



REPORT of the 8th Meeting of the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD 8)



:Photo: Milan Vogrin



15 December 2010 - Cairo, Egypt

Safir Dokki Hotel



REPORT of the 8th Meeting of the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD 8)

Introduction

The 8th Meeting of the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD 8) and the Civil Society Dialogue took place on 15 December 2010 in Cairo, Egypt.

The agenda of the meeting is attached herewith (Annex I).

It involved the participation of 19 Members of COMPSUD and of 11 Members of the Circle of Mediterranean Journalists for Environment and Sustainable Development (COMJESD) - from 9 and 6 different Mediterranean countries, respectively – and of several other stakeholders (NGOs, representatives of scientific and other institutions, the private sector, etc.) for a total of approximately 140 participants from almost all Mediterranean countries (Annex II).

As in previous years, this Meeting was organized by the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE) and the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med), which jointly facilitate the Secretariats of COMPSUD and COMJESD, while local support was provided by the Cairo based Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED) and the Arab Office for Youth and Environment (AOYE), members of MIO-ECSDE.

COMPSUD 8 had two main sessions:

The **first session** was dedicated to inform Parliamentarians and other stakeholders about current processes of high importance for the sustainable development of the Mediterranean region and had the objective of identifying their roles and possible synergies to provide a coordinated and effective input, particularly in the following processes:

- The preparation of a Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean (SWM) in the framework of the UfM developments.
- The Horizon 2020 Initiative to De-pollute the Mediterranean Sea (H2020) and the ENPI Capacity Building / Mediterranean Environment Programme
- The UNEP/MAP-GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystems ('MedPartnership')
- The Future of the Mediterranean: Tracking Ecological Footprint Trends

The **second session** aimed to discuss matters internal to the COMPSUD and in particular issues crucial to the work of the membership and proposals to render the work of the Circle more visible and useful to Mediterranean legislators.

The COMPSUD 8 Meeting was organized in conjunction with one of the capacity building activities under the Horizon 2020 Capacity Building/Mediterranean Environment Programme (H2020 CB/MEP) entitled "Effective Civil Society Involvement in Horizon 2020 Implementation" (16-17 December 2010, Cairo) with the participation of NGOs, Parliamentarians, Media and Business Associations.

The event has been supported by the European Commission - through DG Environment annual support of MIO-ECSDE's Work Programme - and by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) / UNDP via the Africa Governance Process Project ('Petersberg Africa').



COMPSUD 8 also directly contributed to the implementation of the objectives of the Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystems (MedPartnership) and of the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI).

Session I: Civil Society Dialogue on key Mediterranean Processes and Initiatives for Environment and Sustainable Development

Opening Remarks

In her opening remarks Ms. Eleni Panaritis, Chairperson of COMPSUD, reminded to participants that the role of the Circle is to shape an active agenda in the Mediterranean environmental scene.

The relevance and innovation of COMPSUD consists in the fact that it is the only Parliamentary body dealing specifically with environmental issues in the Region and it represents a suitable forum for voluntarily participating MPs, exchanging ideas and good practices, that can be replicated in National realities.

In this sense, the work of COMPSUD is actually complementary and adds value to that of other Parliamentary bodies (eg. Euromed Parliamentary Assembly – not particularly active on environment) and stakeholders' platforms active in environmental protection and sustainable development, such as the Mediterranean Network of Environmental NGOs (MIO-ECSDE), the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med) specialized in water issues, the Mediterranean Network of Educators for Environment and Sustainability (MEDIES) and the Circle of Mediterranean Journalists for Environment and Sustainable Development (COMJESD).

Moreover, due to its light structure, COMPSUD is very flexible and more informal than other existing Parliamentary bodies. When priorities are set COMPSUD can proceed very quickly.

Presentation of key Regional Processes and Initiatives of interest for Parliamentarians and Civil Society

1. The Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean (SWM)

Prof. Michael Scoullas, Secretary General of COMPSUD and Chairman of MIO-ECSDE and GWP-Med, described briefly the process towards the preparation of the draft SWM in the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) framework and gave particular emphasis to the agreed principles, orientations, recommendations for action and targets in the four major priority themes of the Strategy (1: Enhancing effective governance for integrated water resources management; 2: Adapting to climate change and enhancing drought and flood management; 3: Promoting water demand management, efficiency and non-conventional water resources, and protecting quality of water and biodiversity; 4: Optimizing water financing, water valuation and appropriate instruments, with emphasis on innovative mechanisms) that shall be translated into both immediate and far-reaching policies, operational initiatives and tangible actions and projects at local, national and regional levels. In support of these measures, a regional Action Plan would serve as a 'roadmap' to match policy choices developed in the draft SWM with major on-going and future operational plans and the implementation of selected projects through governments, local and regional authorities,



international financing institutions and stakeholder organizations, as well as, promote new financial commitments from all partners.

