

SUSTAINABLE MEDITERRANEAN

MEDITERRANEE DURABLE • ΒΙΩΣΙΜΗ ΜΕΣΟΓΕΙΟΣ • MEDITERRANEO SOSTENIBILE

المتوسطة المستدامة

Horizon 2020 Initiative:
aiming for the de-pollution of the Mediterranean by 2020

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L'Initiative "Horizon 2020":
pour la dépollution de la Méditerranée d'ici 2020

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The 3rd Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on the Environment took place in Cairo on 20 November 2006. This was the first Euro-Med environment ministerial held outside the EU. The Conference was dedicated to the **Horizon 2020 Initiative** for the de-pollution of the Mediterranean by the year 2020 that was endorsed by the leaders of Euro-Mediterranean (Euro-Med) countries at the 10th Anniversary Euro-Med Summit in Barcelona last year. It was co-chaired by the Finnish Presidency of the EU and the Government of Egypt. A ministerial *Declaration* including the *timetable* of actions for Horizon 2020 was adopted by consensus.

The Commission is building a coalition of partners to implement the initiative. It is a key pillar of the European Commission strategy for the region outlined in a Commission Communication establishing an environmental strategy for the Mediterranean. The key aims of the Strategy are to:

- Reduce pollution levels across the region
- Promote sustainable use of the sea and its coastline
- Encourage neighbouring countries to cooperate on environmental issues
- Assist partner countries in developing effective institutions and policies to protect the environment
- Involve NGOs and the public in environmental decisions affecting them.

EDITORIAL

Regional NGOs have contributed to the design and formulation of this process as has been described in earlier issues of *Sustainable Mediterranean*, which is why most Mediterranean environmental NGO concerns were reflected already in the draft version of the ministerial *Declaration* and its Horizon 2020 *timetable*. At the Mediterranean NGO Meeting on “*Improving environmental cooperation after Barcelona+10*”, co-organised by MIO-ECSDE, RAED and AOYE with the support of UNEP/MAP, the Finnish Presidency of the EU and the European Commission, NGOs were empowered to finalise the statements that were presented to the Conference of EuroMed Ministers for the Environment the next day in Cairo and to the meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, a week later in Tampere, Finland. In parallel and in synergy with the NGOs the *Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD)* dedicated their annual meeting to formally addressing the EuroMed Ministers of Environment and Foreign Affairs and defining how they too can contribute effectively.

This issue of *Sustainable Mediterranean* provides a “snapshot” of all these very critical for the region processes, contributions and political documents.

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(excerpt from the Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament: "Establishing an Environment Strategy for the Mediterranean", Brussels, 5.9.2006, COM(2006) 475 final)

The Mediterranean is the largest European sea, uniting the people of the countries that share its waters. Their well-being depends upon the health of its environment. But despite nearly thirty years of international efforts to protect this unique ecosystem, it remains fragile and continues to deteriorate as environment pressures increase. On current projections, 50% of the Mediterranean coastline could have been built on by 2025¹, just one illustration of the magnitudes of these pressures. Recent studies² have begun to quantify the cost of degradation of the environment in several countries³. Environmental degradation in Egypt was estimated to cost between 2.7 and 5.1 billion per year (or 3.2-6.4% of GDP), 1.5 billion per year (or 3.6% of GDP) in Algeria and 1.2 billion per year (or 3.7% of GDP) in Morocco⁴. Clearly, if the health of the region's people, and their economic and social development, are to be protected, inaction is not an option. Mediterranean countries must act now to safeguard their environment and properly manage their natural resources to the extent possible.

Over the last thirty years, numerous longstanding initiatives and organisations have identified the causes of the problems and developed strategies and actions for their solution. However, these strategies often remain unimplemented. Apart from the oft-cited problems of limited financial resources, one of the principal reasons for this inaction is low political priority given to the environment, *inter alia* translating into insufficient integration between environmental, economic and social dimensions of sustainable development. A lack of inclusive environmental governance and limited public awareness of environment issues aggravate the situation. Furthermore, poor cooperation between the various actors from local to international has diluted the effectiveness of international assistance.

As no single country can be held responsible for the deterioration of the Mediterranean environment, no single country can protect it by acting alone. As a major regional player the European Union (EU) must play its role in protecting this common heritage but its limited resources mean that it cannot act alone. With the region's needs far exceeding the capacity and means to deal with them the Commission will need to concentrate its efforts and limited resources in those areas where it has clear added value and so should develop a realistic strategic approach to environment cooperation in the Mediterranean. Each of our partners in the international organisations, the donor community and, above all, the various actors and countries of both sides of the Mediterranean will need to make significant additional, and coordinated, efforts if the goal of a cleaner and healthier Mediterranean is to be achieved.

Success will ultimately depend on widespread political support translated into a clear determination to deploy the necessary resources to the task. Countries bordering the Mediterranean can be grouped according to their political relationship to the EU. Current and potential EU Member States are making their most significant contribution to protecting the Mediterranean through alignment with EU environment policies and legislation and their effective application. The EU strategy for them is well defined and therefore the focus of this strategy will be those partner countries⁵ in the group covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)⁶.

In November 2005, at the 10th Anniversary Euro-Mediterranean Summit, the leaders of the partnership renewed their commitment to the process and refocused activities with the joint adoption of a five year work programme⁷. All countries of the region committed to increase efforts to substantially reduce pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by 2020 in what has become known as the 'Horizon 2020' initiative and called for the development of a feasible timetable to achieve this.

1 A sustainable future for the Mediterranean – The Blue Plan's Environment and Development outlook

2 http://www.metap.org/main.php?id_menu=12

3 Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, and Tunisia

4 Another example of the costs of environmental degradation are the figures from the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS) of the EC which show average losses of about 600,000 ha of forested areas in the EU Mediterranean region every year, with estimated costs of nearly 2 billion per year.

5 Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Syria and Tunisia

6 http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/index_en.htm

7 "Tenth Anniversary of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership: A work Programme to meet the challenges of the next five years" COM (2005) 139 final



Following broad discussion⁸ with relevant actors concerning Horizon 2020, the Commission has prepared this Communication with the aim to:

- Outline the Horizon 2020 initiative and make a first proposal, to be discussed with partners, for the feasible depollution timetable as an important step to fulfilling the political commitment taken in Barcelona.
- Outline how, in parallel to the Horizon 2020 initiative, the Commission can contribute to the protection and recovery of the Mediterranean through its broader cooperation, and how the Commission will seek to improve co-ordination with partner countries and other actors. The approach will support the broader EU Maritime Policy⁹ (and its environmental pillar the EU Marine Strategy¹⁰) that is being developed.

With pollution free to move across the region there is clear interdependence between the countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea. Pollution from third countries has a direct impact on the EU and equally our pollution hurts our neighbours. Likewise, natural resources like water, air, soils and biodiversity are connected in complex ecosystems and through movements of goods, people and services; they thus have innumerable interdependencies warranting integrated and coordinated action. The Mediterranean can only be protected with a coherent, functioning region-wide system of environmental protection and recovery. Through its environment cooperation with partner countries the European Commission stands ready to work towards this goal.

The **basic aims** of the Commission's environment co-

operation with the Mediterranean countries are:

- To assist partner countries to develop functioning environment institutions and a sound, effectively enforced environment policy and legal framework that enables integration of environmental concerns into sectoral policies.
- To achieve measurably reduced levels of pollution, consistently applied across the region, leading to corresponding health benefits and in addition to reduce the impacts of uncontrolled activity on our natural environment.
- To promote preparedness of the environment administrations to address both emergency situations as well as punctual and long-term environment issues.
- To promote a more sustainable (economically efficient, socially appropriate and environmentally viable) use of the land and sea areas in the Mediterranean region.
- To promote a strengthened civil society, in which the public has access to environmental information, participates in environmental decision making and environmental awareness is enhanced.
- To encourage regional cooperation amongst partner countries to support these aims.

Achieving these goals will not only protect the environment *per se*, but contribute to long-term economic growth in the region.

