



## CPMR Intermediterranean Commission

### Summary of the General Assembly's main conclusions and decisions

3<sup>rd</sup> of July 2015 – Nafplio (Greece)

The General Assembly of the IMC-CPMR was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July in Nafplio, on the invitation of the Peloponnese Region, under the chairmanship of Mr Michel Vauzelle, President of the Provence-Alps-Côte d'Azur Region and of the IMC-CPMR.

#### **1. Political Messages of the IMC-CPMR and new partnerships**

The General Assembly of the Intermediterranean Commission approved the [Final Declaration of Nafplio](#), which gathers the core themes debated during the GA with a strong emphasis on the need for peace, dialogue and development, and for more solidarity on both migration issues and the situation of Greece. The Declaration also deals with the review of the Neighbourhood Policy South, the future of the Cohesion Policy, Maritime Affairs & Transport, as well as with other complementary issues as Climate Change.

More precisely, the political [debates](#) of the GA focused on migration, citizenship, cultural and interreligious dialogue, entrepreneurship, social and solidarity economy and diaspora, but also on employment training and mobility for the youth, as well as the emerging Macro-Regional and Sea-Basin Strategies in the Mediterranean. The Regions, together with several key external stakeholders including the Presidents of Plan Bleu and [iesMed](#) (linked to the [MedESS](#) process), the Directors of [the Centre for Mediterranean Integration](#), the [Anna Lindh Foundation](#), and the [Union for the Mediterranean](#), enriched the debates of the meeting.

The IMC also approved the [Position Paper on the review of the EU Neighborhood Policy \(ENP\)](#). This document constitutes the [joint complete answer](#) of the IMC, together with the CPMR and the Balkans and Black Sea Commission, to the consultation of the European Commission on the ENP review. This position paper capitalises all previous reflections of the network in an integrated way and is based on fresh new contributions of several IMC regions.

After this first approval, the IMC endorsed the [Final Policy Paper of COM&CAP MarInA-Med](#) and its political messages on a Maritime Integrated approach, which is the result of one year of joint works of the 14 Maritime Projects of the MED transnational cooperation programme. The action involved several IMC members in 8 COM&CAP thematic events including in the kick-off, mid-term and final conferences. All projects results and recommendations are available in the Policy Paper and on the [website of the project](#).

The IMC GA also ratified the following documents, already approved by the IMC Political Bureau in Marseilles last December 10, 2014 and disseminated to all external stakeholders of the organization:

- Joint Declaration on Climate with the Med Commission of UCLG,
- Policy position on the Water Framework Directive and the Mediterranean Regions,
- Policy position on the migration policy and the challenges of managing the mobility of people in the Mediterranean.

Furthermore, the IMC-CPMR approved and signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** with [the Centre for Mediterranean Integration of the World Bank](#). The agreement will promote a multilevel governance and multi-stakeholder coordination in the Mediterranean basin, as well as a more effective dialogue in areas such as the exchange of experiences, the transfer of best practices, and the creation of a Mediterranean knowledge-based community.

## **2. IMC Action plans 2014-2016 and projects**

After the approval of the [IMC Global Action Plan 2014-16](#) by the Political Bureau of Marseille – which focuses on promoting the set-up of an integrated macro-regional strategy in the Mediterranean, developing a Mediterranean sea of projects, mobilising partners from the south of the Mediterranean and fostering the emergence of a Mediterranean citizenship – the document was ratified by the GA of Nafplio.

Moreover, and further to their short presentation by the co-presidencies and the IMC Secretariat, the [Action plans of the 4 new IMC Working Groups](#) were also approved:

- Territorial Cooperation and Macro Regional Strategies,
- Water & Energy,
- Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy,
- Economic and Social Cohesion.

The Executive Secretary also updated the members on the [projects](#) of the IMC-CPMR (finalised actions, the ones to be capitalised, current and future projects) with a special attention to [COM&CAP MarInA-Med](#), “Vasco da Gama Med,” and the strategy for presenting new projects to the upcoming calls 2015 of the **INTERREG MED Programme** (indicating the possible priority initiatives for the network in the framework of the Specific Objectives: 1 on Blue Growth, 2.1 on Energy Efficiency in Buildings, 3.1 on Tourism, 3.2 on the Environment).

