



General Assembly of the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission

FINAL DECLARATION

27 June 2014 – Venice (Region Veneto)

The Intermediterranean Commission Regions want first of all – and together with the CPMR Balkan and Black Sea Commission – to express their support to peace, reconciliation and development in the Balkan and Black Sea area, as in the eastern and southern part of the Mediterranean where the democratic continuity and the future developments of decentralisation could play a key role for the reinforcement of Euromed relations. As it was stated in previous declarations, the current global, European and Mediterranean socio-economic and geo-political situation demonstrates the needs to work hardy - together - on the reduction of the gaps between the shores of the Mediterranean, as between the Euro-Mediterranean area and the rest of Europe, and between the basin as a whole and the global system.

In this perspective, and in continuity with the Declarations of Barcelona (General Assembly of the Intermediterranean Commission - June 2013) and Patras (Political Bureau of the Intermediterranean Commission - March 2014) the members of the Intermediterranean Commission of the CPMR gathered in Venice, today 27 June 2014:

New European Parliament and European Commission

- Look forward to cooperate with the new MEPs in particular the ones that will be involved in Commissions, Intergroups and Assemblies dealing with issues concerning – among the most important ones – regional and maritime policies, European territorial cooperation, Macro-Regional Strategies, energy, transport, water, youth, and Euromed relations.
- Express their great interest for the renewal of the “seas and coastal areas” intergroup of the European Parliament (EP) and their will to keep contributing to its cross-cutting framework on maritime issues and multilevel governance perspective through the experience of its Mediterranean regions on key issues concerning for instance living marine resources, marine knowledge, maritime spatial planning and integrated coastal zone management, etc. Considering the Integrated Maritime Policy, the MSFD, the new EMFF and the Strategy for Blue Growth, this intergroup would be an asset for the action of the EP and the EU in maritime issues and - in this perspective - the Intermediterranean Commission Regions would commit themselves to develop strong and cooperative relations with the future MEPs, should the intergroup be renewed.
- Call for a smooth agreement on the new president of the European Commission (EC) as on the appointment of the new commissioners and manifest their complete disposal to keep cooperating with all its DGs dealing with policies that have an impact on coastal and maritime regions of the Mediterranean.
- Ask the new European Parliament, the new Commission and the European Central Bank to combine (and reduce progressively) austerity measures with new incentives for the EU market recovery (in particular for the increase of public and private investments on the territories) and specific coordinated initiatives capable of boosting the socio-economic growth under an angle of sustainability and promotion of youth employment.

Macro-Regional Strategies

- Welcome the report of the EC on the governance of Macro-Regional strategies that underlines in particular the role of regional organisations and the key aspect of the external projection of Macro-Regional strategies. In this sense, and for the future, the Intermediterranean Commission asks

the Commission to reflect more and to foster the following aspects: the multilevel governance (taking on board in a more effective way the territories, the private sector, and the civil society), the possible set-up of a Macro-Regional task force within the EC (involving its different DGs), the coordination with stakeholders from Neighbourhood countries and the specific functioning of the *Fora*. More attention should be given to the key role of regional governments that should find its right place in a balanced architecture of these strategies together with the central governments.