The full text of the Communication in various languages, **including Arabic**, is available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/enlarg/med/index.htm>

*A cornerstone of the approach is the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols that provide the legal basis for the multilateral co-operation aiming at protecting the environment and fostering sustainable development in the Mediterranean Basin through the work of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP). The Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD) is an Advisory Forum consisting of representatives of the contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention, local/regional organisations, private enterprises and NGOs. Under its auspices was developed the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD). The European Commission and the MAP Secretariat have signed an administrative agreement concerning a **joint work programme**, to reinforce collaboration on key areas of mutual concern (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/enlarg/pdf/map_joint_work_prog.pdf).*

8 This 'discussion' included *inter alia* a high level meeting on 19 December 2005 in Barcelona involving the national authorities, local and regional administrations, international organizations and IFIs, and representatives from NGOs and the business community, as well as an informal internet consultation on the Commission's Web page at http://ec.europa.eu/environment/enlarg/med/horizon_2020_en.htm

9 Green Paper on "Towards a future Maritime Policy for the Union: A European vision for the oceans and seas" of 7 June 2006, COM(2006) 275 final

10 Communication from the Commission on the "Thematic Strategy on the Protection and Conservation of the Marine Environment" of 24 October 2005, COM(2005)504 final

CAIRO DECLARATION OF THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

The Euro-Mediterranean Ministers of Environment and other heads of delegation participating in the 3rd Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on the Environment held in Cairo on 20 November 2006:

1. Recall the overall objectives of the 1995 Barcelona Declaration establishing a comprehensive partnership among the participants – the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership - through strengthened political dialogue on a regular basis, the development of economic and financial cooperation and greater emphasis on the social, cultural and human dimension.
2. Recognise the negative effects of conflicts on the environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean Region.
3. Acknowledge the achievements of the Short and Medium-term Priority Environmental Action Programme (SMAP) adopted at the 1st Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on the Environment held in Helsinki in 1997 and pay tribute to the promotion of regional environmental cooperation issues that occurred under its ten year period of operation.
4. Re-iterate their continued commitment to those principles and objectives of the declaration from the 2nd Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on the Environment held in Athens in 2002.
5. Re-affirm the necessity of achieving sustainable development at regional, national and local levels in line with the Millennium Development Goals and the targets agreed at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) including the complementary Johannesburg Partnerships (the Type II Outcomes) for sustainable development.
6. Take note of the Arab initiative for sustainable development and its plan of implementation adopted by the Council of Environment Ministers (CAMRE) and submitted to the WSSD in Johannesburg.
7. Recognize the preparation by United Nation Environment Programme/the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) which was endorsed by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and supported at the 10th Anniversary of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (Barcelona Summit) and commit to implement the MSSD in conjunction with national strategies for sustainable development.
8. Recall the entry into force in 2004 of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (the amended Barcelona Convention) and note that the MAP is a key regional mechanism for environmental cooperation and sustainable development in the Mediterranean region.
9. Welcome United Nations General Assembly resolution 58/211 that followed the proposal by Algeria to declare 2006 as International Year of deserts and desertification.
10. Recall the agreement at the 13th Ordinary Meeting of the contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution that cooperation with the European Community in its efforts to develop and implement the European Marine Strategy should be strengthened, both as individual sovereign States bordering a regional sea and as Parties to the Convention.
11. Welcome the results of the Euro-Mediterranean Water Directors Meeting held in Athens on 6-7 November 2006, in particular, concerning their readiness to contribute to the Horizon 2020 initiative and other cooperation activities concerning water issues.
12. Emphasise that the environmental needs of the region are beyond the means of any one country or organisation to deal with and require a regional approach and increased cooperation as well as all sources of finance to be fully mobilised and exploited.
13. Take into account the common responsibilities and differentiated capabilities between Euro-Mediterranean Partners towards achieving sustainable development in the region also considering the specificity of each partner country.

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14. Emphasise that the METAP 'cost of environmental degradation' studies demonstrate that environmental inaction is not an option.

15. Welcome the enhanced cooperation between the EU and the Mediterranean Partners and commit to work together through the implementing of the Association Agreements and the European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plans to promote sustainable development in the Mediterranean Region.

16. Welcome the European Commission's initiative to come forward with a Communication establishing an environment strategy for the Mediterranean that outlines the approach of the European Commission regarding its environmental cooperation in the region for the coming years across a range of sectors such as climate change, desertification and biodiversity.

17. Recall the outcome of the Barcelona Summit of 28 November 2005 including the agreed Five Year Work Programme for the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and positively welcome the development of the Horizon 2020 as a concrete next step from the Summit.

18. To this end, the Euro-Mediterranean Ministers of Environment and other heads of delegation at the Cairo Ministerial Conference hereby:

a. Endorse the timetable for the Horizon 2020 initiative for de-pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by 2020 attached to this declaration.

b. Invite the European Commission to coordinate the partnership of the Horizon 2020 initiative through the establishment of an efficient institutional steering mechanism with key representatives from the Euro-Mediterranean governments and other partners to provide overall guidance, review, monitoring and effectively coordinate with other related initiatives in particular the MAP's Strategic Action Programme (SAP) to address pollution from land-based activities (SAP MED).

c. Agree to work to:

- i. Ensure the provision of appropriate financial resources and technical support to implement the timetable for de-pollution as called for at the Barcelona Summit.
- ii. Achieve the implementation of the timetable for de-pollution through, inter-alia, the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its related Protocols and the MSSD in close coordi-

ination with the UNEP/MAP as well as through strengthened synergies with other strategic regional initiatives and programmes such as the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI), the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Strategic Partnership etc.

d. Undertake to:

- i. Review periodically the implementation of all relevant regional agreements and action plans.
- ii. Seek to ensure appropriate involvement of other governmental bodies, local and regional authorities, intergovernmental organisations, non-governmental organisations, international financial institutions, bilateral donors, business sector and other relevant actors to meet the commitments of the initiative.
- iii. Take steps to develop national integrated environmental information systems to produce reliable, comparable and timely statistical data and information to support Horizon 2020 aims.

19. Call for the mobilisation on a predictable and sustainable basis of the necessary financial resources to support environmental protection and urge all actors on the national, regional, and international level to work together to maximise assistance and its impact as well as exploiting opportunities for technology transfer contributing to the achievement of Horizon 2020 and other components of the environmental strategy for the Mediterranean.

20. Recognise that the continuing cooperation between the World Bank and the European Investment Bank and within the context of the METAP will provide support to the Horizon 2020 initiative.

21. Welcome 'Environment 2007' the 5th International Conference & Exhibition organized by the Egyptian Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs to be hosted in Cairo from 21-23 May 2007, and urge all Euro-Med countries and their businesses to maximize their participation in this endeavour as a major public-private-partnership contribution to Horizon 2020.

22. Welcome the Conference on the Private Investor's contribution to Horizon 2020 to be hosted in Athens by October 2007 and urge banks, other financial institutions and CleanTech Venture Capital Funds to participate in this endeavour.

23. Welcome the major contribution to environmen-

tal protection of the Mediterranean Sea through the application of the environmental laws and policies of the European Union and the other Mediterranean countries and encourage initiatives by other actors such as the “European Principles for the Environment (EPE)”, as appropriate.

24. Encourage the exchange of experience and best practices between the environmental conventions and sustainable development programmes dealing with the Mediterranean, the Baltic Sea and the Black Sea.

25. Underline that implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) is a suitable approach for sustainable resource management in marine and coastal areas.

26. Recommend that the Euro-Mediterranean Foreign Ministers at their forthcoming meeting in Tampere on 27-28 November 2006 underline the importance of integration of environmental concerns into other relevant sectors under the Barcelona Process in order to contribute to the development of sustainable production and consumption across the region.

27. The Euro-Mediterranean Ministers of Environment wish to express their appreciation to the government of the Arab Republic of Egypt for hosting the Third Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Environment co-chaired with the Finnish Presidency of the EU and the European Commission and agree to meet again in 2009 to review progress.



DECLARATION DU CAIRE POUR LA CONFERENCE MINISTERIELLE EURO-MEDITERRANEENNE SUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT

Les ministres de l'environnement euro-méditerranéens et les autres chefs de délégation participant à la 3ème conférence ministérielle euro-méditerranéenne sur l'environnement, organisée au Caire le 20 novembre 2006:

1. rappellent les objectifs généraux de la déclaration de Barcelone de 1995 instituant un partenariat global entre les participants – le partenariat euro-méditerranéen – par un dialogue politique régulier et renforcé, le développement d'une coopération économique et financière, et une plus grande importance accordée à la dimension sociale, culturelle et humaine;

2. reconnaissent les effets négatifs des conflits sur l'environnement et le développement durable de la région méditerranéenne;

3. reconnaissent les réalisations du Programme d'ac-

tions prioritaires à court et moyen termes pour l'environnement (SMAP) adopté lors de la 1ère conférence ministérielle euro-méditerranéenne sur l'environnement, organisée à Helsinki en 1997, et saluent la promotion des questions de coopération environnementale régionale menée au cours des dix années écoulées depuis sa mise en oeuvre;

4. réitèrent leur engagement constant envers les principes et les objectifs de la déclaration de la 2ème conférence ministérielle euro-méditerranéenne sur l'environnement, organisée à Athènes en 2002;

5. réaffirment la nécessité de parvenir à un développement durable aux niveaux régional, national et local, conformément aux objectifs du millénaire pour le développement et aux objectifs convenus lors du sommet mondial sur le développement durable de 2002, notamment les partenariats complémentaires

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de Johannesburg (les résultats de type II) en faveur du développement durable;

6. prennent note de l'initiative arabe pour le développement durable et de son plan de mise en oeuvre adopté par le conseil des ministres arabes chargés de l'environnement (CAMRE) et présenté lors du sommet mondial sur le développement durable de Johannesburg;