Concerning these calls, the IMC-CPMR (with the agreement of the IMC Political Bureau and the CPMR General Secretary) will participate as a partner only in strategic projects aligned with the core political and technical priorities of the network. These projects shall involve possibly more than one IMC Region or territory and capitalise results of previous CPMR projects. The future actions shall also foresee a specific role for networks and multilevel governance, underlining the transnational dimension of cooperation. Moreover, the IMC-CPMR could also plan to participate in some other relevant initiatives proposed by the regions and the external stakeholders as “associated partner” (without legal or financial liabilities), foster the research of potential partners for its members on these kinds of projects and other interesting ones that will not imply its direct/formal participation. In this sense, all members are invited to share – as soon as possible – their project proposals among the IMC-CPMR network, which will be pleased to help them in the partner search through its contacts.

## **3. Internal questions and calendar**

During the GA, the members were informed by the Executive Secretary about the activities carried out from September 2014 to early July 2015 (a specific report was available among the documents for the Assembly).

The Intermediterranean Commission GA approved:

- **The financial documents** of the IMC: comparison between previous budgets (2013-2014), on-going state of progress for 2015 and new forecast budget for 2016.
- **The adhesions** to the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission of the following regions, approved by the CPMR General Assembly in Umeå and the CPMR Political Bureau in Crete:
  - Molise (Italy),
  - Laâyoune-Boujdour-Sakia El Hamra (Morocco),
  - Tirana (Albania).

Regarding Moroccan regions, it is important to note that a new territorial organisation is currently being implemented in Morocco, which will impact in the near future on the memberships and the names/territorial extents and competences of the regional administrations. The Secretariat will be updating the members on this situation with the help of the IMC Moroccan Vice-President. Some other Regions of Croatia and Tunisia are studying the possibility to adhere in the short term.

The IMC GA members were also informed about the **calendar** of activities for the Commission for 2015 and beyond. The main next decision-making bodies meetings of the IMC in 2015 will be the following:

- **Plenary of the IMC in the framework of the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly of the CPMR in Florence** (Toscana Italy) – the 5<sup>th</sup> of November 2015 (NB: The CPMR GA will start the 4<sup>th</sup> and end the 6<sup>th</sup> of November)
- **IMC Political Bureau** – the 26<sup>th</sup> (afternoon) and 27<sup>th</sup> of November 2015 in Rabat (Rabat-Salé-Zemmour-Zaër, Morocco)

It is worth noting that a specific session on migration, especially interesting for the Med Regions, will be taking place during the CPMR GA.

In the framework of the IMC Political Bureau in Rabat, a seminar on decentralisation and territorial development in the south Mediterranean will probably be organized. It will be open to all IMC Members and will be held in synergy with PLATFORMA and some other key networks of the Med. On this occasion, the Med Commission of UCLG will also gather on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November for a seminar on the quality of public services – and open to IMC Members, as well as for its Political Council to be held the 26<sup>th</sup> of November in the morning.

Concerning the **rest of meetings** of the IMC (projects, WG, external partners, regions, CPMR seminars/intergroups), please consult the [calendar](#) of the IMC on its website.

#### **4. Other themes: meeting of the WG Economic and Social Cohesion**

The first set-up meeting of the IMC Working Group on Economic and Social Cohesion took place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 2015. Its Action Plan was presented and discussed by the co-presidency (Languedoc-Roussillon) together with the members (participating on site and via tele-conference). More particularly, the WG addressed the future IMC initiatives on Tourism, Youth Inclusion, Social and Solidarity Economy and the project “Vasco da Gama Med.” Moreover, a specific session presenting the CPMR’s projections on the future financial allocations of the Structural Funds in the Med Regions was also held, opening an interesting debate among the members that will be continued in the framework of the “Core Group” of the CPMR on Cohesion as in the framework of future meetings of the IMC WGs. The next meeting will probably be organised in Montpellier by the end of the year. A summary of the meeting in Nafplio will be sent to the members during the following days.

#### **5. Note on the participation of the IMC members**

Despite the complex situation that Greece is experiencing, the latest geopolitical developments at Mediterranean level (including the terroristic attacks in Tunisia), the post-elections phases in Italy and Spain (with the constitution of the new governments), the new territorial organisation and the pre-electoral period in Morocco, several CPMR Med Regions managed to gather in Nafplio for the IMC GA or to participate via video-conference. On the one hand, this allowed the works of the IMC to continue, avoiding the cancellation of an important meeting of the organisation due to external factors. Besides, together with the quality of the debates and enriched by the intervention of external quality speakers, the involvement of the members is to be considered a very positive element and a symbol of the vitality and soundness of the network. On the other hand, the Presidency and all the members physically present in Nafplio stressed that it is very important for the future to ensure a stronger participation at technical and political levels. In particular, for the upcoming Plenary in Tuscany and the next Political Bureau in Rabat, all the members that were not present in Nafplio for different reasons should make the effort to come and participate actively.