It is important that Parliamentarians keep following the process towards the SWM and get involved in the discussion about the projects to be proposed in the UfM framework.

COMPSUD has already been actively involved in the process related to the preparation of the Strategy and will continue to do so in the future.

The aim of Parliamentarians' intervention would be, in this context, to:

- make sure that there is coherence between the principles expressed in the SWM and those of national strategies (already existing or under preparation);
- contribute appropriately to the implementation of the Action Plan once ready;
- ensure that national authorities are ready to implement specific projects and will involve appropriately relevant stakeholders in this.

A debate followed in relation to the process of endorsement of the SWM and if the persistence of lack of political agreement on its text will impair also the preparation of the Action Plan and the implementation of projects. The main points raised in relation to this were the following:

- The mandate of the Euro-Mediterranean Water Ministers, back in 2008, gave clear provisions for the preparation of a Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean and of a related Action Plan. Such draft could be prepared independently from an official endorsement of the SWM;
- However, if the process gets too much 'politicized' it might indeed be brought to a standstill;
- If the process stops it is urgent to find a way out, e.g by resorting to relevant existing resolutions (such as the UN Security Council Resolution 242) or to other non-political tools;
- The SWM is not replacing national legislation but it makes sure that the 4 main themes (effective governance, adapting to climate change, promoting water demand management, optimizing water financing) are taken seriously into consideration in national strategies: since there is no dispute on the technical content of the SWM, the final draft of the Strategy can be sent to COMPSUD members to serve as a background for their own countries (Annex III);
- The above is very important because the urgency of the situation requires immediate action;
- Given the importance of the Water issues for the region, IWRM should become part of the basic agenda of Mediterranean Parliamentarians.

2. The Horizon 2020 Initiative to De-pollute the Mediterranean Sea and the Capacity Building/Mediterranean Environment Programme (H2020 CB/MEP)

Dr. Emad Adly, Deputy Team Leader of the H2020 CB/MEP presented briefly the "Horizon 2020 Initiative" (H2020) that was endorsed during the Environment Ministerial Conference held in Cairo in November 2006 to tackle specifically the following sources of pollution: municipal waste, wastewater treatment and industrial emissions. A 2007-2013 Road-Map has been adopted, which focuses on the following four main targets: 1- Identification of



projects to reduce the most significant sources of pollution; 2- Identification of capacity-building measures to help neighbouring countries create national environmental administrations that are able to develop and police environmental laws; 3- Use of the EC's research budget to develop greater knowledge of environmental issues relevant to the Mediterranean and ensure this is shared; 4- Develop indicators to monitor the success of Horizon 2020.

Three ongoing European Commission projects support the achievement of these targets:

- Mediterranean Hot Spot Investment Programme – Project Preparation and Implementation Facility (MeHSIP-PPIF) (Target 1)
- Capacity Building/Mediterranean Environment Programme (CB/MEP) (Target 2)
- ENPI Shared Environmental Information System (ENPI/SEIS) (Target 3 and 4 combined).

The CB/MEP Programme supports the implementation of H2020 and envisages different types and levels of intervention with a special focus on capacity building and awareness raising activities on environmental mainstreaming. More than 130 capacity building activities (including regional and sub-regional trainings, national trainings of regional relevance, study visits and targeted ad-hoc technical assistance missions in countries) are foreseen to be implemented in the framework of the Programme.

H2020 aims particularly to address the following problems:

- low political priority given to the environment;
- insufficient integration of environment in the different sector policies (agriculture, tourism, transport or energy) and lack of inclusion of the different actors from local to international level;
- insufficient capacities and resources at institutional and civil society level.

In the discussion that followed the following issues were highlighted:

- It is important that Parliamentarians get actively involved in the Horizon 2020
- implementation process along with local stakeholders, such as local councils and municipalities;
- COMPSUD is interested in supporting the initiative;
- Priority de-pollution projects have been identified in each of the Southern Mediterranean countries (in the framework of MeSHIP) and the members of COMPSUD will receive information about them.

3. The GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystems (MedPartnership)

Dr. Thomais Vlachogianni, Programme Officer at MIO-ECSDE, presented the main elements, components and objectives of the MedPartnership, a major undertaking of the countries of the Mediterranean (working together in the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan, MAP/UNEP) together with the World Bank, regional and international organizations as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

This Partnership enables a coordinated and strategic approach to catalyze the policy, legal and institutional reforms, and the investments necessary to reverse the degradation trends affecting this unique large marine ecosystem, including its coastal habitats and biodiversity.