7. reconnaissent l'élaboration par le programme des Nations unies pour l'environnement et le plan d'action pour la Méditerranée (PNUE/PAM) de la stratégie méditerranéenne de développement durable (SMDD), approuvée par les parties contractantes à la convention de Barcelone et soutenue lors du 10ème anniversaire du partenariat euroméditerranéen (sommet de Barcelone), et s'engagent à associer la mise en oeuvre de la SMDD à celle de stratégies nationales en faveur du développement durable;

8. rappellent l'entrée en vigueur en 2004 de la convention sur la protection du milieu marin et du littoral méditerranéen (la convention de Barcelone dans sa version amendée), et constatent que le PAM et le programme d'assistance technique pour la protection de l'environnement méditerranéen (METAP) constituent des mécanismes régionaux essentiels pour une coopération environnementale et un développement durable dans la région méditerranéenne;

9. se réjouissent de la résolution 58/211 adoptée par l'Assemblée générale des Nations unies, à la suite de la proposition faite par l'Algérie de déclarer l'année 2006 «Année internationale des déserts et de la désertification»;

10. rappellent l'engagement qui a été pris, lors de la 13ème réunion ordinaire des parties contractantes à la convention de Barcelone pour la protection de la mer Méditerranée contre la pollution, de renforcer la coopération avec la Communauté européenne dans ses efforts visant à développer et mettre en oeuvre la stratégie européenne pour le milieu marin, à la fois en qualité d'États souverains bordant une mer régionale et en qualité de parties à la convention;

11. se réjouissent des résultats de la réunion des directeurs de l'eau euro-méditerranéens organisée à Athènes les 6-7 novembre 2006, en particulier en ce qui concerne leur disponibilité pour contribuer à l'initiative Horizon 2020 et autres activités de coopération dans le domaine de l'eau;

12. insistent sur le fait que les besoins environnementaux de la région dépassent les moyens pouvant être mis en place par un seul pays ou une seule organisation et qu'ils nécessitent une approche régionale et une coopération accrue, ainsi que la mobilisation et l'exploitation complètes de toutes les sources de financement;

13. tiennent compte des responsabilités communes et des capacités distinctes des différents partenaires euro-méditerranéens pour assurer le développement durable de la région, sans omettre la spécificité de chaque pays partenaire;

14. insistent sur le fait que les études menées par le METAP sur le coût de la dégradation de l'environnement démontrent que l'inaction n'est pas une option;

15. se réjouissent de la coopération renforcée entre l'UE et ses partenaires méditerranéens et s'engagent à travailler ensemble à travers la mise en oeuvre des Accords d'Association et des plans d'actions de la politique européenne de voisinage afin de promouvoir le développement durable dans la région méditerranéenne;

16. se réjouissent de l'initiative de la Commission européenne de proposer une Communication instituant une stratégie environnementale pour la Méditerranée, qui souligne l'approche adoptée par la Commission européenne pour sa coopération environnementale dans la région pour les prochaines années et dans plusieurs domaines, notamment le changement climatique, la désertification et la biodiversité;

17. rappellent les résultats du sommet de Barcelone tenu le 28 novembre 2005, notamment l'accord sur un programme de travail quinquennal pour le partenariat euroméditerranéen, et se réjouissent du lancement de l'initiative Horizon 2020, considérée comme une mesure concrète prise à l'issue du sommet.

18. À cette fin, les ministres de l'environnement euro-méditerranéens et les autres chefs de délégation présents à la conférence ministérielle du Caire déclarent par la présente qu'ils:

- a. approuvent le calendrier ci-joint élaboré pour l'initiative Horizon 2020 en faveur de la dépollution de la mer Méditerranée d'ici à 2020;
- b. invitent la Commission européenne à coordonner le partenariat de l'initiative Horizon 2020 par la création d'un mécanisme de pilotage institution-

nel performant, assurant efficacement le lien avec d'autres initiatives connexes, en particulier le programme d'action stratégique (SAP) pour la lutte contre la pollution d'origine tellurique (SAP MED);

c. conviennent d'oeuvrer pour:

- i. garantir l'apport de ressources financières et d'une assistance technique adéquates permettant de mettre en oeuvre le calendrier de dépollution, tel que demandé lors du sommet de Barcelone;
- ii. mettre en oeuvre le calendrier de dépollution, entre autres par l'application de la convention de Barcelone (et ses protocoles pertinents) et de la SMDD en étroite collaboration avec le PNUE/PAM, ainsi que par des synergies renforcées avec d'autres initiatives et programmes régionaux stratégiques tels que la composante méditerranéenne de l'initiative de l'UE sur l'eau (MED EUWI), le partenariat stratégique du GEF;

d. s'engagent à:

- i. évaluer régulièrement la mise en oeuvre de l'ensemble des accords et plans d'action régionaux pertinents;
- ii. rechercher la participation adéquate d'autres organismes gouvernementaux, collectivités locales et régionales, organisations intergouvernementales, organisations non gouvernementales, institutions financières internationales, donateurs bilatéraux, secteurs d'activités et autres acteurs pertinents pour tenir les engagements pris dans le cadre de l'initiative;
- iii. prendre des mesures visant à la mise au point de systèmes d'information nationaux et intégrés sur l'environnement, en vue de produire des données statistiques et des informations fiables, comparables et opportunes pour appuyer les objectifs de l'initiative Horizon 2020;

19. appellent à une mobilisation prévisible et durable des ressources financières nécessaires pour soutenir la protection de l'environnement, et incitent tous les acteurs aux niveaux national, régional et international à oeuvrer de concert pour optimiser l'aide accordée et ses effets, et à exploiter les possibilités de transfert de technologies contribuant à la réalisation de l'initiative Horizon 2020 et à d'autres éléments de la stratégie de l'environnement pour la Méditerranée;

20. reconnaissent que la coopération continue entre la Banque mondiale et la Banque européenne d'investissement, y compris dans le cadre du METAP, bénéficiera à l'initiative Horizon 2020;

21. se réjouissent de la tenue de la 5ème conférence et exposition internationale «Environnement 2007», organisée par le ministère égyptien chargé des affaires environnementales, qui aura lieu au Caire du 21 au 23 mai 2007, et incitent l'ensemble des pays euro-méditerranéens et leurs entreprises à apporter tout leur soutien à cet effort, au titre d'une contribution majeure du partenariat public-privé à l'initiative Horizon 2020;

22. se réjouissent de la conférence sur la participation des investisseurs privés à l'initiative Horizon 2020, qui sera organisée à Athènes d'ici à octobre 2007, et exhortent les banques, les autres institutions financières et les fonds de capital-risque spécialisés en technologies non polluantes à se joindre à cet effort;

23. se réjouissent de la contribution majeure à la protection de l'environnement de la mer Méditerranée apportée par l'application des lois et politiques sur l'environnement de l'Union européenne et d'autres pays méditerranéens, et encouragent le cas échéant les initiatives par d'autres acteurs telles que la déclaration sur les principes européens pour l'environnement;

24. encouragent l'échange d'expériences et de bonnes pratiques entre les conventions sur l'environnement et les programmes de développement durable consacrés à la mer Méditerranée, à la mer Baltique et à la mer Noire;

25. soulignent que la mise en oeuvre de la stratégie d'aménagement intégré des zones côtières (AIZC) constitue une approche appropriée, favorable à la gestion durable des ressources dans les zones maritimes et littorales;

26. recommandent que, lors de leur réunion à Tampere les 27 et 28 novembre 2006, les ministres des affaires étrangères euro-méditerranéens soulignent l'importance de la prise en compte des préoccupations environnementales par d'autres secteurs pertinents dans le cadre du processus de Barcelone, afin de contribuer au développement d'une production et d'une consommation durables dans toute la région.

27. Les ministres de l'environnement euro-méditerranéens souhaitent remercier le gouvernement de la République arabe d'Égypte pour l'organisation de la 3ème conférence ministérielle euro-méditerranéenne sur l'environnement, co-présidée par la présidence finlandaise de l'UE et la Commission européenne, et conviennent de se rencontrer de nouveau en 2009 pour évaluer les progrès accomplis.

HORIZON 2020 – Timetable for the first phase (2007-2013)

Annex to the Cairo Declaration of the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on the Environment 20 November 2006

This timetable covers the initial phase of the Horizon 2020 initiative, until 2013 corresponding to the period covered by the next EU financial perspectives. Following a 2009 mid-term progress report to Euro-Mediterranean environment ministers the initiative will be reviewed, at a subsequent meeting of Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EMP) environment ministers, to be held in 2012.

Meeting the deadlines of relevant EU environment legislation and policies (including complying with the provisions of the Barcelona Convention and its protocols) will be the most significant contribution of European Union Member States to achieving the goals of the Horizon 2020 initiative. A significant future development in this regard will be the adoption and subsequent implementation of the proposed Marine Strategy Directive.

