance:

- the establishment of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development by MCSD for adoption by the Barcelona Convention contracting parties at the end of 2005 with a significant input expected from the Blue Plan's major study on environment and trade to be issued this summer;
- national sustainable development strategies being drawn up in all UN member states for adoption in the same year in accordance with commitments made in Johannesburg;
- a new forthcoming MEDWET project on Agriculture, Water and Wetlands;
- the development of the MED component of the European Union's Water Initiative;

- work on agricultural development and food security and agriculture by the EuroMed Committee of the European Economic and Social Committee;
- a second conference on EuroMediterranean agriculture in mid-2004 organized by the Council of Europe;
- the FAO regional ministerial conference for the Near East and North Africa this March;

At this stage, synergies and interlinkages between all these processes appear to be less than they could or should be, to meet the huge challenges facing EuroMediterranean agriculture, whilst the input of EuroMediterranean environmental NGOs in the post-Venice EuroMed agricultural policy making remains to be defined.

A common vision shared and implemented by all stakeholders for much-needed sustainable agriculture and rural development in the region is now a top priority:

The EuroMediterranean 'platform' envisaged by the Venice conclusion, could, and should be the place for this vision to emerge.

By Vanya Walker-Leigh

(1) http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/publication/euromed_report69_en.pdf

(2) IFAD. Assessment of Rural Poverty in the Near East and North Africa. <http://www.ifad.org/poverty/region/pn/vena.pdf>

(3) FEMISE. La question de la libéralisation agricole dans le partenariat euro-méditerranéen novembre 2003. <http://www.femise.org>

(4) CIHEAM: Options Méditerranéennes. Série A: Séminaires Méditerranéens. No 52. Libre échange, agriculture et Environnement. L'Euro-Méditerranée et le développement rural durable: état des lieux et perspectives. Actes du Forum 30-31 mai 2002, Montpellier, France.

(5) IFAP. http://www.ifap.org/news/Pr_mediterranee_dec03.html

(6) IFAP. <http://www.ifap.org/develop/medseville/reportbruxeng.html>

EUROMED ENERGY MINISTERS LAUNCH MAJOR FOSSIL FUEL PROJECTS, SIDELINE SUSTAINABILITY AND RENEWABLES

Meeting in Rome six months after their conference in Athens in May, (1) Euromediterranean Energy Ministers and Accession State colleagues missed a second opportunity to set the overall guidelines for a regional sustainable energy policy or adopt a Euromed. approach to the global renewable energies conference hosted by the German government in June 2004.

Entitled Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference "Towards a new Euro-Med Partnership on Investment Promotion, Infrastructure Financing and Energy Supply Security" (1-2 December), the gathering (2) focused on fossil fuels and electricity projects. A half-day side meeting with industry leaders from these sectors, the Rome Euro-Mediterranean Energy Industry Summit (REMEIS), with industry represented by the lobby group Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Énergie (OME) (3) heard OME presentations about the oil, gas, electricity and project financing, mandated by the Italian presidency and the Euro-

pean Council.

The final declaration first stated "the mutual interest of the Euro-Mediterranean Partners in the effective establishment of a Euro-Mediterranean Energy Partnership which will fully contribute to the future free trade area". It then gave an innovative meaning to 'sustainable development' viz "the equally balanced objectives of security of supply, competitiveness and transparency of markets, and on protection of the environment" – a green-sounding repackaging of what have been the three stated goals of the Euromed energy activities for several years.

Ministers also endorsed new infrastructure projects of common interest to consolidate existing oil, gas and electricity interconnections (mainly South-North) and the gradual development of new network interconnection infrastructure projects. Agreements were initialled for Israeli-Palestinian energy co-operation, as well as for a North African elec-

tricity market, linked to EU's, for a Euro-Mashreq declaration of intent on natural gas co-operation, and a similar declaration to develop gas transport between Austria and Turkey, via Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria.

EIB, FEMIP and MEDA were urged to give priority to regional energy development, there was a call for new financial instruments and ministers endorsed an Italian proposal for a Rome based focal point, the Rome Euromed Energy Platform (REMEP) to support developments in Euromed energy policies arising out of ministerial declarations.

Quoting a MEDSUPPLY study co-ordinated by OME for the Commission's Transport and Environment Directorate DG TREN (which services the Euromed energy activities) senior executives addressing the REMEIS foresaw EU-28 imports of natural gas increasing from 350 to 550 bcm between 2002 and 2030, with the South and East Mediterranean countries (SEMC) increasing gas exports from 60 to 180bcm by 2030, and liquid hydrocarbon exports from 150mt to 280mt up to 2020. Eastern SEMCs would become important transit points for supplies from Russia, Iraq, Iran and CEI countries.

Electricity demand in SEMCs was forecast to increase at 6% from 370 TWh in 2002 to 1050 TWh in 2020.

However, while welcoming the MEDRING proposal (for a round the Med electrical ring, forecast to save \$300 million a year), Kamel Yassin, Executive Director for Planning at Egyptian Electricity Holding Company warned that a sequence of national networks forming a chain posed operational problems 'fundamentally different to those encountered in Europe, where network grids are very highly meshed'.

He advocated a stronger focus by the countries themselves and the international community on demand side management and energy efficiency measures which would significantly improve the pursuit of sustainable development in SEMCs whilst reducing future investment needs, adding that combined of water and electricity production should be promoted. A regional action plan was also needed on the implementation and promotion of Kyoto Protocol Clean Development Mechanism projects with MEDA support.

Similar sentiments emerged from an OME document presented in Rome "Possible Innovative Schemes to facilitate energy investment in southern and eastern Mediterranean countries". "*Present trends lead to unrealistic projections in terms of financing needs (\$190 bn between 2000 and 2010), specifically external financing, (around 60% of total investment). As compared to projections, investment needs should be curbed by a better use of energy and more*

adequate energy policies. Recourse to external financing should be brought down by a resolute development of domestic savings, banks and financial markets."

