



MEDITERRANEAN INTEGRATED STRATEGY

Introduction

- The Political Bureau of the CPRM Intermediterranean Commission, following the experience of the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, and the Danube, on 5 February 2010 has launched an internal debate on a Mediterranean Integrated Strategy;
- To this end, the Seminar “Europe and its Neighbourhood: toward macro-region?” was organised in Brussels on 1 July 2010, in the framework of the MedGovernance project (MED Programme); the different mechanisms and tools mobilized by Europe so far were discussed and considered not able to solve individually the various sectoral problems affecting the Mediterranean basin; consequently the Macro-Regional (MR) approach was contemplated as a possible means as it can integrate the various instruments and actors involved in the complex issues of the basin;
- The opportunity of initiating a Mediterranean Integrated Strategy approach within the preparation of the next EU budgetary period (2014-2020) has been underlined by the RIM;
- Furthermore, multilevel involvement is considered vital not only to create a common vision, but above all to set up concrete strategies. The involvement of the local and regional level, as well as multilateral organizations operating in the Mediterranean area, is fundamental to implement the macro-regional strategies identified by the States.

This document shall therefore be seen as complementary to the CRPM technical paper “What opportunities do territorial cooperation and the macroregional strategies represent for cohesion policy after 2013” and “For a more active participation of the territories in a new neighbourhood policy”. In this respect the following is taken into account:

- The development of a MED macro-region can only be envisaged as an ambitious part of regional policy, involving the whole of the European territory;
- Territorial cohesion is a political principle, founded on solidarity between the different territories at a different scales;
- A Mediterranean macro-region will have to be the strategic framework of cohesion for the Mediterranean policy. This framework will be used for coordination between the political forum of the UfM (ARLEM and General Secretariat with the PPP project) and the existing EU tools for cohesion and neighbourhood (transnational, cross-border and maritime cross-border cooperation which covers the whole of the Mediterranean since 2007), by reusing bi-lateral and above all, multi-lateral cooperation, through the development of tools such as institutional and socio-economic twinning between the territories of the two sea basins. These two community pillars will be cross-cutting tools which involve other sectoral policies of interest for common development (transport, energy, maritime and environmental policy, tourism and innovation, including social innovation);
- A Mediterranean macro-region should be seen as a path for revitalizing the Euro-Mediterranean partnership post-2013.

Position of the Mediterranean Regions

The General Assembly of the CIM, meeting in Ioannina, the 13th September 2010:

- believes the contribution of the Mediterranean Regions is indispensable in the consultation process launched by the European Institutions in the preparation of the 2014-2020 programming period framework;
- suggests taking advantage of all the potential of the Mediterranean territorial cooperation carried out by local and regional institutions to study the relevance of the Mediterranean macro-regional strategies;
- maintains that, given that the future priorities will be defined at high political level between the EU Commission and the Member States, the consultation of the Mediterranean Regions in defining policy propositions is essential for the success of the Mediterranean macroregional strategies;
- offers the long experience of the Mediterranean Regions in territorial cooperation as a necessary contribution in drawing up the Mediterranean strategies, in particular by:
 - contributing to the implementation and the financing of Mediterranean “macro-projects”;
 - Giving information on the role of the current European Territorial Cooperation programmes in the Mediterranean basin including the Cross Border Cooperation strand of ENPI, and their potential as methodologies of decision-making and governance for transnational strategies;
 - Exploring the potential tools able to harmonise the transnational/international initiatives currently in force in the MED basin, in particular in implementing the priorities as identified by the European policies;
 - exploring how to establish links between the macro-regional strategy and regional strategies, in particular those financed by Structural Funds;
 - contributing to carry out the macro-region process through the quantity of actions and strategic projects implemented in cooperation at all levels, national, regional and local. This approach can also test the effectiveness of regional/transnational actions carried out in the current European Territorial Cooperation framework, capitalising their significant heritage in the future programming period of cohesion policy;
 - considers necessary and appropriate taking into account the existence of euroregional strategies structured around EGTC (European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation).

Legal and institutional framework of the strategy

The General Assembly of the CPRM Intermediterranean Commission believes that:

- The financial perspectives for 2014-2020 programming period are fundamental to establish the strategy requirements.
- Planning a macro-regional MED strategy should follow the logic of an integrated territorial approach.
- Existing Cohesion Policy principles should guide the current conception of macro-regional strategies.
- It is crucially important that the macro-regional MED strategies integrate the Strategic Community Guidelines - NSRF-NRP – and be coherent with the National, Interregional, and Regional Operational Programmes.
- To be effective, the MED Integrated Strategy should also take into account the activities within the strategic projects and capitalisation undertaken by the current EU Territorial Cooperation Programmes.
- In addition the timetable for reform of the European Neighbourhood Policy has to be taken into account as well as how to integrate these strategies since very rarely can the MED issues be solved without involving the neighbouring territories.
- Furthermore, the relation between the MED Integrated Strategy and the Euromediterranean process (Union for the Mediterranean) is essential, the latter bringing together all EU members, with the majority of non-EU countries that border the Mediterranean Sea both at State and Regional-local levels (ARLEM); this link should be stronger in particular to deal with the main territorial issues of the Union for the Mediterranean: energy, maritime safety and transport, water, trade and innovation, including social innovation.