At a bilateral level, the formal EU-Partner country dialogue should address the Horizon 2020 initiative through the regular meetings of the Energy/Transport/Environment Sub-Committees as they are created.

The timetable is structured under the component headings of the Horizon 2020 initiative¹.

1.1. Pollution Reduction Projects

2007:

- FEMIP² - European Investment Bank (EIB)/World Bank to bring existing project portfolios under Horizon 2020 and work with donor countries, relevant institutions of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) and other relevant groupings to identify those projects having the largest impact on Mediterranean pollution levels (priority projects) including upstream and downstream pollution across the Mediterranean Region. Particular attention will be paid to the projects included in the National Action Plans of the Strategic Action Programme to address pollution from Land Based Sources (SAP MED) and to the most pertinent bilateral donor projects in partnership with local communities, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), Mediterranean institutions etc.
- The Commission shall call a meeting of donor organisations to coordinate actions related to pollution reduction projects.

2008 onwards:

- Partners to update information on the major upstream and downstream pollution sources (the Barcelona Convention 'Hot Spots') and feed this information back into subsequent development of the project pipeline.
- Project preparation assistance to preferentially target priority projects.
- Horizon 2020 measures to be considered in programming the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) alongside other measures included in the Commission Communication³ establishing an Environment Strategy for the Mediterranean.
- Further development of project pipeline.

1.2. Capacity building measures

Capacity building measures will be identified on the basis of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and its adopted Action Plans, as well as within the ongoing work conducted in the framework of the EU Water Initiative (EUWI)/Water Framework Directive (WFD) Joint Process, taking due account of the lessons from the review of integrated water resources management research and practice⁴. Further measures will be identified in the country strategy papers that the European Commission, the international financial institutions (IFIs) and other donors adopt to guide their cooperation/assistance to Mediterranean partner countries.

2007:

- Based on analysis, identification of priority needs in capacity building measures across sectors and stakeholders by all partners taking into account the ENP and its Action Plans as well as previous identification work such as that carried out by the Short and Medium-Term Priority Environmental Action Programme (SMAP), MAP, the EUWI, the MEDA Water Programme, etc.
- European Commission to start implementing initial capacity building measures using the ENPI and the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument (TAIEX) facility targeted on ENP Action Plan measures.
- The new operational phase of the MAP Programme for the Assessment and Control of Pollution in the

1 European Commission Staff Working Document SEC(2006)1082 - September 2006

2 Facilité euro méditerranéenne d'investissement et de partenariat

3 COM (2006) 475 final 5 September 2006

4 <http://ec.europa.eu/research/water-initiative>

Mediterranean region (MED POL) programme, Phase IV programme, adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

- MAP to begin to develop appropriate capacity building measures through the *InfoMAP* Programme run by the information and communication centre of the Barcelona Convention (*InfoRAC*).
- Development of curricula by partner countries for future water managers, to enable constructively engaged integrated water resources allocation and management.

2007-2008:

- EMP countries not having already done so to ratify the amended Barcelona Convention and its main protocols.
- Partners to advance with implementation at national level of the National Action Plans that they have prepared under the Land Based Sources (LBS) Protocol of the Barcelona Convention, in accordance with the deadlines specified in the plans and the objectives of paragraph 2.7¹ of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD).
- Progress with the capacity building elements of the first ENP Action Plans with Israel, Jordan, Morocco, Palestinian Authority and Tunisia to be assessed in the context of the ENP implementation reports. Follow-up to be organised within the ENP.
- Further dissemination action of the EU's Best Available Techniques Reference Documents (BREFs) in the context of the joint MAP/European Commission work programme.
- Actions to enhance environmental governance to be considered in the negotiation and review of ENP Action Plans.

2008 onwards:

- Partner countries to report on progress in implementing the Euro-Mediterranean Strategy for Environmental Integration, whose framework was adopted at the declaration of the 2nd Conference of Euro-Mediterranean Environment Ministers in Athens in July 2002 (through Euro-Mediterranean sub-committees where they have been initiated).
- Partner countries to issue progress reports on steps taken to implement the MSSD.
- Present summary progress report on the Euro-Mediterranean Environmental Integration Strategy to the regular meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Foreign Ministers.
- Setting and implementing national action plans (within regional context) to meet the needs identified in 2007 by all partners with potential assistance from

EU countries to Mediterranean Countries where possible and through genuine partnerships (e.g. twinning projects, NGOs partnering, etc).

- Organisation of a seminar by the Commission in conjunction with partner countries and institutions on integrated pollution prevention and control (IPPC).

1.3. Research

2007 – 2013:

- The 7th Framework Programme for research of the EU enters into implementation. It will be open to participation of third countries' research institutions.
- Review and update of existing lists of priority needs in research related to the Horizon 2020 initiative in collaboration with MAP and its Activity Centres, as well as research institutions and networks in the Mediterranean area. These priorities to be considered for inclusion in relevant calls for funding of research projects.
- Diffusion of information on regular calls for proposals for research projects to be funded under the 7th Framework Programme (FP).
- Results of EU research relevant to the Mediterranean environment to be made available to Horizon 2020 partners.

1.4. Review and Monitoring

2007:

- Establish the Steering Group for the Horizon 2020 initiative and hold the first meeting. The Steering Group will adopt its Terms of Reference (ToR) drawing upon on the preparatory work done in the ad hoc SMAP Working Group during 2006.
- All partners, taking account of existing initiatives in particular the MEDPOL programme, European Marine Monitoring and Assessment (EMMA), and European Environment Agency (EEA) country scorecard analyses, to consolidate monitoring data and indicator processes to support the regular review of the initiative.
- MAP to build on existing information and communication initiatives to create multi-sector information and communication partnerships to promote the "key contents" of Horizon 2020 at the regional level.

From 2008 onwards:

- EEA, in cooperation with relevant partners and based on existing and ongoing initiatives, to design a coherent indicator process and framework for regular indicator based analyses, including a "scorecard", to compare and measure progress. Key indicators to be tested.
- At intermediate dates the initiative will be monitored with the production of:

1. Promoting sustainable management of the sea and coastal zones and taking urgent action to put an end to the degradation of coastal zones.

- Five yearly reports on the state of the environment in the Mediterranean Sea based on an agreed set of indicators in line with progress in the context of EMMA and the national and regional diagnosis carried out by MEDPOL
- Biennial synthesis progress report focussing on country profiles in line with UNEP/MAP's work programme.
- All countries to provide regular data and information on pollution sources and levels to allow preparation of monitoring reports.
- All countries to prioritise pollution sources according to the pollutants and activities included in the European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) or the Protocol on PRTRs to the UN/ECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention).
- Commission in collaboration with MAP to develop communication and information campaign to publicise the initiative.
- Include Horizon 2020 and its goals in the MED Day Programme (regional information and communication campaign involving institutions, private sector and civil society) to enhance the visibility of the Initiative and promote public awareness.

2010/2011:

- Progress reports will be issued for both the infrastructure and capacity building components and examined by the Horizon 2020 Steering Group.

2012:

- Fix future Horizon 2020 work programme and revise approach if necessary based on results of this first phase.
- Provide progress report to Euro-Mediterranean Environment Ministers.

1.5. Existing commitments of EU member states contributing to Horizon 2020

2007:

- October 2007: deadline for full implementation of the Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Directive (IPPC).

2008:

- EU Member States to adopt the first version of the River Basin Management Plans under the Water Framework Directive (WFD).

2009:

- EU MS to finalise and agree WFD river basin management plan including a programme of measures.

2012:

- EU Member States to make operational the programme of measures as defined in the River Basin Management plan under the WFD.

The Declaration of the 3rd Conference of EuroMed Ministers for the Environment and its Annex (Horizon 2020 Timetable) can be found also in **Arabic** at: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/enlarg/med/index.htm>

STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT IN THE PROCESS LEADING TO THE 3rd EURO-MEDITERRANEAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Mediterranean NGO Meeting on "Improving Environmental Cooperation after Barcelona+10"



UNEP/MAP



DG ENV



eu2006.fi

The Mediterranean NGO Meeting on "Improving environmental cooperation after Barcelona+10", was co-organised by the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE), the Arab NGO Network for Environment and Development (RAED) and the Arab

Office for Youth and Environment (AOYE) with the support of UNEP/MAP, the Finnish Presidency of the EU and the European Commission through the MIO-ECSDE core funding. It took place under the auspices of H.E the Secretary General of the League, Mr. Amr Moussa and of H.E the Minister of State for Environ-

mental Affairs, Eng. Maged George on the 19th of November 2006, in the premises of the League of Arab States.

Around 100 representatives of NGOs, Members of Parliament, journalists and other Mediterranean stakeholders participated in the meeting from 20 different countries of the EuroMed region.

The objectives of the meeting were to:

- continue the process of informing and educating the participants on the important on-going processes affecting the region since last year's 10th Anniversary Meeting of the EuroMed Partnership which endorsed HORIZON 2020;
- identify the mechanisms and milestones for the effective involvement of NGOs in these processes;
- finalise the statements to be presented to the Conference of EuroMed Ministers for the Environment on the next day in Cairo and to the meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, a week later in Tampere.