The OME document stated that the Euromed mechanisms "lacked continuity and consistence to address the coming challenges" and highlighted the shortage of domestic private and public finance available or foreseeable for domestic energy projects within SEMCs, as well as the many competing opportunities around the world for foreign direct investment.

The Commission's recent proposals for an energy policy for Wider Europe under its New Neighbourhood Initiative (4) also stated that the Commission *will need to develop policy for demand management and energy efficiency in its neighbours and partners...to assure our energy security. Our common commitment to combating climate change and other energy-related environmental problems also leads us to attaching a high priority to the modernisation of the energy systems in our neighbouring countries. Investments, new energy generation, and renewables have to be combined with better metering, transport measures and energy pricing to provide the right incentives for energy efficiency, for which there exists a significant potential in our Neighbours and Partners.*

The International Energy Agency's (IEA) "Energy to 2050: Scenarios for a Sustainable Future" posits energy efficiency as the most obvious "win-win" strategy allowing reduced emissions along with lower energy costs and lower energy investments.

Prior to the Rome meeting three regional nodes of Climate Action Network (Europe, Eastern Europe and Maghreb – 105 NGOs) addressed an open letter (5) dated 19 November to energy ministers, urging the mainstreaming of climate change considerations within investment decisions, by prioritising demand side management, energy efficiency and decentralised and renewable energy. All investment decisions should be subject to environmental, social and economic impact assessments fully assessing alternative measures, such as the proactive reduction of fossil fuel consumption in the EU. The letter called on ministers to mandate the involvement of environment ministers, parliamentarians and civil society groups will be systematically involved in the decision making of the Euro-med process at both national and regional level.

There is scant reflection of CAN's thinking in the main Rome documents: the forecasts made and the language of its final decisions raise huge questions about long-term financial feasibility and sustainability, their environmental impacts as well as the apparent lack of 'alternative scenario building' amongst designers of the Euromed energy guidelines, or focus on the central sustainability issues.

On the contrary, the language of the Rome declaration and its Athens predecessor, reflect the thinking behind the “Energy Package” subsequently adopted on 10 December by the European Commission, and strongly criticised by WWF, FoE and others. As stated by Friends of the Earth /Europe “The so-called ‘security of supply package’ represents an outdated approach to energy policy based on large-scale generation and long-distance transmission that has been disastrous for the environment. These proposals show the Commission continues to pander to the few big energy corporations that seek to consolidate their domination of the continent. They bear scant regard to the need to address climate change and to reduce emissions.

Any environmental benefit from the belated and ‘window dressing’ energy efficiency proposal, FoE added, would “more than likely be cancelled out by the gross inefficiencies in expanding large-scale and long-distance infrastructure”.

A few weeks after the Rome meeting, European Commission President Prodi stated when launching (6) the European Partnership for the Hydrogen Economy that current EU oil import trends were ‘unsustainable’ ... “our objective is to realise a step-by-step shift towards a fully integrated hydrogen economy, based on renewable energy sources, by the middle of the century”.

OECD also foresees a major decline in OECD gas and oil imports under the Alternative Policy Scenario set out in the 2003 World Energy Outlook (7). This scenario posits implementation of policies already under consideration in OECD countries which would cut 9% of projected energy demand in the Reference Scenario in 2030. The biggest reduction in CO₂ emissions being in power generation, due to the growth of renewables and savings in electricity demand. OECD gas demand would be 260 bcm, or 13%, below the Reference Scenario, while a reduction in EU gas imports by 2030 would be greater than total current imports from Russia and Norway savings oil demand would reach 10%, or 4.6 mb/d.

Increasing concerns about the speed and gravity of climate change (see article above) could result in far deeper cuts in OECD fossil fuel consumption by 2030 and beyond and thus in fossil fuel imports including from the Mediterranean area.

Calls made by the Euromed energy ministers for increased multilateral funding of fossil energy projects in South Med countries also contrast with the recent recommendation of the independent Extractive Industries Review (8) commissioned by the World Bank – which found that the Bank “should phase out investments in oil production by 2008 and devote its scarce resources to investments in renewable

energy resource development, emissions-reducing projects, clean energy technology, energy efficiency and conservation, and other efforts that delink energy use from greenhouse gas emissions. During this phasing out period, WBG investments in oil should be exceptional, limited only to poor countries with few alternatives. The WBG should aggressively increase investments in renewable energies by about 20 percent annually, thereby moving toward a better balance between support for fossil fuel projects, currently 94 percent of the energy portfolio, and support for renewables projects, currently just 6 percent.”

Figures submitted to the Rome conference showed that EIB’s energy loans to Mediterranean countries amounted to 9.8 billion Euros since 1990, with only one renewable energy project of 48 million Euros or 0.04% of the total.

Only one presentation at REMEIS from the Italian Government concerned renewables – “Kyoto Flexible Mechanisms in Euromed Energy Co-operation: financing of projects relating to rational use of energy and renewable sources” and renewable energies were only mentioned in the penultimate paragraph of the Rome declaration as follows:

Ministers reaffirm the interest they attach to the need to substantially increase the role of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources in order to secure a sustainable energy future as recommended at the last summit in Johannesburg (WSSD). They confirm their full support for Germany’s initiative to host an International Conference on Renewable Energy in June 2004 in Bonn. In this context they again call on the countries which have not yet joined the Johannesburg coalition “The Way Forward on Renewable Energy” to consider doing so.

The wording was not much different from the Declaration of the first Euromed. energy ministers meeting 1996 (9) “an effort should be made in order to improve energy efficiency, to develop renewable energy sources, in particular for thermal use and electricity production and to provide electricity in rural areas”.

