



CPMR Intermediterranean Commission

Summary of the Political Bureau's main conclusions and decisions

10th December 2014 – Marseille (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region)

1. Political Messages of the IMC CPMR

After discussion among its members, the Political Bureau of the Intermediterranean Commission approved the following political documents:

- ***Declaration on Climate***
- ***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***
- ***Updated Road map on Macro-Regional and Sea Basin Strategies in the Mediterranean***

The *Declaration on Climate* is a political document drawn up jointly by the Intermediterranean Commission CPMR and the Mediterranean Commission of UCLG. After gathering the comments of the members during the Intermediterranean Commission Political Bureau debate, its Moroccan Vice-President presented the proposal for amendments of the Intermediterranean Commission to the audience of the "Meeting on Climate of local and regional elected official" organized at the Villa Méditerranée the 11th of December 2015. The document was approved and its final version will be spread to the competent authorities.

The *Policy position on Water* is the result of the exchanges among the members of the Intermediterranean Commission group on this specific topic. It has been approved unanimously by the Political Bureau and it will be widely diffused shortly.

After the debate, the document on migration policy has also been approved with some proposals for amendments that will be included following the meeting of the Political Bureau and before dissemination.

Concerning the last political document, the Political Bureau has been informed of the latest developments and perspectives for macro-regional and sea basin strategies in the Mediterranean, as of the latest steps of the EUSAIR. Some recent encounters of Intermediterranean Commission Regions with Member State authorities, the European Commission and the related reflections and works in the frame of ARLEM and EU projects as COM&CAP MarInA-Med were also mentioned. The road map of the Intermediterranean Commission has thus been updated including in particular the perspective of the maritime sea basin strategies in the Mediterranean and will soon be disseminated. In the frame of the discussions, a specific responsibility for supporting and reinforcing the advocacy actions concerning this road map has been delegated to Mr Jean Claude Gayssot, Vice-President of the Languedoc-Roussillon Region and member of the Intermediterranean Commission Bureau.

2. Action plan 2014-2016 and working groups

After a complete update about the 2013-2014 activities of the current seven IMC Working groups, and following his election during the Intermediterranean Commission Plenary of Umea, the President of the Intermediterranean Commission, Michel Vauzelle, presented the main ideas, features and axes on which the Intermediterranean Commission will work. The Global approach of the Intermediterranean Commission Action plan 2014-16 will focus 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 Intermediterranean Commission - in coherence with this global approach described in the action plan - will also work on the sectoral aspects for the development of the regions in the Mediterranean through its Working Groups. In this sense, the members debated on a possible new configuration based on the optimisation of the resources, meetings/calendar participation, ensuring greater participation of members, and creation of relevant synergies. This reconfiguration foresees 4 Working Groups:

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

These new groups result from the proposals included in the programme of the Intermediterranean Commission Presidency, from the coherent merging and the update of the priorities included in the existing Working Groups action plans and the dialogues with the Intermediterranean Commission members. This exercise was based on the guidelines for the re-organization included in the Intermediterranean Commission Action Plan 2014-2016 and on the advice of the Political Bureau. The new 4 Working Groups will be coordinated by a tandem of co-presidencies being also able to set-up internal specific task forces led by other regions. From January to March indicatively, the Secretariat will work together with the current Working Groups leaders and new potential interested regions to define the 4 new action plans and the specific future actions (advocacy/projects) and leaderships. The Intermediterranean Commission Action Plan 2014-16, approved by the Intermediterranean Commission Political Bureau, will be then ratified and the 4 Working Groups action plans approved by the General Assembly 2015 to be held in Peloponnese.

3. Internal questions and calendar

During the Political Bureau the members have been informed by the Executive Secretary of the activities from October to December 2014. An extensive report will be prepared for the General Assembly 2015.

The Intermediterranean Commission Political Bureau approved:

- **The financial documents** of the Intermediterranean Commission: comparison between 2013 and 2014 budgets, on-going state of progress and new budget for 2015.
- The **adhesion** to the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission of the following regions that have joined the CPMR during the Umeå CPMR General Assembly:
 - **Molise (Italy)**
 - **Laâyoune-Boujdour-Sakia El Hamra (Morocco)**

From now on and during the current mandate, the Region Laâyoune-Boujdour-Sakia El Hamra will be the second member for the Moroccan regions within the Intermediterranean Commission CPMR Political Bureau.

On the current CPMR and Intermediterranean Commission contacts basis, it should be considered to welcome, in the near future into the CPMR and the Intermediterranean Commission, new authorities from several Euro-Mediterranean countries that have expressed their interests. The Presidency, Secretariat and members will pursue the efforts and contacts to make it happen.

The Intermediterranean Commission Political Bureau members were also informed about the **calendar** of activities for the Commission and its cooperation projects in the last days of December and 2015.

For the calendar, the main next decision-making bodies meetings of the Intermediterranean Commission in 2015 are:

- **General Assembly of the Intermediterranean Commission in Nafplio, Peloponnese (Greece) – 2nd and 3rd of July 2015**
- **Plenary of the IMC in the frame of the 43rd General Assembly of the CPMR in Florence, Toscana (Italy) – 4th and 6th of November 2015**

The Intermediterranean Commission will be also represented in the frame of the next **Political Bureau of the CPMR** that will gather in Nantes next 27th of February 2015 and in Crete next of 12th of June 2015.

Moreover, before the next General Assembly a **meeting of the technical representatives of the Political Bureau** could be held possibly in Barcelona (in March/ end of April 2015). This meeting will have the main objective of defining the Agenda of the General Assembly and could also be the occasion for monitoring the definition of the new Working Groups Action Plans and possibly for gathering a short meeting of the Working Group on European Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies. Based on the debate of the Political Bureau, the next General Assembly should also address the issues concerning the evolution of the geopolitical situation in the Med.

Another meeting of the **Intermediterranean Commission political Bureau could take place at the end of the year** (date and place to be defined).

Concerning the **next project meetings**, the Mid Term conference of MarInA-Med project will be organized in Brussels the next 4th of March 2015 and two capitalisation events on “smart ports” and “sustainable tourism” are foreseen in April in Málaga and in May in Florence. The complete draft calendar 2015 of the Intermediterranean Commission is available and regularly updated online on the web of the Intermediterranean Commission.

4. Other themes: back-to-back events

The same day of the Political Bureau of the Intermediterranean Commission, a communication and capitalization seminar of the COM&CAP MarInA-Med project about blue energy in Mediterranean took successfully place at the Villa Méditerranée. All the presentations are available on the web of the project. A short video reportage will be available soon.

In the same venue, the 11th of December took place the CPMR-UCLG joint event on Climate which addressed the strategic challenges connected to this topic with a view to the COP 21. It gathered 150 representatives of more than 17 Mediterranean countries that unanimously approved a political declaration. Another huge event on Climate and the Mediterranean will be promoted by the PACA region and organized the 4th and 5th of June 2015 at the Villa Méditerranée: The Med COP21. In this sense, 3 preparation meetings were foreseen, the first of which already took place in Marseille in December 2014, and the others to be held in February and March 2015.