The meeting manifested the efforts of Mediterranean environmental NGOs to effectively be involved as key actors in the promotion and implementation of sustainable development in the region. Participants were informed about: the efforts undertaken by the European Commission in order to secure that the ENP and ENPI will contribute in raising the profile of environmental issues and promoting integration of environmental considerations into all relevant sectoral policies; the recently published by the European Commission *Environment Strategy for the Mediterranean* and the 'Horizon 2020' initiative; the level of commitment of the Euro-Mediterranean Ministers for the Environment to secure a timely and effective implementation of this initiative (Cairo Declaration); the links with the Barcelona Convention and the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD); and what the

contribution of the Mediterranean NGOs (particularly the *NGO Steering Committee*¹) and of other stakeholders has been in the formulation of these processes and what it could be in the future.

In order to significantly strengthen the impact of the meeting the organisers arranged for joint sessions with the 5th Meeting of the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD²), in essence thus holding the 5th Annual 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.



The European Commissioner for the Environment, Mr. Stavros Dimas addressed the meeting during the opening session, as did the League of Arab States, while the Finnish Minister of the Environment Mr. Jan-Erik Enestam and the Coordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan of UNEP, Mr. Paul Mifsud, addressed the meeting at the closing session. After the meeting ended, a cocktail was organised

by the European Commission, MIO-ECSDE, GWP-Med, RAED and AOYE for meaningful informal exchanges among the regional stakeholders present.

The outcomes of the meeting were:

- the ***Med NGO Statement***, which was read to the 3rd Conference of the EuroMediterranean Ministers for the Environment that took place on the 20th of November 2006 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, Cairo.
- the ***Declaration of the 5th Regional Dialogue of Parliamentarians, NGOs and other Stakeholders on the Protection of the Mediterranean Environment and Prospects for the Sustainable Development of the Region***, which was submitted to the 8th Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs that took place in Tampere on 27-28 November 2006.

1. also known as the *CdS* (Comité de Suivi) with its members from EEB, ENDA Maghreb, FoE Mednet, MIO-ECSDE, RAED and WWF MedPO
 2. The COMPSUD Secretariat is jointly facilitated by MIO-ECSDE and GWP-Med (www.mio-escde.org, www.gwpmmed.org)

MED NGO Statement
as read at the
3rd Conference of EuroMed Ministers for the Environment
(Cairo, 20 November 2006)

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me³ start by thanking the European Commission and the Finnish Presidency for the invitation, as well as the Government of Egypt for the hospitality.

It is my pleasure to be speaking on behalf of the NGO Steering Committee also known as the *CdS* (Comité de Suivi) with its members from EEB, ENDA Maghreb, FoE Mednet, MIO-ECSDE, RAED and WWF MedPO. My further pleasure is to be speaking also on behalf of the *Mediterranean Environmental NGO Meeting* that was held yesterday in the premises of the League of Arab States, attended by around 100 representatives of NGOs from almost all the Mediterranean countries.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We once again emphasize the need for a holistic approach towards Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean that should be at the heart of the Euro Mediterranean Partnership (EMP), addressing the inequalities of the North and the South, particularly in relation to poverty issues.

This holistic approach refers to the needed attention to all aspects of environment in order to obtain sustainability, including: the marine environment, where apart from dealing with marine pollution, marine biodiversity should also be addressed - including the establishment of marine reserves; the terrestrial environment, where land degradation, soil erosion and desertification should be urgently addressed, and the atmospheric environment, where air pollution and its impacts at local and global levels have to be greatly reduced.

We, the NGOs, support the Declaration of the *Marrakech EuroMed Civil Forum* and reiterate that all systematic destruction of natural resources caused by conflict, aggression and occupation should be condemned. We believe that liberty, peace, solidarity, stability and good governance are prerequisites for the achievement of sustainable development.

As a result of the *CdS* consultations and yesterday's joint meetings of NGOs and Parliamentarians on improving the environmental cooperation in the Mediterranean after Barcelona +10, we would like to state the following:

On the ENP and ENPI:

- A sufficient level of funding within the ENPI should be earmarked for environmental activities both at the regional level of implementation (Regional Strategy for the Mediterranean) as well as at the national level (National Action Plans). Allocation of funds to NGOs should also be facilitated and specified.
- The governance process currently used for the ENP does not provide appropriate levels of transparency and participation. Its governance structure and mechanism must therefore be strengthened so as to ensure transparency, environmental integration and civil society participation. We ask the Ministers today to ensure the participation of representatives of civil society in the preparation and review of the National Action Plans.
- In developing and applying the ENP we should make the best of what has already been achieved by other existing regional bodies, such as the UNEP/MAP, being the Secretariat of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSDD). Good work has been done by MAP over the last 30 years and we stress its importance as a mechanism to address the objectives of the EC Environment Strategy for the Mediterranean and Horizon 2020.
- Education for Sustainable Development should be promoted as a tool for setting solid foundations for peace, dialogue, cooperation, better understanding of cultural diversity and environmental protection.
- In the area of EuroMed trade, Mediterranean Partner Countries have the right to protect their food security and sustainable development needs. The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, ENP and ENPI must be fully supportive of the relevant recommendations of Sustainability Impact Assessment

3. (the statement was read by the coordinator of the NGO Steering Committee (*CdS*), Dr. Emad Adly, General Coordinator of RAED)

4. ENP: European Neighbourhood Policy

ENPI: European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument

reports. The European Commission should provide an action plan on mainstreaming these recommendations into its trade agenda. An on-going mechanism for the monitoring of the implementation of the recommendations of the Sustainability Impact Assessment of the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area should be set up with the participation of civil society.

- We call on Ministers to commit themselves to regional cooperation on climate change.
- We are seriously concerned about new plans to build nuclear power plants in the region.

On the Horizon 2020:

- We welcome the Horizon 2020 however it only addresses part of the larger sustainable development challenge that must be dealt with by the EMP.
- The necessary political and financial support for the full implementation of the Horizon 2020 initiative to de-pollute the Mediterranean must be secured.
- The steering committee of the Horizon 2020 must effectively function as a forum of Mediterranean stakeholders catalysing environmental integration in all other components of the EMP and ENP.

NGOs should participate on an equal footing as proposed by the SMAP Working Group.

- We NGOs accept the invitation presented to us in yesterday's Med NGO meeting, on behalf of the European Commission to identify the capacity building needs of the Mediterranean NGOs.
- We NGOs are committed and will continue working at the regional level, and we will mobilise national and local NGO participation in the implementation of Horizon 2020, particularly local communities affected by the negative impact of pollution hot spots, to ensure that their concerns and needs are taken into account in the preparation of relevant 2020 projects.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who supported our meeting of yesterday, the EC, the Finnish presidency, UNEP/MAP, the GWP-Med, the League of Arab States and the Ministry of Environment in Egypt and specifically H.E. Eng. Maged George for his cooperation and the support he has given to our activities in Egypt and for the kind invitations and hospitality that the NGOs and the Parliamentarians have received during their stay in Egypt.

Déclaration des ONG Méditerranéennes
telle que présentée lors de la
3ème Conférence des Ministres Euro-Med de l'Environnement
(le Caire, 20 novembre 2006)

Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs,

Permettez-moi¹ de commencer mon intervention en remerciant la Commission de l'Union européenne et la Présidence finlandaise pour leur invitation. De même, nous remercions le Gouvernement égyptien pour son hospitalité.

C'est un plaisir pour moi de parler au nom du Comité de Suivi (CdS) et de ses membres: BEE, ENDA Maghreb, FoE MedNet, MIO-ECSDE, RAED et WWF MedPo. Mon plaisir est d'autant plus grand que je parle également au nom des ONG environnementales de la Méditerranée réunies hier au siège de la Ligue des Etats Arabes, à laquelle a assisté une centaine de représentants d'ONG de la plupart des pays méditerranéens.

Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs

Une fois encore, nous insistons sur la nécessité d'une approche holistique en Méditerranée pour la réalisation du Développement Durable qui devrait être au cœur du Partenariats Euro-Méditerranéen (PEM), s'attaquant aux problèmes d'inégalité entre nord et sud, en particulier en ce qui concerne la pauvreté.

L'approche holistique implique qu'il est nécessaire de tenir compte de tous les aspects environnementaux pour atteindre le développement durable, y compris : le milieu marin, où en dehors des questions liées à la pollution marine, on devrait également tenir compte de la biodiversité marine – y compris l'établissement de réserves marines ; l'environnement terrestre, où
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1. La Déclaration fut lue par le coordonnateur du Comité de Suivi (CdS) des ONG, le Dr Emad Adly, coordonnateur du RAED

la dégradation des paysages, l'érosion des sols et la désertification devraient être traitées d'urgence ; ainsi que l'environnement atmosphérique, où il faudrait réduire de manière significative la pollution de l'air et ses effets au niveau local et global.