However, there was no specific commitment in Rome to structured regional action with pathways, let alone targets and timetables, while two regional renewables projects involving OME and other partners, MED2010 and MEDREP, were not mentioned. The Mediterranean will be the only region not to have a regional position to present in Bonn, although Arab countries will be meeting in Yemen in April to draw up an Arab statement.

MED2010 (10) has analyzed the large-scale integration of wind power and photovoltaics for electricity generation in Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Turkey to reach by 2010 their national targets of a share of 10 to 12% of these

energy sources in total energy supply. The project confirmed the major regional potential for renewables but also the lack of adapted institutional frameworks for large-scale integration of wind power and PV in the SEMCs and the need for specific financing schemes in order the RE market to really develop in the Mediterranean region.

MEDREP (11), Mediterranean Renewable Energy Programme, is a Type II partnership launched at WSSD sponsored by UNEP, in partnership with the Italian Environment Ministry, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia the International Energy Agency, World Bank, OME and MEDENER (the Mediterranean Association of National Agencies for Energy Conservation). The project aims to promote increased investment in RNEs in the south Mediterranean, strengthening policy frameworks and building private sector project development capabilities. A proposal for a \$5.2bn activity to supply 100 million Mediterraneans (of which 35 million in the South) with renewables-derived electricity by 2010 is submitted to the UN Partnership Fair in Rome, March 4-6.

The International Energy Agency (12) forecasts progressively cheaper renewable energies: solar technologies, expected to reduce their costs by some 30% - 50% for each of the next two decades, wind by 25%, with 5 to 10% drops for biomass and hydropower in the same periods.

A private proposal supported by a group of academics and business leaders, Trans-Mediterranean Renewable Energy Co-operation (TREC) (13) calls for a Mediterranean common market based on an interconnection infrastructure for renewable energies between Mediterranean countries. Using technology already available, South Mediterranean countries would export electricity and hydrogen derived from wind and solar technologies to Europe, while promoting seawater desalination and combined water and electricity generation units to meet their domestic needs.

TREC proponents state that “solar thermal power needs preferential financing during the start-up phase; however the required support would be significantly lower than the 7-10 billion Euro continuously spent every year for coal and nuclear.

A new global coalition of NGOs, CURES, Citizens United for Renewable Energies and Sustainability (14) has also adopted a joint position for the Bonn conference and identified as “A major problem for progress... the lack of commitment for the process by the EU Commission. In particular the EU’s Commissioner for Energy Loyola de Palacio has continuously blocked clear targets for renewables. The Commission must change course so that the EU can lead a global process of transformation towards a sustainable energy system and fulfill its Kyoto Protocol commitments.

OME’s interest in renewables is fairly recent, and so far its membership does not include any companies or associations from the renewables/energy efficiency sector.

In the runup to the Bonn conference, Climate Action Europe has urged the Irish Presidency in a letter (15) that the Union must adopt a 25% renewables target for 2020, and that EU’s development co-operation policies must prioritise renewables and energy efficiency, focus funding on sustainable energy policies, support the Extractive Industries Review of World Bank financing, while the EIB and Export Credit Agencies should no longer fund fossil and nuclear energy.

After a decade of missed opportunities, the enormous challenge for Euromediterranean civil society is to bring about a shift towards an urgently needed ‘win-win’ sustainable and climate change-sensitive and financially viable energy policy for the region.

By Vanya Walker-Leigh

-
- 1) <http://www.climnet.org/pubs/athensdeclaration052003.pdf>
 - 2) http://www.ueitalia2003.it/EN/LaPresidenzaInforma/Calendario/12/1/ev_1dicipt.htm
 - 3) <http://www.ome.org>. Its members are leading oil, gas and electricity companies north and south Mediterranean countries. There are no members from companies/professional associations from the renewable energy/energy efficiency/co-generation sectors.
 - 4) <http://www.managenergy.net/products/R301.htm>
 - 5) http://www.climnet.org/pubs/NGOletter_Euromed_Nov2003.pdf
 - 6) <http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/press/2004/pr2001en.html>
 - 7) <http://www.worldenergyoutlook.org/weo/pubs/weo2002/weo12.1.pdf> World Energy Outlook, 2003.
 - 8) Striking a Better Balance, the Extractive Industries Review. November 2003. <http://www.eirreview.org>
 - 9) http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/conf/sect/energy.htm Conclusion for a Euro-Mediterranean Partnership on energy adopted at the Trieste Conference 7-9 JUNE 1996
 - 10) <http://www.ome.org/renewable/med2010>.
 - 11) <http://uneprioe.org/MedREP/details.htm>
 - 12) International Energy Agency. Renewables for Power Generation: Status & Prospects, 2003. <http://library.iea.org/dbtw-wpd/bookshop/add.aspx?id=169>
 - 13) TREC <http://saharawind.com/documents/trec.paper.pdf>
 - 14) <http://www.cures-network.org>
 - 15) <http://www.climnet.org/pubs/EUtoleadthewayRenewables.pdf>

2nd MEETING OF THE CIRCLE OF MEDITERRANEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (COMPSUD)

The 2nd Meeting of the **Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD)**, took place in San Pedro del Pinatar, Spain, on 13 December 2003. It was attended by 21 MPs and politicians from 13 different Mediterranean National Parliaments and countries. Its aim was to come up with concrete proposals for the *Action Plan* and the *Working Methods* of the COMPSUD that would guarantee a concerted action of the Circle at regional and national levels as well as its effective functioning and expansion in the Parliaments of the region.

Among the priorities for the *Action Plan* of the Circle coming out from the discussion, figured:

- Water as a catalyst for Peace as a priority issue.
- The promotion of Transboundary Cooperation on Water issues.
- The furthering of IWRM principles in national laws through the Parliaments.
- The promotion of initiatives described in the Background Document (upon request from the MIO-ECSDE Secretariat).
- Water as a right.
- Particular attention to water issues in relation to women.
- Water and poverty (also in combination with the population issue).
- The inclusion of waste issues, both effluent and solid waste, in the priorities of the Circle.
- Emphasis on Education.
- Importance of Public Awareness and of the role of Civil Society in this endeavor. It was also stated that this should be used to inform and sensitize Parliamentarians and other Decision Makers.
- COMPSUD to be assisted by background work and material from Research Institutions and Academia.