The major environmental concerns and 101 hotspots in the Mediterranean were identified and the actions for their remediation have been already agreed in two Strategic Action Programs (SAPs) aimed at reducing land-based sources of marine pollution (SAP-MED) and protecting biodiversity and living resources and their habitats (SAP-BIO).

In order to support the countries in the implementation of the two SAPs and of the new Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol to the Barcelona Convention the 'MedPartnership' will address the need for financial resources and investments and the assistance in policy, legislation and institutional reforms, as well as the demonstration and transfer of technical knowledge and best practices to achieve the goal of improving the environmental conditions of the Mediterranean Sea.

The following main issues/information were highlighted in the debate that followed:

- Sustainable water management and de-pollution of the Mediterranean will be tackled by the MedPartnership and capacity of relevant stakeholders on these issues will be increased;
- Action plans and pilot projects will be organized in the various countries in the coming years to promote sustainable water management. GWP-Med is one of the main partners in this context;
- Parliamentarians can play a catalyst role in their Parliaments and countries;
- The Ministries of Environment are mainly involved in these processes but other Ministries are also concerned and should be involved more.

4. The Future of the Mediterranean: Tracking Ecological Footprint Trends

Dr. Alessandro Galli, Senior Scientist at the Global Footprint Network presented the Global Footprint Network's Mediterranean Initiative aiming to bring the reality of ecological resource constraints to the center of the Mediterranean policy debate, and to support decision makers with tools that will help them weigh policy trade-offs.

Since the rise of agriculture in the "Fertile Crescent", the Mediterranean region has been shaped by its diverse and vast wealth of ecological resources but never in its history has the populations' pressure on the planet's ecological resources been as intense as it is today: growing demands on the region's ecological resources now threaten the foundation of its social and economic well-being. By 2007, the residents of nearly every country in the Mediterranean region demanded more ecological assets (biocapacity) than were available within their respective borders. Simply stated, the Mediterranean region is running a severe ecological deficit.

If Mediterranean countries are to reverse current trends and to make their economies stable and productive, its leaders must find innovative approaches that work with, rather than against, the Earth's limited resources. Failing to take action has a cost and is becoming a fundamental threat, particularly at a time when the world's ecological overshoot is on the rise.

The sets of tools of this Initiative will enable policy analysts and decision-makers to fully identify the risks that resource limitations pose to their countries' economic and social well-being.

The discussion that followed touched upon the following points:



- The ecological footprint is a very useful awareness raising tool and it is important to disseminate information about its use and applications among Parliamentarians and the society at large;
- The role of civil society and Parliamentarians is to make governments aware about the depletion of resources and the impacts that this can have on health and life quality of future generations in the Mediterranean countries. However, good governance still needs to be achieved and this also requires democracy in the region;
- There are some good cases of application of the ecological footprint with 10 Nations around the world that use already this tool and take action accordingly, while also the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, an organization representing many of the world's most influential corporations, has launched Vision 2050 to identify the pathways toward a "one-planet economy" in the next four decades in cooperation with the Global Footprint Network;
- Additional assessments are made to understand which sectors influence most the ecological footprint (the energy sector is probably the most prominent) and to propose alternative scenario for political choices. In the Mediterranean, due to the lack of funds to cover all countries of the region, 3-4 cases will be selected for further assessment (maybe Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Spain);
- Concerning the "precision" of ecologic footprint as an indicator it was said that there has not been yet a sensibility analysis but the main problem is that data used are often not reliable and therefore increased collaboration is needed with the countries to improve this step;
- An important issue that should receive more attention and could be at the focus of one of the coming COMPSUD's meetings concerns the relationship between environment, available resources and the current economic crisis;
- Finally, a major obstacle in re-orienting minds towards this new 'thinking' and towards promoting more sustainable behaviors consists in the fact that "old" approaches are still the prevailing in nearly all governance schemes of international and National bodies and very persistent. This creates a dual reality in which, even very engaged International organizations and individual governments are still trying to tackle symptoms but not real causes. Therefore, it is very important to catalyse this new thinking and promote mentality and cultural changes within these institutions.

Session II: Foreseen only for Parliamentarians & COMPSUD Members

Upon unanimous decision of the COMPSUD Members this session remained open to all stakeholders present in Session I.

