



Closed session of COMPSUD 11

6 November 2015, 9.30-10.30

Divani Caravel Hotel

Summary Report

Preparations for the 11th Meeting of COMPSUD began in September 2015 when the opportunity arose to combine with the:

- the Final Conference of the GEF MAP/UNEP “Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem” (MedPartnership) and the “Integration of Climatic Variability and Change into National Strategies to implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean” (ClimVar & ICZM) Projects (4 November 2015). (see <http://mio-ecsde.org/medpartnership-and-climvar-projects-end-the-protection-of-the-mediterranean-goes-on/>)

- a Mediterranean Workshop of Members of Parliament and other Stakeholders on Climate Change Adaptation in Mediterranean Coastal Areas (5-6 November 2015). (see <http://mio-ecsde.org/mps-journalists-and-other-med-stakeholders-discuss-climate-change-adaptation/>)

The events were funded by the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med) within the framework of the GEF MAP/UNEP ClimVar & ICZM Project and the GWP Water, Climate and Development Programme (WACDEP), in close collaboration with COMPSUD and MIO-ECSDE.

The session was chaired by the Chair of COMPSUD Ms. Dionysia Avgerinopoulou. The Secretary General of COMPSUD Prof. Michael Scoullou also supported the session. A list with the Members of Parliament that participated in the session is appended at the end of the minutes. This closed session of COMPSUD aimed to address the following items for discussion:

- Short Report of Activities and where the Circle stands now
- Procedural matters: classification of Members
- New Members
- Next elections

Ms. Dionysia Avgerinopoulou welcomed the COMPSUD Members, as well as the newly registered Members. She invited each Member to briefly make self-introductions. After this introductory round, the working session of the meeting began, which is summarized in the following paragraphs.



The Chair and Secretary General briefly presented some of the highlights of the 'Report of Activities of COMPSUD' since its last meeting in November 2013. The Report had been circulated prior to the back-to-back events and it was well received by the Members.

One of the problems that the Circle faces is the lack of steady funds and resources that would permit constant support for activities and representation. The financial crisis in Greece and the region, as well as the lack of core funding to MIO-ECSDE from the European Commission in the past few years, allows for a very small support from GWP-Med. If MIO-ECSDE is supported with core funding for the biennium 2016-2017 (result/decision expected before the end of 2015) then there can be a more concrete COMPSUD work programme for this period. The Circle itself has not raised any funds so for the moment COMPSUD is supported by NGOs (MIO-ECSDE and GWP-Med).

In spite of everything, the Report shows that COMPSUD has some important achievements to boast about. Politically, the most important one is that COMPSUD has been proposed by the meeting of the UNEP/MAP Focal Points to be a member of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) and the next meeting of the COP (Athens, February 2016) is expected to formally approve the decision.

Ms. Avgerinopoulou mentioned coastal erosion and the field trip of the last COMPSUD meeting in 2013 to the Peloponnese. The Members met with the local mayors, the governor, scientists, etc. The result was that the Greek authorities (various levels) were mobilized. The visit of COMPSUD to the Greek Parliament in 2013, mobilized changes within the Parliamentary Committees and consequently in national legislation. She proposed the use of this 'lesson learned' or 'leverage' of the Circle by the other Members as well.

The other Members of the Circle also presented a series of experiences many of which were closely linked to collaboration with NGOs, academia and other stakeholders. From the discussion the following could be deduced:

In general MPs in their reflection expressed their satisfaction of the information provided to them and assessed as very useful the input received, expressing a wish to systematize more this interrelationship.

Institutional support and lessons learned: The Circle could directly support presentation or analyses of needs and efforts within the Parliaments such as how to set up committees or better link existing committees to key environmental issues of the Mediterranean.

Members expressed that they need support on how to effectively address environmental issues in their parliaments, particularly new MPs. Some MPS stated that they will arrange to appropriately "train" their colleagues, if elected in the upcoming elections, so as to create a critical mass of capacity.

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

MPs stressed that the links with EU academic expertise is very valuable and that the session of the Workshop organized with the French Institute was a very good experience. The Secretary General on this note reminded the COMPSUD Members to propose Universities from their countries to join the Mediterranean Universities Network for Education for Sustainable Development (MedUnNet).

Access to international fora and organizations is another service that can be provided through the Circle for activities linked to participation, establishing links and relations, etc.

Even if the Circle does not have funds, the Secretariat could make contacts and then the Members can ask their Parliaments or other sources to support their expenses.