The following *Means and Methods* were proposed in order to realize the Action Plan above:

- COMPSUD Members to be involved in discussions concerning water and environment in their National Parliaments in order to inform and enlighten their colleagues.

- Assisting in creating special Commissions of MPs within the Parliaments on Environment and Sustainable Development where they still don't exist.
- Asking for the creation of a Special Technical Committee inside Parliaments to provide information on a neutral way and hold dossiers/bills on issues that seem not to be sustainable.
- Working on Sustainability Impact Assessment, particularly in view of the MFTZ, with emphasis on water.
- Compiling a list of Chairmen of National Committees for Environment and Sustainable Development in order to improve their communication.
- Enlarging the COMPSUD adding more members and raising its profile.
- Assisting in the information and awareness-raising of other MPs and decision makers in cooperation with NGOs.
- It was mentioned that there is a need to have a newsletter, if possible in various languages. This could include information about what is happening in several Parliaments as well as other information. A specific recommendation about a tri-monthly newsletter was made but this will depend on the available finances.
- Internet (web-site, e-mails, etc.) was mentioned as an important means of communication.
- Printed material (in as many languages as possible) also considered very important, in particular to reach those members that have not access to internet yet.
- Synergies with existing pertinent bodies, i.e. the Euro-Med Parliamentary Assembly, the European Parliament, Parliamentarians for Global Action, etc. to be furthered.
- Cooperation with International Organizations, the UNESCO Hydrological Programme, Academic and Research Institutions and other Institutions.
- The need to work closer and collaborate with media and the Circle of Journalists was confirmed.

The next meeting will be held in Turkey in Autumn 2004. Full report of the meeting is available upon request from the MIO-ECSDE Secretariat.

EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY ESTABLISHED

As the Foreign Ministers gathered in Naples, the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Forum convened there converted itself into a Parliamentary Assembly – which may hold its inaugural session in Greece before the summer. Their resolution (1) was annexed to the Barcelona VI president's conclusions which stated:

The Ministers welcomed the creation of a Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly and agreed to include this new body, in a consultative capacity, in the framework of the Barcelona Process. They expressed their conviction that this step will provide the Process with further visibility and transparency, thereby bringing the Partnership itself closer to the interests and expectations of public opinions in the region. In this context, the Ministers stressed that the Assembly will add to the depth of the Barcelona Process, ensuring complementarity with the existing institutions of the Partnership.

Launched in 1998 on the initiative of the European and several other parliaments, the Forum has only met four times for one or two day sessions, but established a number of working parties and its own rules of procedure. Barcelona V (22-23 April 2002) endorsed the European Parliament's resolution of 11 April 2002 that a Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly be established 'with all possible dispatch'. The Italian presidency worked especially hard to bring this to the Naples table.

Not all parliaments are yet on board, as indicated by the Forum resolution which "*encourages, nonetheless, those Parliaments which are still reticent as to possible participation, to involve themselves in the Assembly's activities*".

The 240-member Assembly will comprise national delegations comprising 120 national parliamentarians each from North and South; 45 of the North (EU 25) group will be MEPs.

The Assembly's role, as envisaged in the Forum resolution, emerges as a rather broad interpretation of the 'consultative' status conferred by Ministers, and could go somewhat beyond what the External Relations Commissioner, Chris Patten, visualized in his December 2 article (2).

According to Mr. Patten "*The Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly, ... will enable parliamentarians from both sides of the Mediterranean to exchange ideas on*

how a democratic system should function in a modern state, on how to fight terrorism and organised crime while respecting human rights and the rule of law, including an independent Judiciary. The Assembly will also provide a forum for Parliamentarians from countries like Morocco or Jordan to present their experiences of pursuing democratic reform within a system fully respectful of Islam."

According to the Forum's Naples resolution, the Assembly's decisions will not be legally binding; however, it "*shall express its views on all matters relating to the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, and shall, in particular, monitor the application of the Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreements*". The Forum "*believes that the Assembly should be able to deliver opinions in response to requests from the Ministerial Conference, and in this connection, calls on the Ministerial Conference to consult the Assembly on the major aspects of and fundamental choices for each of the three strands of the Barcelona Process*".

Moreover, the Forum resolution "*wishes to seek a formal link established between the Ministerial Conference and the Assembly; calls therefore on the Conference to consider the practical details of this link (mutual representation at respective meetings, need to take due account of each institution's work in drafting agendas, etc.), which, in any case, should safeguard the independence of the partnership's two institutions*".

The 'formal link' concept does not seem to be implied in the wording of the Barcelona VI conclusions, though may surface as a point for discussion at the mid-term informal foreign ministers' meeting (Dublin, 5-6 May 2004).

The Forum resolution establishes three parliamentary committees, with the remit of dealing with the three strands of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, but can also decide to set up *ad hoc* committees.

With the deliberations of nine civil society fora since 1995, plus inter-sessional civil society lobbying having made so little impact on the EuroMediterranean ministers' decisions so far, the Assembly faces a huge task in collecting and putting across to governments "*the interests and expectations of public opinions in the region*" - let alone persuading them to implement policies to reflect them.