Prof. Michael Scoullos, General Secretary of COMPSUD, spoke about the challenges encountered by COMPSUD in 2010:

- 2010 was rather a passive year because several important political processes and areas in which the Circle makes its presence visible (major ministerial meetings, head of States meetings, etc.) have been postponed. The last active participation of COMPSUD was during the IV Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water that took place in Barcelona, Spain on 12-13 April 2010 during which the Chairperson of COMPSUD, Ms.



Elena Panaritis chaired the civil society session organized in advance of the Ministerial Conference;

- However, there has been several other interventions with the involvement of COMPSUD's Members, e.g. during the visits organised in the framework of the H2020 Capacity Building / Mediterranean Environment Programme;
- In some cases (e.g in Croatia) the COMPSUD members organized meeting with the Environment Parliamentary Committee for the identification of priority issues for the H2020 Capacity Building activities in the country. There is need for additional activities of this kind because the most important contribution of COMPSUD is to link regional activities on Sustainable Development and integrating of the environment with Parliaments and encourage them to include key environmental issues in their agenda;
- COMPSUD and its objectives have been presented to MEPs few weeks earlier but additional efforts should be done to strengthen the links with the European Parliament;
- Although COMPSUD is appreciated and is considered as an important forum, we have failed until now in raising funds for the Circle and all its operational cost and secretariat support is still covered by MIO-ECSDE and GWP-Med. There cannot be considerable development of this group if no additional resources are found;
- To this purpose, we have started to identify sources of funding and we will submit proposals and also hope to allocate a budget in 2011 for special visits to Parliaments, and to enhance dialogue with key stakeholders and Parliaments in specific issues, if needed;
- The H2020 CB/MEP programme, the GEF MedPartnership and the newly launched Sustainable Water Integrated Management (SWIM) Project offer the possibility of organizing activities on Capacity building and training of MPs, or activities related to dialogue between Parliaments and Civil Society. A minimum of resources is there and we will try to cover some of these activities for COMPSUD in the years 2011-2012.
- The economic crisis has become a key issue for many governments in the region. Reactions have been dual, with some countries underplaying environmental concerns and focusing rather on employment or other issues, while other have adopted an environmental approach linked with “green economy” and/or “green growth”. It is important to understand how we can address this duality and make sure that there is a collective shift driving productivity towards sustainability. If the Members of COMPSUD are interested in this issue and have the time to dedicate, the Secretariat could provide additional information particularly as it concerns green economy;
- Several Members mentioned appreciation for the work of COMPSUD and its acquis. Furthermore, it was proposed to prepare a short document describing few clear and simple objectives for COMPSUD in the coming years and also to identify the actions needed to achieve these. Actions, especially if accompanied by positive results, could make the COMPSUD even more visible and credible in the Region;
- Among the proposed objectives for the Circle are: a) to increase the awareness of population and their mobilization; b) to enhance dialogue between MPs and other stakeholders (e.g local authorities, media, NGOs etc); c) to collect and provide specific documentation important to support MPs in their work.



It was agreed that:

- Members interested in specific activities important for their country (e.g de-pollution of the Mediterranean, water and wastewater related issues etc.) would send some basic ideas to be considered during the implementation of the projects and major processes presented and discussed in Session I. The Secretariat of the Circle could consider organizing study visits or special visits and provide relevant information to facilitate the work of MPs;
- Ecological Footprinting was received by Members of COMPSUD as an interesting activity and this might be a good entry point for the activities of the Circle in the coming years, particularly in view of reconciling environmental policies with economic crisis and identify some basic guidelines on how to cope with this.



Annexes

Annex I: Agenda of the meeting

Annex II: List of participants

Annex III: Information Note



**8th Meeting of the
Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable
Development (COMPSUD 8)
&
Civil Society Dialogue on key Mediterranean Processes and
Initiatives for Environment and Sustainable Development**