Key policies of a Mediterranean Integrated Strategy

The [General Assembly of the CPRM Intermediterranean Commission](#) believes that the integrated strategies should be conceived from a territorial approach, interpreting the territorial needs and potentials of the area, according to the geographical dimension of sectoral issues and including the south and east shores when specific strategies require overall actions.

ANNEX 1 - KEY POLICIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN BASIN

- **Managing integrated Maritime Space:** The Mediterranean area is a very complex and open marine ecosystem, providing a nursery for fish and a migratory and wintering area for many species of birds. It is also one of the most heavily-used seas, supporting fishing, shipping, trade, energy, sand mining, defense and recreation. Increasing economic activity in the sea, is leading to more and more competition between users of the sea.
- **Tackling Climate Change:** One of the main challenges facing the Mediterranean sea is **climate change**, with adaptation and mitigation measures required. Falled precipitation and flooding in the North and South of the Mediterranean sea , coupled with increased temperatures and aridity in the South will cause significant changes to both physical and human geography.
- **Environment:** ever-growing human and economic development has resulted in increased environmental degradation. The vulnerable marine environment in the Mediterranean faces a worrying combination of pollution from land sources and ships, litter, impacts on biodiversity, overfishing and coastal degradation. The Mediterranean Sea has been classified, under MARPOL, as 'special areas' for oil since 1983 and for garbage since May 2009.
 - Some figures on pollution in the Mediterranean: 60% of urban wastewater still flows untreated into the Mediterranean, 48% of major coastal cities have no sewage works, and less than half of liquid industrial waste is purified) and the response to it are still insufficient despite national efforts. There are difficulties in adequately mobilising the various players and the necessary financial resources.
 - Important: note that pollution is free to move across the Mediterranean region even if it is related to the demographic dynamics and the economic development issues, (and therefore there are differences on pollution between regions). This freedom to move across all the region makes environmental challenges a major common challenge.
 - Also waste management and marine pollution are crucial environmental issues for the region.
- **Increasing Accessibility and Attractiveness:** Mediterranean ports are important hubs for the export/import of goods and provide access to business locations and Europe's hinterland, stimulating **economic development** in our region. Further globalization of the economy and an increase in the global population is likely to increase traffic. It is essential to ensure free passage in the Mediterranean and a good flow to the hinterland, for tourist cruise traffic too.
 - **Transport:** the setting-up of an integrated multimodal Euro-Mediterranean transport network is a key target for sustainable economic and social development in the region. By increasing the efficiency of trade logistics, Mediterranean Partners Countries (MPC will improve their competitiveness in the global market through a strategy based on their proximity to America, Afica, Europa and withstand increasing Asian competition, by offering shorter delivery times and on-demand supply. The potential of the strategic situation of the Mediterranean must be exploited.
 - **Promoting excellence:** The North Mediterranean area is a European stronghold in relation to other regions when it comes to innovation capacity and performance. The progression towards a knowledge based society and a strong research base have enabled excellence in sectors such as ICT, renewable energies, marine technologies and creative industries. The future challenges in this context will be to capitalise on the regions excellence and to promote and maintain innovation in existing and upcoming sectors on the South too.

- **Innovation and Research:** innovation is a key target for all Mediterranean countries. Innovative activity and capabilities are essential for economic growth and development, while new technologies create new opportunities for developing countries to participate in global knowledge networks. As a result, innovation is both a key element in the EU Lisbon strategy and a key target for the socio-economic development of PPM.

There is emerging potential for cooperation in this field between EUMC and MPC, through interconnections or other links between technological poles and parks, incubators of innovative activities, R & D centres, etc. Innovation projects may have also a strong local aspect, supporting territorial development.

- **Employment and Education:** The demographic dynamics have very different effects on the Northern and the Southern shores of the MED Basin. ON the north, future challenges will be related to an ageing population, with its unfavourable impact on economic growth, innovation, public budgets, etc. On the other hand in MPC a young population will enter the job market. Unemployment is already a major development challenge in a number of MPC. Moreover, the different demographic and employment trends on the two shores of the Basin tend to widen the migration flows across the Mediterranean. The need for an improvement in human capital emerges on both shores of the Mediterranean.
- **Immigration:** Seaborne irregular immigration is a major concern in the region, calling for co-operation with Mediterranean partners to counter the phenomenon and prevent losses of human lives. Migration and social integration of migrants area shared challenge, which calls for a strategic approach aimed at optimising the benefits of migration for all partners.
- **Security:** Co-operation against organized crime, illegal immigration and to enhance maritime security.
- **Sustaining liveable territories:** The Mediterranean basin is a diverse region offering both attractive natural cultural and urban environments. One challenge will be to continue to support and enhance the strengths of urban and rural areas and their mutual links on the macro regional level. In this way economic growth and attractiveness of the regions communities need to be promoted to sustain liveability in a very turistical places.