By Vanya Walker-Leigh

1) Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Forum. Recommendation from the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Forum to the Sixth Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on setting up a Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly. http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/conf/index.htm
2) Speech by Chris Patten, Commissioner for External Relations. 2 December 2003. "It is not in the stars to hold our destinies."
europa.eu.int/comm/commissioners/patten/speeches/ -

CONCLUSIONS FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP, NAPLES CIVIL FORUM

(28-30 november 2003)

- The Mediterranean region is characterized by serious and persistent environmental problems, due to the nature of economic activities and the absence of effective government interventions.
- In particular in the southern part of the Mediterranean, people are suffering massively from polluted air and water, water scarcity, absence of effective waste management, etc.
- Mediterranean nations must ratify the Land Based Sources of Pollution Protocol to the Barcelona Convention without delay, so that it can come into force
- At the same time, the region is characterized by massive poverty, with 30% of the population in the southern countries living on less than 2 Euro/day, and economic developments that are aggravating the economic situation for parts of the population.
- Many people are deprived from the right to environmental justice, being the right to live in an environment that is safe and provides for the resources necessary to maintain a decent standard of living.
- The participants were particularly appalled about the construction of the wall in Palestine by the Israeli government, which besides grave social, humanitarian economic consequences also is creating serious environmental problems as well. 110.000 olive trees were cut, ecosystems are fragmented, water sources being cut from the Palestinian people.

The participants came to the following conclusions:

- Sustainable Development must become the central objective of the EMP. This is the only way to provide for lasting peace, justice and prosperity in the region. Protecting the natural resources the Mediterranean people are depending on, developing economies within the limits of the carrying capacity of the region, and focussing on safe and clean services to protect peoples health are essential elements.
- Until today, the EMP is not following this path. The Valencia and Crete Foreign Affairs Ministerial Meetings did recognise the necessity in principle, but we do not see the concrete steps to make the changes needed in the Partnership operations.
- In reality, what interests the EU and partner governments most is the Mediterranean Free Trade Zone. While trade has been characteristic for this region for thousands of years, the current drive for liberalisation creates serious problems in particular for the southern partners of the EMP, increasing water stress, soil degradation and waste problems. While the EMP Foreign Affairs Ministers agreed in Stuttgart, more than five years ago, for a Sustainable Development Impact Assessment of the

MFTZ, this Assessment still has to take place. At the same time, bilateral trade agreements continue to be agreed, without clear objectives on sustainable development and clear mechanisms to prevent adverse impacts for environment and the poorest in the region.

- To that extent, it is unacceptable that the Crete Meeting refrained from adopting the “framework for a Euro-Mediterranean Strategy for Environmental Integration” the Environmental Ministers of the region adopted at their meeting in Athens in July 2002.
- The Short and Medium Term Action Programme on Environment, adopted by the Partnership in 1997, is being implemented too slow and is not given sufficient attention by the European Commission.

The Forum insists the EMP Ministerial Meeting in Napoli:

- Fully adopts the framework for a Euro-Mediterranean Strategy for Environmental Integration as proposed by the EMP Environmental Ministers Conference in Athens, 2002 and takes decisions on its practical, immediate, implementation.
- Develops a similar framework focused on the eradication of poverty, sustainable rural development and urbanisation, employment and public services for basic needs.
- Requires that the EIB and FEMIP work according to strict environmental and social standards for all its activities in the region, developed and reviewed from time to time with meaningful involvement of civil society organisations from the region. To that extent the EIB and FEMIP together have an Advisory Board composed of experts and representatives of civil society organisations working on sustainable development issues.
- Requires that the Sustainable Development Assessment is developed in 2004, with full cooperation of all partners, and include substantial public involvement in all stages of the Assessment.
- Calls upon the Commission to substantially increase its political will and practical capacity to make a success of the Short and Medium Term Action Programme for the Environment.
- Invest in participatory environmental democracy in both legal and practical terms: implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the entire region, including in international organisations and agreements (such as the EMP), and focussed assistance for civil society development, awareness raising among public authorities, support for local initiatives.
- Calls upon the Israeli Government to remove the wall it is building in Palestine.

La région euro-méditerranéenne est caractérisée par la persistance de problèmes sociaux et environnementaux majeurs :

- 30% des habitants de la rive sud vivent avec moins de 2 euros par jour;
- le taux de chômage, supérieur à 15%, peut atteindre 30 à 40% chez les jeunes;
- De faibles niveaux d'investissement direct étranger;
- L'urbanisation accélérée et non maîtrisée aboutit à une explosion des quantités de déchets et d'eau usées non traitées qui menacent gravement les écosystèmes de la région;
- Une situation de stress hydrique qui risque de s'aggraver avec l'augmentation de la demande et les menaces climatiques;
- L'artificialisation accélérée de larges portions de littoral et la dégradation du patrimoine culturel.

En Israël et en Palestine, la répression et l'occupation israélienne ont entraîné une diminution sans précédent du niveau de vie des populations palestiniennes (dont plus de 50% vivent désormais en dessous du seuil de pauvreté) et a gravement porté atteinte à l'environnement et au développement durable. La construction du mur de séparation par Israël cause également de graves dommages à l'environnement : arrachage de dizaines de milliers d'arbres, fragmentation des écosystèmes, perte massive de sol agricole, etc.

Les participants ont abouti aux conclusions suivantes :

Le développement durable doit être place au cœur du PEM contrairement à l'approche actuelle, qui, favorise, au contraire les aspects sécuritaires et le libre échange avec pour conséquences probables l'affaiblissement de l'outil productif des PPM et l'aggravation de la dégradation environnementale de ces pays.

Dans sa dimension sociale, le développement durable de la rive Sud et Est doit mettre l'accent sur la création d'emploi. La promotion de l'emploi dans les PPM passe notamment par :

- l'encouragement à la création d'entreprises (micro, PME/PMI, économie sociale).
- la mise en place d'un environnement favorable à l'investissement (Etat de droit, lutte contre la corruption, politiques de formation).
- le soutien aux politiques d'intégration régionale de la part de l'UE et des Etats partenaires.
- Les participants recommandent par ailleurs la mise en œuvre d'un cadre d'intégration des politiques de création d'emploi et d'éradication de la pauvreté dans l'ensemble des aspects socio-économiques du partenariat. Une attention particulière devra être portée aux catégo-

ries les plus vulnérables de la population telles que les handicapés, les réfugiés, les minorités arabes vivant dans des villages non reconnus en Israël, les femmes et les jeunes.