15 December 2010, Cairo, Egypt
Safir Dokki Hotel

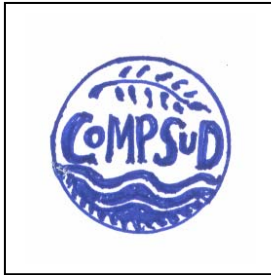
Agenda	
14:00 – 14:30	Registration of Participants
14:30 – 17:45	Session I: Civil Society Dialogue on key Mediterranean Processes and Initiatives for Environment and Sustainable Development
14:30 – 15:00	Welcome - Opening Remarks
15:00 – 16:00	<i>Presentation of key Regional Processes and Initiatives of interest for Parliamentarians and Civil Society</i>
	The Strategy on Water in the Mediterranean (SWM) <i>Prof. Michael Scoullas, Chairman GWP-Med & MIO-ECSDE</i>
	The Horizon 2020 Capacity Building/Mediterranean Environment Programme (CB/MEP) <i>Dr. Emad Adly, Deputy Team Leader – H2020 CB/MEP</i>
	The GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystems (MedPartnership) <i>Dr. Thomais Vlachogianni, Programme Officer – MIO-ECSDE</i>
	The Future of the Mediterranean: Tracking Ecological Footprint Trends <i>Dr. Alessandro Galli, Senior Scientist – Global Footprint Network</i>
16:00 – 16:15	Coffee break
16:15 – 17:30	Discussion on the input of Civil Society to such processes
17:30 – 17:45	Closing
17:45 – 18:30	Session II : open only to Parliamentarians & COMPSUD Members
16 – 17 December 2010 Workshop on Effective Civil Society Involvement in Horizon 2020 Implementation with the participation of: Parliamentarians (from South Mediterranean, non-EU countries), Business Associations, NGOs, Journalists, etc.	

Annex II: List of participants

Title	Name	Surname	Position	Country	Email
Mr	Lahcène	ABACHI	Journalist	ALGERIA	lesoir_boumerdes@yahoo.fr
Ms	Philippa	ABBOT	RAED	EGYPT	p.abbott@raednetwork.org
Ms.	Imane	ABDEL AL	Association of the Friends of Ibrahim Abdel Al	LEBANON	abdelal@cyberia.net.lb
Mr.	Fawzy	ABDEL HALIM	Journalist	EGYPT	enviro@ahram.org.eg
Mr	Tariq	AL HMAIDI	Journalist	JORDAN	t.hmedy@yahoo.com hmedy.blogspot.com
Ms	Amal	AL RFOOH	Member of Parliament	JORDAN	amalfoua@yahoo.com
Mr	Ziyad	ALAWNEH	Industrialists	JORDAN	ziyad@cyberia.jo
Ms	Hanan	ALKISWANY	Reporter - responsible of Science Alghad daily newspaper & Board member of the Arab Association of Science Journalists - Cairo (ASJA)	JORDAN	hananalkiswany@yahoo.com
Dr	Magdi	ALLAM	Member of the Parliament	EGYPT	dr_magdy_allam@hotmail.com
Mr	Gerasimos	ARAPIS	Elliniki Etaireia	GREECE	mani@aia.gr
Mr	Imad	ATRASH	Executive Director, Palestine Wildlife Society	PALESTINE	pwls@wildlife-pal.org
Ms	Suzanne	BAAKLINI	Journalist at L'Orient-Le Jour newspaper	LEBANON	suzannebaaklini@lorientlejour.com
Mr.	Nacer Riad	BENDAOU	Association Ecologique de Boumerdes	ALGERIA	aeb_boum@hotmail.com
Dr	Tahar	BESBAS	Member of Parliament	ALGERIA	besbas@besbas.com
Mr.	Ameur	BNOUNI	ex Member of Parliament	TUNISIA	ameur.bnouni@laposte.net
Ms	Patrizia	BONELLI	Istituto per l'Ambiente Scholé Futuro	ITALY	patbonelli@gmail.com
Mr	Taoufik	BOUHLEL	Member of Parliament	TUNISIA	tbouhlel@hotmail.com, tbouhlal@chambre-dep.tn
Mr	Slahedine	BOUJAH	Docteur en Lettres - ex Member of Parliament	TUNISIA	Slahedineaymen@yahoo.fr