Nous, ONG, apportons notre soutien à la Déclaration du Forum Civil Euro-Méditerranéen de Marrakech et réitérons que toute destruction systématique de ressources naturelles ayant pour origine conflit, agression et occupation doit être condamnée. Nous croyons que liberté, paix, solidarité, stabilité, et bonne gouvernance sont des pré-requis pour la réalisation du développement durable.

Au terme des concertations du Comité de Suivi et des réunions conjointes des ONG et des parlementaires d'hier pour améliorer la coopération environnementale dans le bassin méditerranéen après Barcelone+10, nous souhaitons faire les déclarations suivantes:

Sur la PEV et l'IEVP :

- Un niveau conséquent de financements dans le cadre de l'IEVP devrait être dédié aux activités environnementales aussi bien au niveau d'une mise en œuvre régionale (Stratégie régionale pour la Méditerranée) qu'au niveau national (Plans d'Action Nationaux). L'allocation d'aides financières aux ONG devrait aussi être promue et spécifiée.
- Le processus de gouvernance actuellement utilisé pour la PEV ne permet pas d'atteindre des niveaux de transparence et de participation satisfaisants. Ses structures et mécanismes de gouvernance doivent par conséquent être renforcés afin d'assurer la transparence, l'intégration de l'environnement et la participation de la société civile. Nous demandons aujourd'hui aux Ministres de garantir la participation de la société civile à la préparation et la révision des Plan d'Action Nationaux.
- En concevant et en mettant en œuvre la PEV, nous devrions exploiter au mieux ce qui a été accompli par d'autres autorités régionales, telles que le PNUE/PAM, qui assure le Secrétariat de la Convention de Barcelone, ses Protocoles et la Commission Méditerranéenne pour le Développement Durable (CMDD). Le PAM a fait du bon travail au cours des 30 dernières années et nous voudrions souligner son importance en tant que mécanisme pour la réalisation des objectifs de la Stratégie

de la CE pour l'Environnement de la Méditerranée et l'initiative Horizon 2020.

- L'Education pour le Développement Durable devrait être promue en tant qu'outil pour l'établissement de fondations solides pour la paix, le dialogue, la coopération, une meilleure compréhension de la diversité culturelle et la protection de l'environnement.
- Dans la zone méditerranéenne d'échanges commerciaux, les pays méditerranéens partenaires ont le droit de protéger leur sécurité alimentaire et leurs besoins pour leur développement durable. Le Partenariat Euro-Méditerranéen (PEM), la PEV et l'IEVP doivent parfaitement prendre en compte les recommandations des rapports d'évaluation des impacts des projets sur le développement durable. La Commission de l'Union européenne devrait fournir un plan d'action pour garantir que ces recommandations soient intégrées dans son ordre du jour relatif au commerce. Un mécanisme pour le suivi constant de la mise en œuvre des recommandations des évaluations des impacts de projets pour le développement durable dans la zone de libre-échange euro-méditerranéenne devrait être établi avec la participation de la société civile.
- Nous demandons aux Ministres de s'engager à coopérer en matière de changement climatique.
- Nous sommes extrêmement inquiets quant aux nouveaux plans qui prévoient la construction de centrales nucléaires dans la région.

Sur l'initiative Horizon 2020 :

- Nous saluons l'initiative Horizon 2020; elle ne reprend cependant que partiellement le défi majeur du développement durable auquel la PEV doit s'attaquer.
- Les soutiens politiques et financiers nécessaires à la mise en œuvre complète de l'initiative Horizon 2020 pour la dépollution de la Méditerranée doivent être assurés.
- Le comité de pilotage d'Horizon 2020 doit effectivement fonctionner comme un forum des parties prenantes de la Méditerranée catalysant l'intégration de l'environnement dans toutes les autres composantes du PEM et de la PEV. Les ONG devraient participer sur un pied d'égalité ainsi que cela a été proposé par le groupe de travail de SMAP.
- Nous, ONG, acceptons l'invitation qui nous a été faite hier, lors de notre conférence, par la Com-

2. PEV: Politique Européenne de Voisinage
IEVP: Instrument Européen de Voisinage et de Partenariat

mission européenne, d'identifier les besoins des ONG méditerranéennes en matière de renforcement de leurs capacités.

- Nous, ONG, nous sommes engagées et continuerons à travailler au niveau régional. Nous allons mobiliser les ONG aux échelons nationaux et locaux pour assurer leur participation à la mise en oeuvre d'Horizon 2020, et en particulier celle des communautés locales touchées par les impacts négatifs des points chauds de pollution pour assurer que leurs préoccupations et besoins soient pris en compte lors de l'élaboration des projets relatifs à Horizon 2020.

Enfin, je voudrais remercier tous ceux qui ont apporté leur soutien à la conférence que nous avons organisée hier : la Commission européenne, la Présidence finlandaise, le PNUE/PAM, le GWP-Med, la Ligue des Etats Arabes et le Ministère de l'environnement d'Egypte, et en particulier S.E. Maged George pour l'assistance et le soutien qu'il a apporté à nos actions en Egypte ainsi que pour les aimables invitations et l'hospitalité dont les ONG et les parlementaires ont été l'objet au cours de leur séjour en Egypte.

5th meeting of the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD 5)

and the

5th Regional Dialogue of Parliamentarians, NGOs and other Stakeholders on the protection of the Mediterranean Environment and Prospects for the Sustainable Development of the Region



The 5th meeting of the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD 5) and the 5th Regional Dialogue of Parliamentarians, NGOs and other Stakeholders on the protection of the Mediterranean Environment and Prospects for the Sustainable Development of the Region took place on the 19th of November 2006, in the premises of the League of Arab States under the auspices of H.E the Secretary General of the League, Mr. Amr Moussa and of H.E the Minister of State for Environmental Affairs, H.E. Eng. Maged George.

The meetings were 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 Secretariat of COMPSUD, with the support of UNEP/MAP, the Finnish Presidency of the EU and the European Commission. Logistical support was provided by the Cairo based Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED) and the Arab Office for Youth and Environment (AOYE).

COMPSUD 5 and the Regional Dialogue have focused this year on the *roles and synergies among*

various representatives of the civil society in order to improve environmental cooperation after Barcelona+10. Participants were informed about: the efforts undertaken by the European Commission in order to secure that the ENP (European Neighborhood Policy) and ENPI (European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument) will contribute in raising the profile of environmental issues and promoting integration of environmental considerations into all relevant sectoral policies; the recently published by the European Commis-



sion *Environment Strategy for the Mediterranean* and the 'Horizon 2020' initiative; the level of commitment of the Euro-Mediterranean Ministers for the Environment to secure a timely and effective implementation of this initiative (Cairo Declaration); the links with the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD); and what the contribution of the Mediterranean stakeholders has been in the formulation of these processes and what it could be in the future.

The objectives of the meeting were to:

1. continue the process - that has already begun - of informing and educating the participants on the im-

portant on-going processes affecting the region since last year's 10th Anniversary Meeting of the EuroMed Partnership;

2. identify the mechanisms and milestones for the effective involvement of Parliamentarians in these processes;
3. articulate the outcomes of COMPSUD 5 and the Regional Dialogue and finalize the statements to be presented to the Conference of EuroMed Ministers for the Environment on the next day in Cairo and to the meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, a week later (27-28 November 2006) in Tampere.

Declaration of the 5th Annual General Assembly of COMPSUD
addressed to the
3rd Ministerial Conference on the Environment of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership taking place in Cairo on 20 November 2006

The 5th Annual General Assembly of the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD) held in Cairo, Egypt (19 November 2006) adopted unanimously the following declaration:

We, Parliamentarians of 11 different Mediterranean countries, Members of the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD) gathered in Cairo, Egypt on 19 November 2006, are convinced that:

1. Liberty, peace, solidarity and the exercise of good governance are prerequisites for Sustainable Development in the Region. We emphasize the need for a holistic approach towards Sustainable Development that brings together all parts of the Mediterranean region and is at the heart of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership
2. Environment should become one of the main dimensions of the European Neighborhood Policy (ENP) and Partnership Agreements
3. In order to ensure that the ENP governance structure and mechanism be transparent and effective, environmental integration and civil society participation should be enhanced
4. For the full implementation of the Horizon 2020 initiative to de-pollute the Mediterranean the necessary political and financial support must be secured
5. The proper implementation of Horizon 2020 implies that International Law which is in place, with particular emphasis to the Law of the Sea and on transboundary waters, is properly respected and implemented
6. A sufficient level of funding within the European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) should be earmarked for environmental integration both at regional level of implementation (Regional Strategy for the Mediterranean) and at the national level (National Action Plans)
7. An adequate level of funding should also be allocated to support the work of regional networks active in environmental and sustainable development issues
8. The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EMP), the European Neighborhood Policy (ENP) and the European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) must be fully supportive of the relevant recommendations of the Sustainability Impact Assessment of the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area (SIA EMFTA)