- Ils recommandent également que se tienne dans les meilleurs délais une réunion des ministres de l'emploi du PEM.

Les participants soulignent que les politiques de démantèlement tarifaire, dans la phase actuelle, occasionneront une perte accrue d'emploi. Ils plaident pour le maintien d'un certain niveau de protection susceptible de protéger l'infrastructure économique des pays de la rive Sud. Compte tenu des déséquilibres existants entre le Nord et le Sud de la Méditerranée, il est dangereux de supprimer de manière symétrique les barrières tarifaires au nord et au sud.

Les participants s'inquiètent également de la répartition déséquilibrée des zones de croissance économique dans les PPM et plaident de ce fait pour une répartition spatiale plus équitable des efforts de développement.

Dans sa dimension environnementale, le développement durable des pays partenaires doit prendre en compte les limites des capacités de charge des écosystèmes méditerranéens et la nécessité de protéger des ressources naturelles et biologiques rares.

Il est préoccupant de constater que l'étude sur l'impact de la ZLE sur la durabilité des pays du Sud n'a toujours pas démarré alors même que cette ZLE commence à se mettre en place.

Il est par ailleurs inacceptable que le Sommet de Crête ait refusé d'adopter le "cadre stratégique pour l'intégration environnementale" qui avait été entériné par les ministres de l'environnement à Athènes en juillet 2002. Les participants du IX^{ème} CF insistent donc pour que les ministres des AE adoptent finalement le cadre stratégique défini à Athènes.

Le programme d'actions prioritaires pour l'environnement (SMAP) n'a pour sa part l'envergure ni les ressources suffisantes pour produire des résultats tangibles sur la situation environnementale des PPM. Nous demandons que ce programme soit soutenu à la mesure des résultats qui en sont attendus.

Les participants lancent un appel solennel au gouvernement israélien pour l'arrêt de la construction et le démantèlement du mur de séparation.

The Final Declaration is available from the MIO-ECSDE Secretariat

BARCELONA VI, THE SIXTH CONFERENCE OF EUROMEDITERRANEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS

Euromediterranean foreign ministers and their Accession state colleagues said little about sustainability at their first formal conference in Naples (2-3 December) since the World Summit on Sustainable Development in August 2002.

A striking lack of focus on sustainable development by two European Commissioners also preceded Barcelona VI - President Prodi's speech in Alexandria (1) on 13 October and External Relations Commissioner Chris Patten's article of December 2 published in some twenty newspapers around the Mediterranean (2).

The concept was absent from the list of shared goals and values comprising the six-paragraph introduction to the 66-point Presidency conclusions (3), and only briefly addressed a single paragraph (par 51), although a separate paragraph (par 50) also dealt with water.

The Ministers stressed the need for environmental protection and sustainable development policies to be implemented. This should be pursued along the lines of the Declaration of the Euro-Mediterranean meeting of Environment Ministers in Athens in July 2002 and the Plan of Implementation of the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development. The environment should be integrated into all sectors of the Partnership. The Ministers supported the ongoing assessment of the impact of the implementation of Association Agreements in terms of sustainable development.

The first three sentences replicate the single paragraph on the subject in a 10-page EC Commission paper issued October 2002 on proposals for Barcelona VI preparations (4); in contrast four pages discussed the proposed Mediterranean Free Trade Area.

But whether the Barcelona VI formula of 'along the lines of' will come to mean 'in strict accordance with' the Athens Declaration (3) is already in doubt. Environment ministers resolved that sustainable development must be the CENTRAL guiding principle of EuroMed, calling for a series of actions. But little progress has emerged so far, as can be seen from texts emerging from post-Athens ministerial conferences on energy and trade as well as at Barcelona VI.

Responding to an e-mail query from the author, a European Commission Official of the Environment Directorate-General stated that: "*the implementation of the results of the 2nd Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Environment Ministers, Athens July 2002, has been an integral part of the activities of DG Environment in the Mediterranean. One needs, however, to mention that the work in the Mediterranean has*

suffered from lack of human resources devoted to it".

The Athens Declaration (article 7.2) invited both the development of strategies and a report to Barcelona VII on environmental integration into sectoral EMP programmes (water, industry, etc).

However, the same EC official indicated: *In particular, the goal for the development of strategies for environmental integration has suffered from the lack of precision about who should be undertaking such work. A decision will be made on the possible presentation of an environmental mainstreaming report to the Barcelona VII when we will be closer to it in two years time.*

The Barcelona VI president's conclusions on water stated: *The Ministers confirmed the importance of the rational and economic use of water in the region and encourage the further deepening of regional and sub-regional co-operation on this issue including through the Mediterranean component of the EU water initiative. The Ministers underlined the importance of water recalling the comprehensive set of commitments set out in the Action Plan in the Conference on Water held in Torino in November 1999. The Ministers agreed on the need to accelerate the fulfilment of the above mentioned commitments. In the run-up to 2007-2013 financial perspectives, they also ensured that appropriate financing for this sector be made available.*

Announced in Johannesburg, led by Greece and serviced by the GWP-Med Secretariat, the Mediterranean Component of the EUWI (EU Water Initiative) (5), is in its design phase.

Poverty issues received scant attention in Naples – although addressing Louvain University in December 2002, President Prodi publicly echoed the findings of the UNDP Arab Human Development Report 2003 (6) that 30% of South Mediterraneans must survive on 2 Euros (or less) a day. Ministers missed their second opportunity, since the UN General Assembly's adoption in 2000 of the UN Millennium Development Goals for poverty reduction by 2015, (7) to offer a supportive regional framework for national fulfillment of MDG targets.