Mr	Aleksandar	BOZOVIC	Advisor in Monitoring, Analysis & reporting Department, EPA	MONTENEGRO	aleksandar.bozovic@epa.org.me
Ms	Ivana	BULATOVIC	Advisor in Monitoring, Analysis & reporting Department, EPA	MONTENEGRO	ivana.bulatovic@epa.org.me
Mr	Juan	CANOVAS	Hydraulic Serources Expert, IMIDA	SPAIN	juan.canovas2@carm.es
Mr	Georges	CINGAL	EEB	FRANCE	georges.cingal@wanadoo.fr
Mr	Abu	EI AINEIN	Member of Parliament-Egypt	EGYPT	info@groupcleopatra.com
Mr	Kamel	FERCHICHI	Journalist	TUNISIA	kamfer13@yahoo.fr
Mr	Mohamed	FTOUHI	CMEPE	MOROCCO	cmepe2000@yahoo.fr
Dr	Alessandro	GALLI	Senior Scientist	SPAIN	alessandro@footprintnetwork.org
Mr	Jean Valere	GERONIMI	U MARINU	FRANCE	umarinu@wanadoo.fr
Ms	Samia	GUIRGUIS	Member of Parliament	EGYPT	samiasg@gmail.com
Mr	Atef	HAMDY	CIHEAM - MAIB	ITALY	hamdy@iamb.it
Mr	Essam	HANNOUT	IR Specialist	EGYPT	essam-golf-gt@hotmail.com
Mr	David	HERNANDEZ	Project Officer, FENACORE	SPAIN	dhernandez@fenacore.org
Ms	Zouhour	HIMMICH	Journalist	MOROCCO	zouhourtv@gmail.com, lemediateur@snrt.ma
Mr	Mohamed	IKARBANE	Member of national Council (senat)	ALGERIA	ikarmo@yahoo.fr
Mr.	Hassan	JABER	ALMEE	LEBANON	alme@inco.com.lb
Mr	Angel	JUAREZ ALMENDROS	President, Mediterrania - CIE	SPAIN	angel.juarez@mediterrania-cie.org
Dr	Mohamed	KABBANI	Member of Parliament	LEBANON	mjkabbani@yahoo.com
Mr	Hamda	KNANI	Member of Parliament	TUNISIA	hknani@chambre-dep.tn
Ms	Katharina	KOBER	Project Officer, MENBO	SPAIN	remoc1@remoc.org, Katharina.Kober@chj.es
Mr	Abderrazak	LAHRACH	TV Director	MOROCCO	abderrazaklahrach@gmail.com
Mr	Ali	LASKRI	Vice President of APW and member of AEB Bourmedes	ALGERIA	alilaskri@yahoo.fr
Mr	Islam	MAGAYREH	Jordanian Society For Desertification Control & Badia Development	JORDAN	islam_meghaireh@yahoo.com

Ms.	Safa	MOHAMMED	Journalist	SYRIA	adomran@hotmail.com, s.mohamad48@yahoo.com
Ms	Farida	NOURI	NGO	TUNISIA	youssefnouri@yahoo.fr
Mr	Youssef	NOURI	APNEK	TUNISIA	youssefnouri@yahoo.fr
Mr	Abdallah	ODEH IDWAIREJ	Member of Parliament	JORDAN	dr.abdodeh@yahoo.com
Mr	Adnan	OMRAN	Secretary General of Arab Parliament	SYRIA	adomran@hotmail.com
Ms	Elena	PANARITIS	Member of Parliament, Chairperson of COMSPUD	GREECE	epanaritis@gmail.com, epanariti@parliament.gr,
Mr	Ivica	PANCIC	Deputy	CROATIA	ivica.pancic@zg.htnet.hr, mjelic@sabor.hr
Ms	Elisa	PEREZ	Journalist	SPAIN	elysapm@yahoo.es
Mr	Ayman	RABI	PHG	PALESTINE	ayman@phg.org
Dr	Soheir	RAIES	ex Member of Parliament & NGO	SYRIA	suheir-r@maktoob.com
Mr	Moh	REJDALI	Member of Parliament	MOROCCO	m_rejdali@hotmail.com
Ms	Anastasia	RONIOTES	Head Officer, MIO-ECSDE	GREECE	roniotes@mio-ecsde.org
Prof	Michael	SCOULLOS	Chairman, MIO-ECSDE	GREECE	scoulllos@mio-ecsde.org
Ms	Antonia	THEODOSIOU	FEEO	CYPRUS	theodosioua@cytanet.com.cy
Ms	Barbara	TOMASSINI	Programme Officer, MIO-ECSDE	GREECE	tomassini@mio-ecsde.org
Ms	Sihem	TIRA - BEN AMOR	Deputy	TUNISIA	sihem.tira@yahoo.fr
Ms	Thomais	VLACHOGIANNI	Programme Officer, MIO-ECSDE	GREECE	vlachogianni@mio-ecsde.org
Mr	Milan	VOGRIN	DPPVN	SLOVENIA	milan.vogrin@guest.arnes.si
Mr	Mohammed	YAHIA	Editor -Nature Middle East	EGYPT	m.yahia@nature.com



8th Meeting of the
Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable
Development (COMPSUD 8)
&
Civil Society Dialogue on key Mediterranean Processes and
Initiatives for Environment and Sustainable Development

Date: **15 December 2010**

Venue: **Safir Dokki Hotel, Cairo - Egypt**

INFORMATION NOTE

The annual Meetings of COMPSUD

The annual Meetings of the *Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD)* are an occasion for informing the Circle's membership and new participants on important on-going processes for environment and sustainable development in the region and to identify mechanisms for the effective involvement of Parliamentarians in these processes.