**Résolution de la 5^{ème} Assemblée Générale Annuelle du COMPSUD
adressée à la 3^{ème} Conférence des Ministres de l'Environnement du
Partenariat Euro-Méditerranéen qui aura lieu au Caire
le 20 novembre 2006**

La 5^{ème} Assemblée Générale Annuelle du Cercle des Parlementaires Méditerranéens pour le Développement Durable (COMPSUD) tenue au Caire, Egypte (19 novembre 2006) adopte, à l'unanimité, la Résolution suivante :

Nous, Parlementaires de 11 différents pays méditerranéens, membres du Cercle des Parlementaires Méditerranéens pour le Développement Durable (COMPSUD) réunis au Caire, Egypte, le 19 novembre 2006, sommes convaincus que:

1. La liberté, la paix, la solidarité et l'exercice d'une bonne gouvernance sont les préalables du Développement Durable dans la Région. Nous soulignons le besoin d'une approche holistique vers le Développement Durable qui réunisse toutes les parties de la région méditerranéenne et qui soit au centre du Partenariat Euro-Méditerranéen
2. L'Environnement devrait devenir une des dimensions principales de la Politique Européenne de Voisinage (PEV) et des Accords de Partenariat
3. Afin d'assurer que la structure et le mécanisme de Gouvernance de la PEV soient transparents et effectifs, l'intégration environnementale et la

participation de la société civile devraient être renforcées

4. Pour la mise en œuvre de l'initiative Horizon 2020 pour la dépollution de la Méditerranée, le soutien politique et financier nécessaire devra être assuré.
5. La mise en œuvre appropriée de l'initiative Horizon 2020 implique que le droit international en vigueur, et plus particulièrement le droit de la mer et celui relatif aux eaux transfrontalières, soit respecté et mis en œuvre de façon adéquate.
6. Un niveau suffisant de fonds devrait être alloué dans le cadre de la PEV à l'intégration environnementale, à la fois au niveau régional de mise en œuvre (Stratégie Régionale pour la Méditerranée) et au niveau national (Plans d'Action PEV Bilatéraux)
7. Un niveau adéquat de fonds devrait aussi être alloué au soutien du travail des réseaux régionaux actifs dans les questions liées à l'environnement et au développement durable
8. Le Partenariat Euro-Méditerranéen (PEM), la Politique Européenne de Voisinage (PEV) et l'Instrument Européen de Voisinage et de Partenariat (IEVP) devraient apporter leur soutien aux recommandations de l'Etude d'Impact de Durabilité sur la Zone de Libre Echange Euro-Méditerranéenne (SIA EMFTA)

Declaration of the 5th Regional Dialogue of Parliamentarians, NGOs and other Stakeholders on the Protection of the Mediterranean Environment and Prospects for the Sustainable Development of the Region¹

**to the 8th Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs
taking place in Tampere, 27-28 November 2006**

We, participants of the 5th 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, representatives from 20 different Mediterranean countries, gathered in the League of Arab States, Cairo - Egypt, on 19 November 2006 to discuss crucial issues relating to the future sustainability of our region, hereby address the Euro-Mediterranean Ministers of Foreign Affairs:

1. Liberty, peace, solidarity and the exercise of good governance are prerequisites for Sustainable Development in the Region.

In line with these considerations we support the final declaration of the Marrakech EuroMediterranean Civil Forum (4-7 November 2006).

We urge the Euro-Mediterranean Ministers of Foreign Affairs to make every possible effort to put

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¹ The 5th Regional Dialogue was invited by the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE), the Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean (GWP-Med), the Arab NGO Network for Environment and Development (RAED), the Arab Office for Youth and Environment (AOYE) and the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD) on the occasion of the 3rd Ministerial Conference on the Environment of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership taking place in Cairo on 20 November 2006.

an end to all acts of violence and destruction affecting human lives, the environment and the social texture in the region and particularly in the Middle East.

2. The cultural diversity in the Mediterranean region should be considered as an asset closely linked with history and biodiversity. We urge the Ministers to place in the heart of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership a holistic approach towards Sustainable Development that brings together all parts of the Mediterranean region and enhances the respect for all cultures.
3. The quality of the environment in the Mediterranean is closely linked with the livelihoods of its people and their opportunities for development, particularly through tourism. We urge the Ministers to recognize environment as one of the main dimensions of the European Neighborhood Policy (ENP) and Association Agreements.
4. In order to ensure that the ENP governance structure and mechanism are effective and transparent we urge the Ministers to create the necessary conditions for the integration of environmental concerns into all development policies and for meaningful civil society participation.
5. For the full implementation of the Horizon 2020 initiative "to de-pollute the Mediterranean" we urge the Ministers to grant their full political support and secure adequate financial means.
6. The implementation of Horizon 2020 cannot be effective if important previously agreed legislative frameworks concerning the protection of the environment are not observed.

Therefore we urge the Ministers to work for the increase of the capacities of the countries and of the

Secretariats of the relevant Conventions in order to ratify, better implement and, respectively, monitor International Law with particular emphasis to the Law of the Sea, legislation on transboundary waters, as well as the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

7. The European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) is expected to support important initiatives in the Region. However there is no clear provision for environmental work.

We urge the Ministers to earmark a sufficient level of funding within the ENPI for environmental integration both at regional level of implementation (Regional Strategy for the Mediterranean) and at the national level (National Action Plans).

8. The improvement of environmental governance and the promotion of awareness on the environment in the Mediterranean is largely due to the effective work of regional networks.

Therefore, we urge the Ministers to allocate an adequate level of funding to support the work of regional networks active in environmental and sustainable development issues.

9. The establishment of a Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area (EMFTA) is an integral part of the overall EMP approach. However, recent findings of the Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA) indicate potential unfavorable consequences for the people and the countries of the region.

We urge the Ministers to secure that the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EMP), the European Neighborhood Policy (ENP) and the European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) be fully supportive of the relevant recommendations of the Sustainability Impact Assessment of the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area (SIA EMFTA).

**Déclaration du
5^{eme} Dialogue Régional des Parlementaires , ONG et autres Parties Prenantes sur la
Protection de l'Environnement Méditerranéen et les Perspectives de Développement
Durable dans la Région¹**

adressée à la **8^{eme} Conférence Euro-Méditerranéenne des Ministres
des Affaires Etrangères** ayant lieu à Tampere le 27-28 Novembre 2006

Nous, les participants aux 5^{eme} Dialogue Régional des Parlementaires, ONG et autres Parties Prenantes sur la protection de l'Environnement Méditerranéen et Perspectives des Développement Durable dans la Région, représentants de 20 pays Méditerranéens différents, réunis à la Ligue des Etats Arabes, au Caire – Egypte, le 19 Novembre 2006 pour discuter des ques-

tions cruciales relatives à la durabilité future de notre région, nous nous adressons ainsi aux Ministres Euro-Méditerranéens des Affaires Etrangères:

1. La liberté, la paix, la solidarité et l'exercice d'une bonne gouvernance sont les préalables du Développement Durable dans la Région.

1 Le 5^{eme} Dialogue Régional a été organisé par le Bureau Méditerranéen d'Information pour l'Environnement, la Culture et le Développement Durable (MIO-ECSDE), le Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med), le Réseaux Arabe d'ONG pour l'Environnement et le Développement (RAED), le Arab Office for Youth and Environment (AOYE) et le Cercle des Parlementaires Méditerranéens pour le Développement Durable (COMPSUD) à l'occasion de la 3^{eme} Conférence Ministérielle pour l'Environnement du Partenariat Euro-Méditerranéen ayant lieu au Caire le 20 novembre 2006.

En ligne avec ces considérations nous appuyons la déclaration finale du Forum Civil Euro-Méditerranéen de Marrakech (4-7 novembre 2006).

Nous encourageons les Ministres Euro-Méditerranéens des Affaires Etrangères à faire le possible pour mettre fin à tous les actes de violence et de destruction qui frappent la vie des humaines, l'environnement et la texture sociale dans la région et particulièrement dans le Moyen Orient.

2. La diversité culturelle de la région Méditerranéenne devrait être considérée comme un avantage strictement lié à son histoire et biodiversité. Nous encourageons les Ministres à placer au centre du Partenariat Euro-Méditerranéen une approche holistique vers le Développement Durable qui réunisse toutes les parties de la région Méditerranéenne et renforce le respect pour toutes les cultures.
3. La qualité de l'environnement en Méditerranée est étroitement unie aux moyens d'existence de ses gens et à leurs opportunités de développement, particulièrement à travers le tourisme. Nous encourageons les Ministres à reconnaître l'environnement comme une des dimensions principales de la Politique Européenne de Voisinage (PEV) et des Accords de Partenariat.
4. Afin d'assurer que la structure et le mécanisme de Gouvernance de la PEV soient effectifs et transparents, nous encourageons les Ministres à créer les conditions nécessaires à l'intégration des préoccupations environnementales dans toutes les politiques de développement et à une participation significative de la société civile.
5. Pour une mise en œuvre complète de l'initiative Horizon 2020 «pour la dépollution de la Méditerranée» nous encourageons les Ministres à garantir leur plein soutien politique et à assurer les moyens financiers nécessaires.
6. La mise en œuvre de l'initiative Horizon 2020 ne peut pas être effective si les cadres législatifs en vigueur relatifs à la protection de l'environnement ne sont pas observés.