The South Mediterranean's hesitations over the Wider Europe New Neighbourhood initiative launched by the European Council last spring was reflected in the presidency conclusions' emphasis on "*the need for credible incentives, if it was to successfully promote political and economic reform in the region*". These reforms include the adoption of much of the *acquis communautaire* by all the neighbouring states on the rim of Enlarged Europe, as well as the institution of the Union's four freedoms of movement – goods, services,

capital and people. The reward would be, as President Prodi has stated, ‘Everything, except institutions’ – ie full participation in the EU’s many programmes and activities, as well as virtual inclusion in the range of ‘single’ neighbourhood sectoral policies visualized for key sectors such as energy, transport etc.... but no seat at the Commission or Council tables.

A long-term Regional Economic Dialogue, to include biannual meetings of Economics/Finance ministers was also decided. In contrast, employment/social ministers have yet to meet; health ministers have met once, agriculture ministers met for the first time last November (*see article in this issue*), environment ministers have met twice. Their energy, trade and industry colleagues have met more frequently – with sustainability considerations virtually absent from their respective declarations or conclusions.

In several paragraphs on trade issues, ministers urged the launching of bilateral negotiations on trade in virtually all services, taking note of Commission preparations to enable similar negotiations on raw and processed agricultural products. These negotiations would be additional to trade liberalisation for industrial goods foreseen under the proposed Mediterranean Free Trade Area, targeted to start in 2010.

“Further steps should be taken to complete the free-trade area, pursuing a comprehensive approach which takes into account the range of reciprocal interests”, the conclusions stated....The Ministers recalled that a progress report regarding the implementation of the Action Plan in the field of the establishment of free trade on industrial products should be presented by the Working Group on Regional Integration to the forthcoming Trade Ministers’ Meeting in 2004. Specific MEDA technical assistance programmes and projects in the Mediterranean region should be used to support this Action Plan and eventually the conclusion of conformity assessment agreements.

However, no mention was made of the MFTA’s Sustainability Impact Assessment, which Barcelona V conclusion said should be launched before the end of 2002 – but will only be initiated this February by Manchester University.

Two new Partnership institutions were formally launched in Naples, but how they will contribute to Mediterranean sustainable development is not explicitly stated in the conclusions. They are the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly (*see preceding article*) and the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue of Cultures – the latter’s financial underpinnings and location is left to be decided by the MED committee, with Italy, Egypt and Malta as the main contenders.

Ministers also decided to retool the private investment arm of the European Investment Bank, FEMIP (Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership) launched at Barcelona V, leaving open the possibility of converting it into a fully-fledged EIB subsidiary before the end of 2006.

The conclusions state: (par 6) *They agreed that achievements on these three issues will foster greater political co-operation, more focussed support for economic reform and private sector development and moves to promote inter-cultural dialogue and understanding. All three will move the focus of the partnership further into the domain of civil society, thus producing results that are relevant to ordinary man and woman.*

The text on security and political issues includes the usual focus on the Middle East peace process. In addition, ministers agreed to the need for a regional stability/security strategy, building *inter alia* on the recently launched Euro-mediterranean dialogue and co-operation on/with the European Security and Defence Policy. The conclusions emphasised the need for a consensus on ways to promote human rights and democracy throughout the region, along with increased co-operation in justice as well as combatting terrorism and crime.

Ministers will meet again at the mid-term informal conference in Dublin (5-6 May), to prepare for Barcelona VII in Luxemburg in spring 2005.

By Vanya Walker-Leigh

-
- 1) “Sharing Stability and Prosperity” Speech delivered at the Tempus MEDA regional conference Bibliotheca Alexandrina 13 October 2003 http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/publication/euromed_report66_en.pdf
 - 2) Article by Chris Patten, Commissioner for External Relations. 2 December 2003. “It is not in the stars to hold our destinies”. europa.eu.int/comm/commissioners/patten/speeches/
 - 3) Texts of conclusions/declarations of most ministerial conferences are at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/conf/index.htm
 - 4) COM (2003) 610 final. Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament to prepare the VI meeting of Euromediterranean Ministers of Foreign Affairs.
 - 5) See: http://www.gwpmmed.org/athens_june_2003/operation_plan_med_eu_draft4.pdf
 - 6) <http://www.undp.org/rbas/ahdr/english2003.html>
 - 7) <http://www.developmentgoals.org> The goals are: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; Achieve universal primary education; Promote gender equality and empower women; Reduce child mortality; Improve maternal health; Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases; Ensure environmental sustainability; Develop a global partnership for development.

PREMI ONES MEDITERRÀNIA 28th of May 2004, Tarragona

REQUIREMENTS:

This award is open to all those organisations in the Mediterranean region working on the protection and improvement of the environment. This year any innovative project in the field of environment and sustainable development can be submitted.

DOCUMENTS TO BE PRESENTED:

1. A summary description of the project (maximum 10 pages). It has to include the objectives of the project, the budget, the resources needed and a list of the educational or awareness-increasing material published and/or to be published.
2. A file with information on the organization.

LANGUAGE: English

ENTRY DATES: until the 30th of April, 2004

PRIZE:

MIO-ECSDE will offer the winner a cheque for a token amount so as to support the diffusion of the outcome of the project (e.g. educational or awareness-increasing material, a publication, etc.).

JURY:

- Prof. Mohammed Ftouhi, Co-Chairman of the Executive Bureau of MIO-ECSDE.
- γngel Juřrez, President of the MARE TERRA Foundation
- Dr. Josep Rivera, Institute of Chemical and Environmental Research (CSIC)
- Secretariat of MIO-ECSDE
- Secretariat of MEDITERRYNIA CIE

DELIVERY TO:

The projects can be delivered by post or by e-mail to:

MEDITERRYNIA, CENTRE D'INICIATIVES
ECOLOGIQUES

C/FrancoI£, 56-58 Tarragona 43006

Tel: (+34) 977 55 13 00

Fax: (+34) 977 55 09 28

E-mail: mediter@tinet.org

Web: <http://www.mediterran.org>



Mediterrània CIE and MIO-ECSDE are calling for candidates to be considered for the 4th MEDITERRANEAN HONORIFIC AWARD, which will be given to innovative projects relating to Environment and Sustainable Development.