An integral component of these annual meetings and of the overall philosophy of the Circle, the 'Civil Society Dialogue' promotes exchange, cross-fertilization and cooperation with other groups of civil society and key actors towards a structured and collective effort in challenging existing problems.

In this sense, COMPSUD's Meetings serve the objectives of the Circle through:

- Informing legislators and decision-makers on environmental issues crucial for the Mediterranean Region with focus on water resources management;
- Up-dating them on Regional processes, initiatives and projects relevant to the promotion of sustainable development;
- Building synergies and enhancing the transfer of experiences among Parliamentarians and between them and other civil society stakeholders engaged in the protection of the environment, such as non-governmental organizations, scientists, educators and journalists.

In line with the above, participants in the Dialogue are, apart from Parliamentarians, representatives of:

- MIO-ECSDE¹, as the major Mediterranean-wide NGO umbrella for Environment and Sustainable Development;
- COMJESD², serving as the Mediterranean platform of environmental media and

¹ The Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE) is the umbrella of Mediterranean Non Governmental Organisations (NGO) for Environment and Development. It was founded in the year 1993 and its Membership presently includes 112 NGOs.

– MEDIES³, the Mediterranean network of Educators and NGOs working on environmental issues.

The COMPSUD 8 Meeting: structure and objectives

The 8th Meeting of COMPSUD and the Civil Society Dialogue are organized by MIO-ECSDE and GWP-Med, which jointly facilitate the Secretariat of the Circle.

Local support is provided by the Cairo based Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED) and the Arab Office for Youth and Environment (AOYE).

COMPSUD 8 has two main sessions:

The *first session (14:30 – 17:45)* is dedicated to informing Parliamentarians and other stakeholders about current processes of high importance for the sustainable development of the Mediterranean region such as:

- The Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean (SWM)
- The Horizon 2020 Initiative to De-pollute the Mediterranean Sea (H2020) and the ENPI Capacity Building / Mediterranean Environment Programme
- The UNEP/MAP-GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystems ('MedPartnership')
- The Future of the Mediterranean: Tracking Ecological Footprint Trends

The main objective of this session consists in identifying the roles and synergies of Parliamentarians and other civil society representatives to provide a coordinated and effective input in these processes⁴.

The *second session (17:45 – 18:30)*, open only to Parliamentarians and COMPSUD Members, aims to discuss matters internal to the Circle and in particular issues crucial to the work of the membership and proposals to render the work of COMPSUD more visible and useful to Mediterranean legislators.

Synergies between COMPSUD and Regional Environmental Processes: the Horizon 2020 Workshop

Members of the COMPSUD and other civil society representatives from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, occupied Palestinian territories, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey are invited to actively participate in the Workshop on Effective participation of Civil Society in the Horizon 2020 Initiative to De-pollute the Mediterranean Sea that is organized on 16-17 December 2010.

This workshop serves as an opportunity to increase the awareness of the above-mentioned stakeholders about the Horizon 2020, one of the major on-going Regional initiatives, while providing the basis for a future contribution from their sides to this collective effort to de-pollute the Mediterranean Sea from the main sources of pollution: municipal solid waste, wastewater and industrial emissions.

² The Circle of Mediterranean Journalists for Environment and Sustainable Development (COMJESD) was created in 2002 and it presently includes 50 journalists from 18 different countries.

³ The Mediterranean Education Initiative for Environment and Sustainability (MEdIES) was launched in Johannesburg in 2002 and includes 3200 educators from all Mediterranean countries and beyond.

⁴ For a short description of these initiatives please refer to the Annex.

ANNEX

The Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean

Based on the mandate received by the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Summit in 2008 the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water (Dead Sea, Jordan, 22 December 2008) agreed to prepare a shared and long-term Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean (SWM) and approved guidelines for its elaboration. A Euro-Mediterranean Water Expert Group (WEG) was entrusted to work on preparing the present SWM, which has followed a structured, open and inclusive regional preparatory process involving national governments, local authorities and regional stakeholders.

The SWM (<http://www.emwis.org>) aims at providing a common policy framework for achieving Integrated Water Resources Management in the countries of the Mediterranean Region, fostering effective cooperation between Euro-Mediterranean partners within the overall context of sustainable development.

The SWM is a guiding document, presenting a framework of agreed principles, orientations, recommendations for action and targets at regional and national levels in the four major priority themes: Enhancing effective governance for integrated water resources management; Adapting to climate change and enhancing drought and flood management; Promoting water demand management, efficiency and non-conventional water resources, and protecting quality of water and biodiversity; Optimizing water financing, water valuation and appropriate instruments, with emphasis on innovative mechanisms.

