

WORKING GROUP “WATER AND ENERGY” OF THE INTERMEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION

ACTION PLAN 2017-2018

I- Introduction and context

The member regions of the Inter-Mediterranean Commission –in the framework of their Policy bureau-approved the 2014-2016 Action Plan that laid the groundwork for a reorganization of the working groups that are concerned with the sectoral policies of interest to the Mediterranean regions. This reorganization had the purpose of improving the dynamic of exchanges between its members, of promoting their active participation, the synergies, as well as better coordinated joint action and improvements to the impact of the results and the development of concrete initiatives. In this renovated framework, the “**Water and Energy**” Working Group was set up, which will be coordinated by a tandem of co-presidencies, guaranteed by the **Comunitat Valenciana** [Autonomous Region of Valencia] and the **Region Rabat-Salé-Zemmou-Zaer**. These two regions have been and will continue to be during the 2017-2018 mandate, responsible for the monitoring, and the animation and the coordination of the lines of action linked to improvements in the management of hydraulic resources and the promotion of renewable energies and energy efficiency in the Mediterranean regions. These topics strike a particular chord in the Mediterranean basin, forming part of the context of the challenges for sustainable development and involve challenges at an economic, environmental and social level.

The questions linked to Water and to Energy are tied to the policies that concern them, whether territorial, national, European or multilateral, and often have to face common challenges such as demographic growth and pressure on natural resources, and the decisions on supply and management. The development and the implementation of policies that assure the efficiency and the profitability of water and energy utilities, as well as guaranteeing access for the general public to their supplies, are essential measures that should also include an approach with all the actors and partners that are involved, both in the production and infrastructural maintenance process as well as in the areas of research, development and innovation of renewable energies and the use of alternative resources. The political decisions that are applied in the water and energy management sectors have direct impacts on the population and the environment. The influential actors must therefore take great care, supported by a potential for progress of the Mediterranean basin.

In this context and in coherence with the action plan of the IMC for the 2017-2018 period, the “Water and Energy” working group will continue its action carried out in line with previous mandates, accompanying the efforts of the regional authorities for better application of European directives and agreements taken at a Mediterranean level. These also concern policy strategies on both water and energy. The group will try to value the role and the added value of regional governments in this context, promoting active and effective coordination through joint actions for the capitalization.

Context, issues concerning Water and the regions at a Mediterranean level and actions undertaken by the IMC.

The group will continue working to monitor and improve the implementation of the Framework Agreement on Water in the Mediterranean regions, making use of the works of the European Commission – A Blueprint to Safeguard Europe’s Waters-, increasing the Mediterranean presence at the “water” discussion forums in institutional contexts of Europe; and, on the other, to encourage the exchange of good practice in the

Mediterranean, and the preparation of projects for the next period, and to prepare the establishment of consortiums for the presentation of projects. All of this, without forgetting the need to propose synergies with other working groups, taking advantage of the transversality of the subject of “water.

Faced with the difficulties over the implementation of the Framework Directive on Water and after a long process of **public consultation** the Commission initiated a **plan** (blueprint) to contribute to reaching the objectives traced out by the 2015 Directive proposing a series of instruments that the Member States of the EU can use to improve hydraulic management at a national, and regional level and the management of hydrographic basins.

The plan considers three lines of action:

- **improve the application of the EU policy on water,**
- integrate **the objectives of the policy on waters in other relevant policies** (agriculture, fishing, energy, transport and structural and cohesion funds)
- **eliminate the gaps in the current framework directive,** especially in relation to the necessary instruments to increase the efficient use of water.

In this framework, it is important to analyse and to present the **specificities of the Mediterranean basin to achieve the implementation of the Framework Directive on Water (WFD). The peculiarities of the Mediterranean basins are very difficult to fit in with the approach that the WFD** (specially with environmental objectives that is pursued). The new regulations that are prepared need to take into account these peculiar points:

A great number of Mediterranean basins present a fluvial region that has little to do with large rivers, in which the water continuously flows, from the centre and the north of Europe. Many of our rivers are intermittent or ephemeral, they also abound in endorheic areas and interfluvial coastal areas in which a differentiated river network does not exist and the management of which from the point of view of water would be impossible if hydric channels between basins and hydraulic systems did not exist. Hydraulic phenomena (droughts and flooding) are recurrent, such that our rivers are usually highly regulated and their fluvial patterns are therefore the inverse of a natural one. This situation is impossible to remedy and neither would it be desirable to do so.