- Approve the updated CPMR Intermediterranean Commission draft road map on Macro-Regional strategies in the Mediterranean and call for the attention of the Member States, the ARLEM, The Union for the Mediterranean and other key stakeholders, in order to implement its first phases, necessary for achieving a common vision by the end of the year, under the Italian presidency of the EU that may be fundamental for establishing the bases to new emerging Macro-Regional Strategies in the basin.
- Ask for a global Integrated Mediterranean Strategy to be developed in the mid-long term perspective - EUSMED¹ that should include three interconnected strategies: the Adriatic-Ionian Strategy - EUSAIR²; the Western Mediterranean - EUSWEST Med³; the Eastern Mediterranean - EUSEAST Med⁴. The EUSAIR, could work as a first pilot at a governance level as well, while considering to a greater extent the formal participation of 4 non-EU Member states and the synergies that will have to be drawn with the Danube and the Alpine Strategies.
- In this context, celebrate the publication of the Communication of the European Commission on the EUSAIR and express their satisfaction for its release in the first semester of 2014 as for the participatory process that led to its definition. The Intermediterranean Commission also stresses the importance to take into account the further opinions of the key stakeholders of the area for its implementation in the near future as the recent opinion of the Committee of the Regions, and calls for a smooth endorsement by the European Council.
- Stress once more the need for a coordinated multilevel governance in the development of the EUSAIR Action Plan – especially when dealing with territorial and social cohesion issues – facilitated by the EC and all the services and Directorates General concerned in the drawing up as in the implementation phase of the action plan of the strategy, and reiterate the recommendations expressed in the Declaration of its Political Bureau in Patras (March 2014) concerning the bottom-up approach as the need to find the best mechanisms to properly involve the civil society and the private sector, the importance of the alignment of the strategy with the ETC and the ESIF instruments, as well as the synergies with all relevant EU policies and programmes such as RTE-T, H2020, COSME, etc.
- Recommend to foster the capacity building aspect of the strategy as the EUSAIR should be capable of a real enhancing of skills and capacities both for the EU and the non-EU involved countries, and consider that the construction of a long lasting Adriatic-Ionian area for peaceful dialogue and effective cooperation would not be built without involving in a consistent way the youth of the concerned regions. Therefore, invite the Member States and the European Commission to promote, facilitate, and improve the implementation of the existing youth mobility programmes in the frame of the EUSAIR area.
- Recall the support to the recommendations shaped, with the valuable collaboration of the Intermediterranean Commission members, in the ARLEM Reports on a “Cohesion Strategy for the Mediterranean”⁵ and the “Territorial dimension of the Union for the Mediterranean”.
- Express their satisfaction for the nomination of the new Managing Authority of the transnational cooperation programme for the Adriatic-Ionian Area as their hopes for a quick, concerted, and effective development of its CP.
- Concerning the support to the emerging strategies: welcome and stress the importance of the recent definition - within the new Med Transnational Cooperation Programme - of a specific priority on governance (Objective 11-“A shared Mediterranean Sea”) with a well balanced assignment of resources. This priority will give a strong support to the further application of the Macro-Regional approach to the Mediterranean supporting multilateral stakeholder coordination frameworks for joint responses to common challenges.

¹ Global draft action plan by 2017 during the Maltese presidency, to be updated every 3 years starting from 2020

² Ongoing pilot for the Med. Action plan to be endorsed by the end of 2014

³ Action plan by 2016

⁴ Action plan by 2020

⁵ That deepens the reflection on how to apply and adapt the EU Cohesion Policy approach and methodology to the EU Neighbourhood Policy for the South, as on why and how to set up and implement macro-regional strategies in the Mediterranean basin

- At the same time, they look with interest at the transversal cross-cutting objective under definition in the new ENPI CBC Med programme, hoping that it will also enable the programme to give a key support to the Mediterranean governance and the gradual co-ownership of the future emerging macro-regional strategies.
- Give their support to the recent initiatives of some members of the European Parliament for supporting the start-up of emerging macro-regional strategies in the Mediterranean with reduced but strategic complementary funding.⁶

Maritime Issues

- Will monitor closely the ongoing implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) taking especially into account its ecosystemic approach and its impacts on all EU, national and territorial policies with a special attention to the implications concerning the use of the seas for economic activities and the anthropic pressures on the coastal and marine environment. In this perspective and due to the expertise and potential of the regions, call for Mediterranean Member States to recognise their key roles by involving them, in a concrete way, in the implementation of the MSFD. The Intermediterranean Commission stresses in parallel the necessity to unleash the blue growth potential of the Mediterranean⁷ and asks the EU Council and the EC to take it into account in all their policies.
- Commit to foster the Bologna Charter process and to collaborate to the definition of its Joint Action Plan including key transnational actions and major structural projects for the Med Regions, as well as key initiatives in the frame of future macro-regional strategies for the basin and for the achievement of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development that is currently being reviewed.
- Welcome the growing importance given to maritime issues by the MED transnational programme and manifest their satisfaction for the forthcoming launch of the “COM&CAP MarInA-Med” project that will offer to the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission the opportunity to catalyse and foster the effort of the programme to communicate and capitalise - to the main Euromed targets and for the implementation of the new MED 2014-2020 CP - the key technical results and political recommendations of 13 maritime projects on issues as environmental pressures, blue energies, coastal and maritime tourism, fisheries, maritime spatial planning, clusters, smart ports, accessibility and sustainable transport.
- Highly recommend that the ENPI CBC Med programme keep working for developing priority axes helping creating common conditions for the Blue Growth in the whole Mediterranean.
- Welcome the launch of the promising Vasco-da-Gama project – led by CPMR – that involves the participation of several Mediterranean partners and which success was acknowledged by the EU Council during its last reunion as of June 2014, and consider the launch of a specific Vasco-da-Gama project as adapted to the Mediterranean area.
- Will contribute to the implementation of the Communication of the EC on “A European Strategy for more Growth and Jobs in Coastal and Maritime Tourism” through pilot initiatives and projects, with a special attention to cultural heritage based tourism, underwater archaeological parks, and ecologic, nature and health tourism in coastal destinations as fishing-tourism, while using multi-stakeholder strategies to ensure the coherence of tourism offers and better accessibility of insular locations, giving also support - in the Mediterranean - to the initiative of the Islands Commission of the CPMR concerning a possible future network/federation of Island Tourism Offices.