From an operational point of view:

- A general MED macro-regional strategy (framework) would give coherence and integration to the priority axes The international organisations/EU/States/Regions would thus commit themselves to contributing x% of their OP envelope to the objectives of the macro-regional strategy.
 - A “projects” envelope (action plan), aimed at funding a limited number of strategic projects under each priority.
 - According to the scale and type of projects the strategy would be partially implemented at Transnational level either directly implemented through the European OP at national, regional level.
 - A monitoring bodies would be organised in order to optimize ownership and strategic monitoring, representation of the territories.
 - A technical assistance, that, according to the principle of *no-new bodies*, should encompass and take advantage from the existent TA structures (UP.MED, TN.MED, ENPI.MED, etc.).
- The headquarters of the Union for the Mediterranean are located in Barcelona, Spain. includes the European Union and partner countries regions placed along the shores of the Mediterranean Sea.
 - Integrated MED Maritime Policy.

Timetable for Mediterranean Strategy Activities in 2010/2011

- **5 February 2010: The CPMR Intermediterranean Commission Political Bureau** has launched the initiative for the creation of a Mediterranean Macro-Region, and mandated the Mediterranean Research Institutes to prepare the scientific methodology for the operation.
- **13 April 2010: Europe's Macro-Regions Forum: Integration through territorial co-operation**": Hosted by the CoR in Brussels. A high level political seminar, has been organized in joint co-operation of the CoR Intergroup.. The seminar has also discussed strategies for the Danube and Baltic Sea. **The President of Murcia**, Mr Valcarcel Siso, Vice_President of the CoR and of the IMC, has introduced the 5th February IMC Political Bureau mandate to start a Mediterranean Strategy, referred to the creation of a Mediterranean Macro-Region.
- **6 May 2010: ICM Working Group on Territorial Cohesion** (Regione Campania - Brussels)
- 15 May 2010 (Palermo): **Conference United by the Mediterranean (macroMED)**
- 18 May 2010: Roma (Committee IT - MacroMED)
- **21 May 2010: Sea Bassin approaches and European Neighbourhood**": started the consultation process as to whether we need a Mediterranean Strategy, what would be the added benefit **Workshop in Oviedo** during the Maritime Day
- **25 May 2010: CPMR Seminar on Cooperation and Neighbourhood in Valencia** - The IMC has proposed the Mediterranean strategy
- **11 June 2010:** Inform the MED STRATEGY progress to the **CPMR Political Bureau** by the IMC Presidency
- **14-15 June 2010 (Sevilla):** Master ClassMG – MEDGOUVERNANCE Project - MacroMED
- **16 June 2010 (Brussels):** EU2020 + Macro (Arco Latino)
- **17 June 2010 (Bari):** ENPI + MED IT
- **1 July 2010: Conference** Europe and its neighbourhood: toward macro-regions? Political and operational perspectives: with multilevel representatives, EU Institutions, Member States, Local and Regional Authorities came together to find the most appropriate method of managing the resources of the Mediterranean. This Conference was an important opportunity for the consultation process on the macro-regional strategy in the Mediterranean and on what would be the added benefit.
- **13 September 2010 (Ioannina): ICM General Assembly** – Mediterranean Integrated Strategy
- 4-8 October 2010: OPEN DAYS. EU Week for Regions and Cities: MacroMED
- **2-3 November 2010 (Taormina): Forum on European territorial cooperation associations and macro-regions – New participation tools for EU trans-national and neighbourhood policies**
- **16-17 December 2010 (Roma): Conference with the DG MARE on a Mediterranean Integrated Maritime Policy (MacroMED)**
- **4 March 2011: ICM Political Bureau (MacroMED):** Updated information will be available on www.medregions.com

Next steps for the Mediterranean Regions

In order to prepare a macro-regional Med strategies in time for the start up of the 2014-2020 programming period, the ICM should take into account the European Agenda for the future Cohesion Policy as follows:

- contributing to the proposal for the conceptual and operational framework that the European Commission should submit, by June 2011 to the European Council, in order to define the MED macro-regional strategies to be implemented as from 2014;
- following the phase of the preparation of the new regulations expected mid-2011 to help define successful schemes for macro-regional strategies;
- To this end, in order to feed the European debate foreseen on each strategy area, promoting the discussion among Regions on the potential geographical areas (variable geometry framework) and the priorities of such contexts to be covered by the Med Integrated Strategy.

MEDITERRANEAN INTEGRATED STRATEGY PROPOSAL

The Political Bureau of the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission:

- has asked the Executive Secretary to draw up a CIM annual programme (mid-2010/mid-2011) focusing on these issues and following step by step the above agenda in order to contribute to this process from the regional point of view;
- asks the Regions to promote pertinent proposals at their State levels, according to modalities they shall define State by State, in order to contribute to the preparation of a coherent strategy at Transnational and EU level;
- asks the Executive Secretary to promote meetings with the bodies in charge of the current European Territorial Cooperation, to analyse the possible methodologies and systems for the governance of such a strategy, underpinning a concrete reflection on this subject;
- asks the General Assembly to gather European and Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries to discuss and share priorities and actions involving local and regional governments;
- decides to meet again on November 2010 to analyse and approve the ICM proposal to be submitted to the EU institutions.