The SWM shall be translated into both immediate and far-reaching policies, operational initiatives and tangible actions and projects at local, national and regional levels. In support of these measures, a future regional Action Plan will serve as a 'roadmap' to match policy choices developed in the current SWM with major on-going and future operational plans and the implementation of selected projects through governments, local and regional authorities, international financing institutions and stakeholder organizations, as well as, promote new financial commitments from all partners.

The Horizon 2020 Initiative to De-pollute the Mediterranean Sea (H2020) and the Capacity Building / Mediterranean Environment Programme

During the 10th Anniversary of the Barcelona Process Summit in 2005, the Euro-Mediterranean Partners committed themselves to increasing efforts to substantially reduce the pollution of the Mediterranean by 2020 in what is called the "Horizon 2020 Initiative" (H2020). Horizon 2020 was endorsed during the Environment Ministerial Conference held in Cairo in November 2006 and is one of the key initiatives run under the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM). It tackles specifically the following sources of pollution: municipal waste, wastewater treatment and industrial emissions. A 2007-2013 Road-Map has been adopted, which focuses on the following four main targets: 1- Identification of projects to reduce the most significant sources of pollution; 2- Identification of capacity-building measures to help neighbouring countries create national environmental administrations that are able to develop and police environmental laws; 3- Use of the EC's research budget to develop greater knowledge of environmental issues relevant to the Mediterranean and ensure this is shared; 4- Develop indicators to monitor the success of Horizon 2020.

Three ongoing European Commission projects support the achievement of these targets:

- Mediterranean Hot Spot Investment Programme – Project Preparation and Implementation Facility (MeHSIP-PPIF) (Target 1)
- Capacity Building/Mediterranean Environment Programme (CB/MEP) (Target 2)
- ENPI Shared Environmental Information System (ENPI/SEIS) (Target 4)

The CB/MEP Programme supports the implementation of H2020 and envisages different types and levels of intervention with a special focus on capacity building and awareness raising activities on environmental mainstreaming. It aims particularly to address the following problems:

- low political priority given to the environment;
- insufficient integration of environment in the different sector policies (agriculture, tourism, transport or energy) and lack of inclusion of the different actors from local to international level;
- insufficient capacities and resources at institutional and civil society level.

The UNEP/MAP-GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystems ('MedPartnership')

In the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), the countries of the Mediterranean have joined forces with the World Bank, regional and international organizations as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to create a Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystems (LME). This Partnership enables a coordinated and strategic approach to catalyze the policy, legal and institutional reforms, and the investments necessary to reverse the degradation trends affecting this unique large marine ecosystem, including its coastal habitats and biodiversity.

The major environmental concerns and 101 hotspots in the Mediterranean were identified and the actions for their remediation have been already agreed in two Strategic Action Programs (SAPs) aimed at reducing land-based sources of marine pollution (SAP-MED) and protecting biodiversity and living resources and their habitats (SAP-BIO).

In order to support the countries in the implementation of the two SAPs and of the new Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol to the Barcelona Convention the 'MedPartnership' will address the need for financial resources and investments and the assistance in policy, legislation and institutional reforms, as well as the demonstration and transfer of technical knowledge and best practices to achieve the goal of improving the environmental conditions of the Mediterranean Sea.

The Future of the Mediterranean: Tracking Ecological Footprint Trends

Since the rise of agriculture in the "Fertile Crescent", the Mediterranean region has been shaped by its diverse and vast wealth of ecological resources but never in its history has the populations' pressure on the planet's ecological resources been as intense as it is today: growing demands on the region's ecological resources now threaten the foundation of its social and economic well-being. By 2007, the residents of nearly every country in the Mediterranean region demanded more ecological assets (biocapacity) than were available within their respective borders. Simply stated, the Mediterranean region is running a severe ecological deficit.

If Mediterranean countries are to reverse current trends and to make their economies stable and productive, its leaders must find innovative approaches that work with, rather than against, the Earth's limited resources. Failing to take action has a cost and is becoming a fundamental threat, particularly at a time when the world's ecological overshoot is on the rise. With growing resource scarcity, leaders will need to look beyond GDP and measure not only the value-added of their economic activities, but also human quality of life and resource availability.

Global Footprint Network's Mediterranean Initiative thus aims to bring the reality of ecological resource constraints to the center of the Mediterranean policy debate, and to support decision makers with tools that will help them weigh policy trade-offs. These sets of tools will enable policy analysts and decision-makers to more fully identify the risks that resource limitations pose to their countries' economic and social well-being.