On many occasions, the problems of quality arise from problems of quantity (structural hydric scarcity to which may be added circumstantial hydric scarcity due to drought). The problems of quantity are not resolved by the WFD. In effect, in the “Report on the Review of the European Water Scarcity and Droughts Policy Report”, published by the European Commission in November 2012, it concludes that “The WS&D policy has to some extent been considered as self-standing by Member States and a stronger focus on quantity issues in the implementation of the WFD is critical. In the next implementation cycles of the WFD this need to be ensured along with further integration of water quantity issues into sectoral policies.” It may therefore be presumed that the Commission is aware of the problem of the quantity of water and it calls for work to be done in this area. With a view to highlighting these peculiarities, the IMC prepared a basic document “**La Directiva Marco de Agua y las Regiones Mediterráneas** [The Water Framework Directive and the Mediterranean Regions]”, approved by the Policy Bureau of the CIM held in Marseilles on 12 December 2015 that was transmitted to all the main stakeholders and competent institutions.

Important milestones have taken place in 2014-2015, highlighting the date of December 2015, the deadline when all the waters in the EU Member states should have reached their “good status”. Also, that date was the date for the approval of flood risk management plans. Finally, 2015 is also the year in which programs of measures are beginning to be developed to achieve, at the latest, the achievement of good environmental status of the marine environment (GES) by 2020. The European Commission is evaluating all these actions, but it is clear that more strategies need to be put in place with additional measures and perhaps new approaches, focusing, for example, on the achievement of the objectives of the Water Framework Directive, Tenor of the different reports and technical reports of the Commission on the application of the Watershed Hydrological Plans shows that the good condition of the bodies of water has hardly been reached in 50% of them.

The work carried out by the group has consisted in exposing the peculiarities of the Mediterranean basins and the difficulties they present for the implementation of the European directives and achieving their objectives, to organize the exchange of good practices and experiences in this field, to participate in others Working groups and forums, such as ERRIN, EIP, European Water Conference. This has allowed for sufficient diagnosis to be able to present and approve a political document by the regions integrated in the CIM.

Furthermore, it is worth highlighting that in the Mediterranean area, the use of sea water for urban supplies that is a growing trend implies very significant energy and economic costs. This problem as well as others linked to the efficient management of water resources constitute elements in the transversal study of water and energy issues that have started to give way to joint actions.

During the period **2015-2016**, the Group produced several reflections and exchanges of good practices that culminated in a working day on Water management in the Mediterranean and renewable energies, with regions, private actors and academia. The conference produced a political document, approved by the Plenary of the Inter-Mediterranean Commission in November 2016. This document outlines lines of action to cope with current water challenges and to influence general policies in areas such as drafting of new regulations, policies and plans, as well as destination European funds and international aid. In this regard, in addition to developing more efficient water management systems, through innovative solutions, it is necessary to be able to take advantage of the available resources that are discharged to the sea, from regenerated waters, and others from salt or brackish water desalination. The policy document also focuses on promoting research and development of technologies to improve the performance and efficiencies of water transport systems as well as the production of renewable energy. This will allow a reduction in costs, thus maintaining the agri-food sector, while at the same time boosting the technological leadership of the Mediterranean regions and employment.

The lines of action defined in this document concern research and cooperation projects as well as plans for the reuse of reclaimed water through the use of renewable energies. This forms the basis for the activities of the group in the period 2017-2018.