Transport and accessibility

- Underline that CPMR and the Intermediterranean Commission monitor and take into account in their activities the new framework, for 2014-2020, defining the EU support to transport infrastructures and services. As we have entered the implementation phase of the renewed instruments (TEN-T and Connecting Europe Facility) clarifications are required from the European Commission on how this policy will take the Regions and EU Neighbourhoods into consideration, in particular as regards the Trans-European corridors and the Motorways of the Sea.

⁶ Proposal by MEP Erminia Mazzoni: 3 million euro amendment to the EU budget for supporting the definition of an action plan for the Mediterranean Macro-Region.

⁷ Med assets in maritime economic sectors (shipyards, marine renewable energies, fisheries and aquaculture, or biotechnologies etc.).

- In this perspective, reiterate their interest in being involved in the governance of the six TEN-T multimodal corridors concerning the Mediterranean and the future Motorways of the Sea⁸ and in particular in the *Fora* that are being set up⁹. The Intermediterranean Commission Regions commit to send key information and to express their priorities in terms of infrastructure projects and schemes of co-funding to the EU Commission, the Member States and the new coordinators of the corridors in order to give them useful advises concerning the elaboration of the future deployment plans of the corridors and the coordination of the specific infrastructure projects that will be developed. A special attention should be given to the projects with more socio-economic development potential, to public-private partnerships as to the ramification of the main corridors in the territory of the regions connecting key infrastructures such as ports with rails, airports and logistics centers through multimodal platforms.
- The Intermediterranean Commission is aware of the efforts that maritime transports stakeholders will have to make up until 2020 for the Mediterranean basin to respect the IMO and EU standards as regards sulphur in maritime diesel fuels, and therefore invites its Regions to prepare themselves in view of this deadline through supporting Mediterranean ports in their investments to make alternative fuels available.
- Regarding the sustainable transport and accessibility, the Intermediterranean Commission will support the capitalisation process of Med transnational projects as CAIMANS, POSEIDON, SMART PORT, MERMAID among others, dealing with Smart Ports, Port's Environmental monitoring systems, Air pollution.

Other issues of interest of the Intermediterranean Commission: STI Cooperation, Migration fluxes, Efficiency Energy

- Manifest the need to foster the cooperation in the field of Science, Technology, and Innovation among their regions and the Med local, regional, and national counterparts, starting from the relevant experience of some of its members and taking into account the works of projects such as MEDSPRING. This cooperation should also consider the challenges given by the political commitment of key players, contacts between researchers and experts, the main factors for success of the cooperation, their expected impacts and shared benefits on the territories as economic and employment growth and/or innovation, as the need for dissemination of the experiences.
- Ratify the approval by its Political Bureau of the Declaration of Ljubljana on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in Mediterranean Buildings, as the result of the first part of the capitalisation process of three European projects - Elih-Med, Proforbiomed and Marie. The CPMR Intermediterranean Commission underlines in particular the relevance of the future creation of a new model of multi-level governance for the implementation of policies for energy renovation and renewable energy in buildings, where the Regions and Cities will have to play a key role politically and financially speaking.¹⁰
- Considering the relevance of the management of the migratory fluxes and the integration of migrants to their territories and to the whole EU and Mediterranean, express their interest for gathering the reflections of the Intermediterranean Commission Regions in a global perspective, encompassing different key aspects as a more efficient observation and response to the emergency situations linked to illegal migration, the effective socio-economic integration of migrants, and the potential of the decentralised development cooperation. In this sense, projects as MIPEX-R or reports as the forthcoming ARLEM Ecoter report on migratory fluxes and the role of regions and local authorities, could offer Intermediterranean Commission Regions excellent opportunities for gathering their visions and efforts in order to contribute to shape common recommendations on the subject to be further addressed to the EU and Euromed States.

⁸ The Mediterranean and the Scandinavian-Med as top priorities.

⁹ in particular the III *Forum* for the Med Corridor foreseen in October 2014.

¹⁰ The declaration of Ljubljana is being developed by the promoting partners in a more detailed policy paper that will be presented in the frame of the final conference of Elih-Med in Brussels at the end of the year 2014.