The Chair expressed her personal willingness to look into possibilities of EU funding for COMPSUD activities based on expression of interest by the Members. She would like that the Circle is not just a body that convenes and discusses but becomes also a “hub for projects”, particularly since financial support from the EU is not given *ad hoc* but rather in the form of project proposals.

The Secretary General invited the Members to include COMPSUD in their activities within their Parliaments and countries. In this way the Circle as a whole participates in their activities. Furthermore, invitations to other COMPSUD Members from other countries to be part of their activities would be very meaningful and not necessarily expensive.

The Members of COMPSUD were urged to inform the Secretariat about their initiatives so that they can be communicated to the Circle. The sharing of successes and even failures or challenges can be facilitated within COMPSUD.

A discussion began on how to **classify the COMPSUD ex MP Members** that are valuable resources and the institutional memory of the Circle. Should they be classified as ‘circle of emeriti’ or ‘alumni’ or ‘active politicians’? It was decided that regardless of the title given, based on their expressed interest, they remain as ‘active politicians’ within COMPSUD.

Ten new members were accepted in COMPSUD:

- Ms. Nadia AMROUNE, Member of the Algerian Parliament
- Mr. Khaled MOKRANI, Member of the Algerian Parliament
- Mr. Jamil NIMRI, Member of the Jordanian Parliament
- Ms. Zana FILIPOVIC, Member of the Montenegrin Parliament
- Mr. Vasilije LALOSEVIC, Former Member of the Montenegrin Parliament
- Mr. Walid M M ASSAF, Member of the Palestinian Parliament
- Mr. Mohammed HEGAZI, Member of the Palestinian Parliament
- Ms. Leila OULED ALI BAHRI, Member of the Tunisian Parliament
- Mr. Chakib BANI, Member of the Tunisian Parliament
- Mr. Fathi CHAMKHI, Member of the Tunisian Parliament

COMPSUD is governed by a Board composed of a Chairperson and two Vice Chairs whose mandate lasts for two years (open for reflection) and who are selected among the Members of the Board keeping a North-South balance. The work of COMPSUD is jointly facilitated by GWP-Med and MIO-ECSD, which also hosts the Circle’s Secretariat. The Secretary General participates in the governance scheme without voting rights and is from the Secretariat.

Elections will take place at the next COMPSUD meeting, which, if all goes well, will take place in 2016. Till then the same Presidium continues.

Elections will take place considering both active members and the ‘circle of emeriti’ or ‘alumni’ or ‘active politicians’, etc. The Members are therefore invited to consider candidacies. The Secretariat will circulate the list of active COMPSUD Members and the list of ‘active politicians’ before the elections. All members will have been asked if they would like to remain in the Circle.

Candidates will have to send a formal letter stating that they are interested to be part of the COMPSUD Presidium along with a short CV to be circulated in FR/EN.

Any additional reflections, suggestions from the Membership, on the proposed elections procedure, are welcome.

The Chair and Secretary General thanked the Members of COMPSUD for their valuable contributions to the discussions and on this note closed the session.



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

List of Participants:

Mr. Ali LASKRI, Member of the Algerian Parliament

Ms. Saliha MEKHAREF, Member of the Algerian Parliament

Ms. Nadia AMROUNE, Member of the Algerian Parliament

Mr. Khaled MOKRANI, Member of the Algerian Parliament

Mr. Mohamed Salaheldin HAFEZ, President of Shadow Government of Wafd Party, Egypt

Mr. Giovanni PAGLIA, Member of the Italian Parliament

Mr. Jamil NIMRI, Member of the Jordanian Parliament

Ms. Zana FILIPOVIC, Member of the Montenegrin Parliament

Mr. Vasilije LALOSEVIC, Former Member of the Montenegrin Parliament

Mr. Blagota MARUNOVIC, Montenegrin Parliament

Mr. Abdellatif OUAMMOU, Member of the Moroccan Parliament

Mr. Moh REJDALI, Member of the Moroccan Parliament

Mr. Walid M M ASSAF, Member of the Palestinian Parliament

Mr. Mohammed HEGAZI, Member of the Palestinian Parliament

Ms. Leila OULED ALI BAHRI, Member of the Tunisian Parliament

Ms. Dionysia AVGERINOPOULOU, Chair of COMPSUD

Prof. Michael SCOULLOS, Secretary General of COMPSUD

Ms. Anastasia RONIOTES, COMPSUD Secretariat