



The Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD)

The Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD) was created with the encouragement of the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE) and the Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean (GWP-Med) in December 2002 in the wake of the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), which reaffirmed sustainable development as a central element of the international agenda and emphasized the important role of partnerships and dialogue among the various stakeholders and decision makers, including Parliamentarians and politicians at large.

The Circle is an open, flexible and light structure, aiming to promote suitable mechanisms to support the dialogue among Members of Parliaments (from EU and non-EU Mediterranean countries), politicians and other Stakeholders on the protection of the Mediterranean environment and the necessary socio-economic conditions for the sustainable development of the region.

The Circle stresses the necessity to strengthen the effective governance of natural resources and the environment, with particular emphasis on good Water Governance, through the encouragement of systematic and constructive dialogues among Parliamentarians and with all relevant stakeholders, civil society organizations and the public at large, as a fundamental premise for the promotion of sustainable development in conditions of peace and cooperation among all countries and peoples of the Mediterranean region.

In particular, the **objectives** of COMPSUD are the following:

1. The promotion of sustainable development in the Mediterranean region through an integrated resources management approach, securing a healthy and peaceful environment, where the biodiversity and cultural diversity of the region are protected.
2. The strengthening of effective environmental governance with particular emphasis on water governance
3. The promotion of public dialogue among all relevant stakeholders, civil society organizations and the public at large with Parliamentarians and among themselves
4. The encouragement of production, dissemination and use of reliable, timely, accurate, complete, relevant and accessible data and information for use by decision makers and as a basis for public information and awareness raising on issues of sustainable development and of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in particular.
5. The promotion of capacity building, training and appropriate education with emphasis on Education for Sustainable Development for all those involved directly or indirectly in making critical choices, particularly those affecting integrated water resources management.

The basic philosophy and scope for action of the Circle are clearly expressed in the **Commitment of COMPSUD** that Parliamentarians are invited to sign and agree upon if they wish to join.



COMPSUD is governed by a **Board** composed of a Chairperson and two Vice Chairs whose mandate lasts for two years and who are selected among the Members of the Board keeping a North-South balance. The work of COMPSUD is jointly facilitated by GWP-Med and MIO-ECSDE, which also hosts the Circle's Secretariat. The Secretary General participates in the governance scheme and is from the Secretariat.

The **General Assembly** of the Circle takes place once every year (funds permitting) and it sets the priorities for the Action Plan of the Circle for the year to come, also in relation with on-going or forthcoming key events related to the general framework of interest and activities of COMPSUD. These include, among others, the support of Transboundary Cooperation on Water issues, the promotion of IWRM principles in national laws through relevant legislation, the active involvement in important initiatives related to water, such as the Mediterranean component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI), the World Water Forum (WWF) and the Mediterranean Education Initiative for Environment and Sustainability (MEdIES) as well as the endorsement of strategies, policies etc. contributing to the promotion of Sustainable Development in the Region (e.g. the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development – MSSD, the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development).

The **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** (also called for simplicity 'Dialogue of COMPSUD') is an integral part of the Circle's annual meetings and is inscribed in its philosophy of exchange, cross-fertilization and cooperation with civil society and other important actors towards the promotion of the sustainable development in the Mediterranean.

In line with this, COMPSUD collaborates also closely with the Circle of Mediterranean Journalists for Environment and Sustainable Development (COMJESD) and the Educators for Environment and Sustainable Development (under the Mediterranean Education Initiative for Environment and Sustainability, MEdIES), having a more direct interaction and effective access to the important flow of information and awareness raising activities initiated by scientists, NGOs, etc. on relevant issues.

For further information on COMPSUD please refer to:

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