



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



*Group photo of the 2015 'Dialogue of COMPSUD' (Mediterranean Regional Dialogue of Parliamentarians, NGOs and other Stakeholders on the Protection of the Mediterranean Environment and Prospects for the Sustainable Development of the Region)*

This is a short report of COMPSUD activities since the last meeting in Athens, 6 November 2015, 9.30-10.30 at the Divani Caravel Hotel. The report will be briefly presented during the session of COMPSUD that will take place on **November 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10.00-12.00 at the Hilton Park Hotel.**

The last half hour of the meeting will be dedicated to preparing/coordinating the interventions of the Members of Parliament at the afternoon session at the Cypriot Parliament where 2-3 minute statements can be made on:

- How can Parliaments of the Mediterranean region support the implementation of the Action Plan of the Mediterranean Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development?
- What Joint actions among Parliaments of different Euro-Mediterranean countries can be taken in support of the Action Plan?

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

## COMPSUD participation in international and regional processes:



The **Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)** is an advisory multi-stakeholder body to the Contracting Parties (COP) of the **Barcelona Convention**. At the 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the COP (Athens, February 2016) COMPSUD, represented by its Chair Dionysia Avgerinopoulou, was formally approved as a member of the MCSD and at the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the MCSD that took place in Athens on 4-7 July 2017, was elected as Vice President of the Steering Committee till the next MCSD meeting in June 2019.

COMPSUD concerns were transmitted to the **Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)** Ministerial Meeting on Water in Malta on 27 April 2017 where Ministers and other Heads of Delegations agreed on a new 'Water Agenda' for the region.

The Chair of COMPSUD was nominated and elected as **Vice-Chair of the Steering Committee of the Global Water Partnership** in December 2016.

COMPSUD was active in both the 22<sup>nd</sup> United **Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP22)** which took place in November 2016 in Marrakech, as well as the **MEDCOP22** (July 2016, Tangier).



The Secretary General of COMPSUD continues to be active in the **European Parliament (EP)** representing it on the Board of the **European Environment Agency**. In this capacity, he has participated in hearings of the EP and introduced Mediterranean issues on Sustainable Development, Education, Civil Society participation and the science-policy interface in the relevant agendas.

Furthermore, the messages and positions of COMPSUD are taken into consideration and transmitted by MIO-ECSDE and GWP-Med to:

- the Steering Group of the Horizon 2020 Initiative for a Cleaner Mediterranean
- the Barcelona Convention meetings and expert groups
- the UfM Water Experts Group
- the UfM Expert Group on Climate Change
- the UfM Environment Expert Group
- the World Water Week, where in 2017 the Chair of COMPSUD presented the circle and ask spoke about the role of Members of Parliament in water financing.



### **COMPSUD (Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development)**

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

COMPSUD's capacity in **water, climate change, coastal erosion, Man and the biosphere reserves and other protected areas, Education for Sustainable Development**, etc. are readily available to its Members. If the Members of COMPSUD take relevant initiatives in their countries (e.g. on the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development) the COMPSUD Secretariat can provide expertise and support them in promoting important issues.

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

### **Upcoming Events where COMPSUD will participate**

Conference on Water Governance in MENA and wider Mediterranean region - Strengthening integrity and financing for water security and sustainable development". It will be held 12-14 December, Barcelona, Spain, under the auspices of the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfMS).

### **Administrative/organisational issues**

Preparations for the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of COMPSUD began when the opportunity arose to combine with the EU-funded SWIM-Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism regional workshops on:

- Strengthening Stakeholder Engagement in the Mediterranean Environment and Water agendas, Nicosia, Cyprus, 20-22 November 2017,
- the Meeting of the Focal Points of the Mediterranean Committee on Education for Sustainable Development/Regional Training on ESD, **Nicosia**, Cyprus, 23-24 November 2017

in partnership with the Government of Cyprus, the Parliament of Cyprus, the Cyprus Pedagogic Institute, the UfM labelled BlueGreen Med-CS, and WACDEP North Africa.

The **closed session of COMPSUD** (November 22, 10.00-12.00) will consider the following items for discussion:

- this Short Report of Activities and where the Circle stands now
- New Members
- Elections

The Members of the Board of COMPSUD are:

Chair: Ms. Dionysia – Theodora Avgerinopoulou

Vice Chairs: Mr. Antonio Ramos Preto, Portugal; Mr. Mohammed Ameer, Morocco

The membership of COMPSUD currently stands at 82 Members.



The Members of Parliament attending the Cyprus 2017 events that are not yet official members of the Circle, are invited to sign the COMPSUD commitment form and join the Circle.

Looking forward to working together,

Dr. Dionysia Theodora Avgerinopoulou  
 Chair of COMPSUD  
 - *f. Member of the Hellenic Parliament, Chair of the Environment Committee and Water Courses Sub-Committee of the Parliament*  
 - *Director, European Institute of Law, Science & Technology*  
 - *Attorney at Law, LL.M., J.S.D.*  
<http://www.avgerinopoulou.gr/>

Prof. Michael Scoullou  
 Secretary General COMPSUD  
 - *Chairman of MIO-ECSD and GWP-Med*  
 - *Director of the Laboratory of Environmental Chemistry at the University of Athens*  
 - *Since 2011, holder of the UNESCO Chair and Network on Management and Education for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean*

The **11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of COMPSUD** took place in 2015 in combination with:

- the Final Conference of the GEF MAP/UNEP “Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem” (MedPartnership) and the “Integration of Climatic Variability and Change into National Strategies to implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean” (ClimVar & ICZM) Projects (4 November 2015). (see <http://mio-ecsd.org/medpartnership-and-climvar-projects-end-the-protection-of-the-mediterranean-goes-on/>)
- a Mediterranean Workshop of Members of Parliament and other Stakeholders on Climate Change Adaptation in Mediterranean Coastal Areas (5-6 November 2015). (see <http://mio-ecsd.org/mps-journalists-and-other-med-stakeholders-discuss-climate-change-adaptation/>)