Par conséquent, nous encourageons les Ministres

à travailler pour augmenter les capacités des pays et des Secrétariats des Conventions relevantes afin de ratifier, mettre en œuvre d'une façon plus efficace et, respectivement, surveiller le droit international, et plus particulièrement le Droit de la Mer et celui relatif aux eaux transfrontalières, ainsi que la Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles.

7. On s'attend que La Politique Européenne de Voisinage (PEV) et l'Instrument Européen de Voisinage et de Partenariat (IEVP) soutiendront des importantes initiatives dans la Région. Cependant, il n'y a pas des dispositions claires pour le travail environnemental.

Nous encourageons les Ministres à allouer un niveau suffisant de fonds dans le cadre du IEVP à l'intégration environnementale, à la fois au niveau régional (Stratégie Régionale pour la Méditerranée) et au niveau national (Plans d'Action PEV Bilatéraux) de mise en œuvre.

8. L'amélioration de la gouvernance environnementale et la promotion de la sensibilisation à l'environnement en Méditerranée sont largement dues au travail effectif des réseaux régionaux.

Par conséquent, nous encourageons les Ministres à allouer un niveau adéquat de fonds au soutien du travail des réseaux régionaux actifs dans les questions liées à l'environnement et au développement durable.

9. La création d'une Zone Euro-Méditerranéenne de Libre Echange (EMFTA) est une partie intégrante de l'approche du PEM. Cependant, les résultats récents de l'Etude d'Impact de Durabilité (SIA) indiquent des conséquences potentielles défavorables pour les gens et les pays de la région.

Nous encourageons les Ministres à assurer que le Partenariat Euro-Méditerranéen (PEM), la Politique Européenne de Voisinage (PEV) et l'Instrument Européen de Voisinage et de Partenariat (IEVP) soutiennent les recommandations relevantes de l'Etude d'Impact de Durabilité sur la Zone de Libre Echange Euro-Méditerranéenne (SIA EMFTA).

MISCELLANEOUS MEDITERRANEAN NEWS

THE 11th AGM OF MIO-ESCDE

36 member NGOs from 17 countries participated in the 11th AGM of MIO-ECSDE that took place in Cairo on the 18th of November 2006. The meeting approved the various reports presented and the proposed work programme for 2007.

The following representatives of the member NGOs were elected on the MIO-ECSDE Executive Bureau:

Chairman: Prof. M. Scoullos (Greece)
Co-Chairman: Dr. Emad Adly (RAED)

Members (in alphabetical order):

Mr. Z. Alawneh	Jordan
Mr. M. Alves	Portugal
Mr. G. Arapis	Elliniki Etairia
Mr. V. Attard	Malta
Mr. RN Bendaoud	Algeria
Ms. P. Bonelli	Italy
Mr. G. Cingal	EEB
Mr. M. Ermis	Turkey

Mr. M. Ftouhi	Morocco
Mr. J-V Geronimi	France
Mr. M. Ghandour	Lebanon
Mr. A. Juarez	Spain
Prof. Y. Nouri	Tunisia
Mr. A. Rabi	Palestine
Ms. A. Theodosiou	Cyprus
Mr. M. Vogrin	Slovenia



MEDITERRANEAN FOOD EDUCATIONAL PROJECT

On 1-2 December 2006 the meeting of the partners of the "Mediterranean Food Educational Project" took place at MIO-ECSDE offices in Athens. The meeting had objectives on the one hand to discuss the developments of the project, including timetable, activities, logistics, partners' tasks, etc. and on the other, to elaborate the draft material on "Mediterranean food" regarding its objectives, content, structure, pedagogical methodology, etc. The overall project is an Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF) funded project. It was approved by

its first Call for proposals (February 2006) under the Thematic Priority: EuroMed Schools Programme. The partner organizations involved are: AOYE –EGYPT, Legambiente – ITALY, LHAP- JORDAN, CMEPE –MOROCCO, ETNIA- PORTUGAL, APNEK-TUNISIA and MIO-ESCDE as the leader & coordinator.

Read more at: <http://www.mio-ecsde.org/article.php?story=20061212045835354>.

"KEEP THE MEDITERRANEAN LITTER-FREE" CAMPAIGN

MIO-ECSDE, HELMEPA and Clean-up Greece with the support of UNEP/MAP have launched the "Keep the Mediterranean Litter-free Campaign"

to raise public awareness on the causes and impacts of the pollution of the sea from solid waste. In the framework of this campaign a useful and attractive brochure



has been produced presenting not only the various causes and impacts of marine litter but also highlighting the role and responsibilities of all actors concerned including the public at large, in protecting the coastal and marine environment from solid waste.

The brochure has been produced in Arabic, English, French and Greek and is now available on the MIO-ECSDE site.

If you wish to obtain hard copies of the brochure please contact the MIO-ECSDE Secretariat (info@mio-ecsde.org <<mailto:info@mio-ecsde.org>>)

OUTCOMES OF THE MARRAKECH EUROMED CIVIL FORUM (4-7 NOVEMBER 2006)

More than four hundred representatives of civil society stakeholders (Euro-Mediterranean networks, international NGOs, local platforms, research centres, etc.) from thirty eight countries have successfully faced the challenge of holding the first Civil Forum in the South. Thanks to the support of the Finnish Presidency, the European Commission, and the help of France and Austria, as well as the favourable reception by Moroccan authorities, this first Civil Forum to be held in an Arab country allowed independent civil society (through the Euromed Non-Governmental Platform) to demonstrate (again) its capacity to take its full place in building a shared future.

Held in a particularly difficult context, notably the deteriorating situation in the Middle East, the growing intolerance and incomprehension between the two shores and the deepening of scepticism accompanying the Barcelona Process after more than ten years of its launching, the Civil Forum evolved around four priorities:

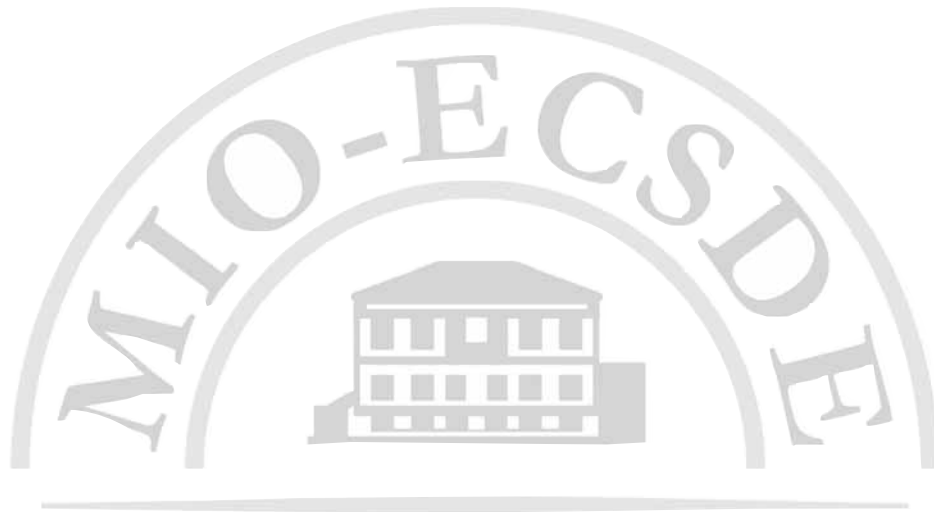
- The responsibility of civil society stakeholders in peace building,
- Migration and stakeholders' mobility,
- Democratic reforms, defence and promotion of human rights (including gender equality),

- Sustainable Development and citizens' participation.

The Civil Forum's preparatory process (local consultations, thematic debates, and specific works of regional networks) facilitated, in conformity with the process that has been consecrated, the exchanges and debates during the three days of deliberation.

The organizers' expressed intention to make these works useful and efficient (through concrete propositions for each one of the priority themes) was met by the determination of participants to bring about their contribution and be full actors in this Forum. The adoption of the *Declaration* (see <http://www.euromedplatform.org/>) as a result of a vivid discussion, reflects civil society stakeholders' capacity to reach shared statements and common resolutions that do not blur their differences – even divergences – but consolidate their unshakable will to act together.

Overall, and as underlined by many participants, this Civil Forum, beyond the shortcomings and doubts about the future of the Partnership or the real “space” it makes for civil society within it, has been a successful one.



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 105 NGOs from 24 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.

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