



SUMMARY OF THE MAIN CONCLUSIONS AND DECISIONS OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU OF THE CPMR INTERMEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION

13 March 2014 - Patra (Dytiki Ellada-Greece)

1. POLITICAL MESSAGES

After a debate among its members, the Political Bureau of the Intermediterranean Commission approved and adopted:

- **The Declaration of Patra:** *“Towards a road map for macro-regional strategies in the Mediterranean”¹*
- The general lines of the **Intermediterranean Commission draft “Road Map for macro-regional strategies in the Mediterranean”**
- **The Ljubljana Declaration:** *“Responses to energy efficiency and renewable energy challenges in buildings”*

The Political Bureau of the Intermediterranean Commission also took note of the final version of the **ARLEM ECOTER report on a Cohesion Strategy for the Mediterranean**, drafted all along 2013 by the Intermediterranean Commission Presidency - with the support of ARLEM members, the Intermediterranean Commission Secretariat and the Member Regions. The report was recently approved by the ARLEM Plenary in Tangier (Morocco) on 24 February 2014.

2. INTERNAL ISSUES

The Intermediterranean Commission Political Bureau approved:

- **The financial documents** of the Intermediterranean Commission: 2013 accounts and the progress report on the budget for 2014.
- **The new membership of two Moroccan Regions: Garb-Charda-Beni-Hsen and Taza-Al Hoceima-Taounate.** Both Regions formally requested to become members of the CPMR and of its Intermediterranean Commission.

Their request was approved by the last CPMR Political Bureau (February 2014 in Leiden) and then approved by the Intermediterranean Commission Political Bureau. The approval will be ratified by the General Assembly of the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission.

Based on the current contacts of the CPMR and the Intermediterranean Commission, some new authorities of different Euro-Med countries could request to become members of the CPMR and its Intermediterranean Commission in 2014 and in 2015.

- **The general draft agenda for the next General Assembly².**

¹ Two short amendments were added during the session based on the request of some members, endorsed by the Bureau.

In addition, the Regions were informed of the main **activities and results** of the Intermediterranean Commission over the period October 2013/March 2014 (refer to the Activity Report) and the prospects for implementing the action plan for 2014 (main priorities, seminars and conferences, advocacy activities, projects, contacts with potential new members, institutional relations etc.).

In terms of the **calendar** and on the basis of the proposals drawn up by the members, the next meetings of the decision-making bodies of the Intermediterranean Commission will be:

- General Assembly of the Intermediterranean Commission in Venice (Veneto-Italy) - June 2014.
- Plenary meeting of the Intermediterranean Commission in Umeå (Västerbotten-Sweden) – 24 September 2014
- Meeting of the Intermediterranean Commission Political Bureau in Marseille (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur-France) - December 2014

The Intermediterranean Commission's change of mandate will be made during the General Assembly in September 2014. The Intermediterranean Commission Secretariat will send the request of candidacy 4 months before as stated in the internal rules of procedure.

The rest of the relevant meetings, initiatives and event are included in the provisional calendar sent to the members of the Political Bureau by the Secretariat and periodically updated on the Intermediterranean Commission website. The most important events concerning the Road Map for the Macro-Regional Strategies in the Mediterranean could be the followings:

- Possible meetings with the EU Mediterranean Countries' Permanent representatives. To be held in Brussels before the General Assembly.
- Political and technical meeting on Macro-Regional Strategies in the Mediterranean. To be held possibly in Roma together with the Platforma annual event, during the Italian semester of presidency of the EU.

3. WORKING GROUPS OF THE INTERMEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION

The Intermediterranean Commission Working Groups are developing their tasks on the basis of the specific action plans that were approved during the 2013 General Assembly in Barcelona.

The calendars and specific meetings for 2014 are being sent on an *ad-hoc* basis by the Intermediterranean Commission Secretariat in coordination with the Working Groups' leaders.

During the meeting of the Political Bureau, the Regions were informed about the state of the art of the main activities of all the Working Groups³ as on its possible present and future synergies and concrete actions (policy documents, surveys, European projects, relations with external stakeholders).

4. SEMINAR ON INTEGRATED MARITIME POLICIES: TOWARDS INVESTMENTS IN THE MARITIME SECTOR IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGIONS

The seminar on Integrated Maritime Policy held on 14th March 2014 has been developed according to the agreements sets in the meeting of the Technical Political Bureau in Barcelona (December 2013) counting on the label of the EU Greek presidency as on speakers from the European Commission, the EU Parliament, several Regions and other stakeholders. The presentations are available on the Intermediterranean Commission website.

During the debates, a special need to foster the exchange among Intermediterranean Commission CPMR Regions on Smart Specialisation strategies was underlined, in particular when dealing with the blue growth and the maritime sector. In this perspective, the Secretariats of Intermediterranean Commission and of CPMR will work on a specific survey on the subject in order to foster the exchange of best practices among members, the impact of the strategies and to give a consistent support to the work of the European Institutions.

2 The dates initially set for the meeting – 19/20 of June - should possibly change because of the irrevocable duty of the Vice-President of the Catalan Government to stay in Catalonia during the unforeseen absence of the President in the same dates.

³ Refer to the presentation of the Executive Secretary