2nd TASK GROUP MEETING OF THE MEDIES TYPE II INITIATIVE

The meeting was attended by 34 members of the Task Group of MEdIES, including some Mediterranean Parliamentarians. It was chaired by the chairman of MIO-ECSDE, Prof. Michael Scoullos. Main objectives were first, to present a brief update of the past 1,5 year's experience (June 2002 – December 2003) and particularly since the 1st Task Group meeting (December 2002 Athens), and second, to examine the future perspectives of the Initiative and some practical issues of its Implementation such as its management, monitoring, funding, etc.

More specifically the Agenda of the meeting included an update on the EE publications, on the organised meetings,

and on the function of the MEdIES webpage (www.medies.net). The participants gave useful input during an open discussion on the facilitation of the Mediterranean Educators Network, the monitoring of the implementation of the Water Package, the shipment of publications, the management and possibilities for local funding of the Initiative. There were proposals from Palestine and Morocco for the co-funding of the Arabic version of the water package publication at national level. Also, specific proposals were made on the future co-organisation of national launching events of the water package combined with training seminars. These proposals were made on the part of Italy, Tunisia, and Morocco. Full report of the meeting is available on www.medies.net

**THE 8th AGM OF MIO-ECSDE
13 DECEMBER, SAN PEDRO DEL PINATAR, SPAIN**

The 8th AGM of MIO-ECSDE took place in San Pedro del Pinatar, a small seaside town in Spain, on Saturday 13 December. The assembly was attended by 42 participants from 15 Mediterranean countries, most of which also attended the other meetings co-organised by MIO-ECSDE and GWP-Med (see below).

The new organisations that were approved by the assembly as members of the Federation are:

- 1) Association pour la Sauvegarde de la Médina de Gafsa, (ASM Gafsa), NGO, Tunisia: **FULL**
- 2) International Energy Foundation (IEF), NGO, Libya: **CORRESPONDING**
- 3) The Union of Northern Associations for Sustainable Development (UNASD), NGO, Lebanon, **CORRESPONDING**

The new members of the Executive Bureau (EB) were elected and for 2004 the EB will have as:

Chairman: Prof. M. Scoullos
Co-Chairman: Prof. M. Ftouhi

Members:

Ms. B. Mantzara (Elliniki Etairia)
Mr. G. Cingal (EEB)
Dr. E. Adly (RAED)
Mr. J. Doucet (URVN - FRANCE)
Mr. M. Ghandour (AMWAJ - LEBANON)
Prof. Y. Nouri (APNEK - TUNISIA)
Mr. M. Alves (Etnia - PORTUGAL)
Ms. Marta Ricart (Mediterrania - SPAIN)
Ms. M. Presta (LEGAMBIENTE - ITALY)
Mr. Z. Alawneh (LHAP – JORDAN)

The MIO-ECSDE Secretariat would like to thank the departing member of the previous EB (Ms. Yesim Erkan) for her valuable contribution to MIO-ECSDE and would also like to wish the new EB a productive and rewarding new term!





MIO-ECSDE Profile

The Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development, is a Federation of Mediterranean Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for the Environment and Development. MIO-ECSDE acts as a technical and political platform for the intervention of NGOs in the Mediterranean scene. In cooperation with Governments, International Organizations and other socio-economic partners, MIO-ECSDE plays an active role for the protection of the environment and the sustainable development of the Mediterranean Region.

Background

MIO-ECSDE became a federation of Mediterranean NGOs in March 1996. Its roots go back to the early 80s, when the expanding Mediterranean membership of the European Community encouraged the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) to form its Mediterranean Committee supported by Elliniki Etairia (The Hellenic Society for the Protection of the Environment and the Cultural Heritage). The Mediterranean Information Office (MIO) was established in 1990 as a network of NGOs, under a joint project of EEB and Elliniki Etairia and in close collaboration with the Arab Network of Environment and Development (RAED). The continuous expansion of MIO-ECSDE's Mediterranean NGO network and the increasing request for their representation in Mediterranean and International Fora, led to the transformation of MIO-ECSDE to its current NGO Federation status. Today it has a membership of 98 NGOs from 22 Mediterranean countries.

Our Mission

Our mission is to protect the Natural Environment (flora and fauna, biotopes, forests, coasts, natural resources, climate) and the Cultural Heritage (archaeological monuments, and traditional settlements, cities, etc.) of the Mediterranean Region. The ultimate goal of MIO-ECSDE is to promote Sustainable Development in a peaceful Mediterranean.

Major tools and methods

Major tools and methods used by MIO-ECSDE in order to achieve its objectives are the following:

- Promotion of the understanding and collaboration among the people of the Mediterranean, especially through their NGOs, between NGOs and Governments, Parliaments, Local Authorities, International Organizations and socio-economic actors of the Mediterranean Region.
- Assistance for the establishment, strengthening, co-operation and co-ordination of Mediterranean NGOs and facilitation of their efforts by ensuring the flow of information among relevant bodies.
- Promotion of education, research and study on Mediterranean issues, by facilitating collaboration between NGOs and Scientific and Academic Institutions.
- Raising of public awareness on crucial Mediterranean environmental issues, through campaigns, publications, exhibitions, public presentations, etc.

Contact Information

POSTAL ADDRESS: Tripodon 28, 10558 Athens, Greece
T: +30210 3247267, 3247490 • **F:** +30210 3317127
E: mio-ee-env@ath.forthnet.gr • **W:** www.mio-ecsde.org