Context, issues concerning Energy and the regions at a Mediterranean level and actions undertaken by the IMC

Regarding energy-related questions, the global economy continues to be dependent on both fossil fuels, which continue to represent a significant proportion of the energy market in Europe, and on sources of nuclear energy with the risks that they entail for the population. Besides, there is enormous potential for the promotion of renewable energies, as well as for energy efficiency, especially in buildings. In this way, the promotion of sources of renewable energy and energy efficiency are at present among the priorities of the EU, contributing as well to the fight against (mitigation of) climate change through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, the development of concrete measures in this field corresponds to the perspectives on the consumption of fossil fuel resources on which the exceptional economic growth of humanity has depended since the first industrial revolution up until contemporary times. In this context, the transition from a fossil-fuel-based economy into one based on low-carbon-emission resources implies a profound transformation in the organisation of public policies. In other words, the energy revolution calls for changes at a cultural and at an organizational level in our societies and stable coordination between the public and private sectors, as well as between different levels of government: Europe, National, Regional and local.

Energy systems and measures for energy efficiency need a twin focus, from the top down with state and European policies, but also bottom-up from local districts and the general public. This type of approach requires a very important injection of public funds and the participation of sub-national governments in the definition and implementation of energy policies. In this way, the level of technical and commercial maturity reached by the renewable sectors as well as the energy efficiency in buildings and in transport depend on public funds and they enter into competition with the “conventional sources” of energy. In the EU, the public policies on energy are developed based on a global context defined by different directives and rules. In this framework, led by the States and the Union, the regional governments play a fundamental role in the application of these energy policies at a territorial level.

At the EU level, the strategic guidelines adopted in the area of renewable energies and energy efficiency aim to:

- Diversify energy sources and foster the use of renewable energy sources (RES)
- Contribute to sustainable growth (Lisbon, Gothenburg and Europe 2020 strategies)
- Develop a high-tech renewable energy sources industry
- Facilitate the achievement of the EU objectives established in the Roadmap for moving to a competitive low-carbon economy in 2050
- Facilitate the achievement of EU objectives established in the Communications “Innovating for Sustainable Growth: A Bio-economy for Europe” (COM(2012) 60 final), “A Stronger European Industry for Growth and Economic Recovery Industrial Policy Communication Update”(COM(2012) 582 final)
- Facilitate the achievement of EU objectives established in the Directives related to Energy Efficiency, especially the last one (EED/27/2012), under review in 2017.

It is also important to mention the need to reduce EU dependence on fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions, as the affordability of energy and the competitiveness of energy prices are of increasing concern to households and businesses. The obstacles to real market integration, uncoordinated national policies and the absence of a common stance vis-à-vis non-EU countries are a stumbling block to progress. The effective response to these challenges is a more cohesive set of measures across policy areas, European and national. The agreement on the 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy as well as on the European Energy Security Strategy in 2014 were major steps forward that the EU took to build stronger frameworks in the context of the “Energy Union”, nevertheless new and strengthened measures are needed to respond to future challenges in an effective way. The Framework Strategy for the Energy Union which sets the vision for the future and integrates a series of policy areas into one cohesive strategy, incorporates mutually reinforcing initiatives which will ensure that the EU is better placed to meet its challenges based on solidarity and trust between Member States.

Concerning Climate Change Strategy, it is important to consider:

1. The Nearly Zero buildings objective through the 2010 Directive
2. The Green Paper that was adopted by the Commission in March 2013 and intends to table the 2030 framework.
3. The cost-efficient ways to make the European economy more climate-friendly and less energy-consuming that the European Commission is considering. By 2050, the European Union could cut most of its greenhouse gas emissions.
4. In December 2015, during the COP21, a global agreement was reached between the parties on climate change and in particular on the reduction of CO₂ emissions “post Kyoto”. The Mediterranean regions as well as the other key stakeholders debated and communicated their positions via the Med COP, which continues to be organized every year as a preliminary moment of debate to communicate the specificities of the basin to the COP.

In this context, it is worth underlining that energy strategies remain under the jurisdiction of national authorities, which are largely responsible for promoting them. Consequently, despite the increasing decentralization of governments and the general rise of power from the regions, energy policies often remain a competence of national governments. Nevertheless, the strong territorial impact of these sectors often results in a significant political weight of local and regional authorities. Municipalities, in particular, play an important and often overlooked role in the governance of renewable energy development. Indeed, local authorities are often the promoters of large installations and industrial projects and they have a specific role in the context of authorization procedures. The Regions are playing an increasingly important role in the promotion of renewable energies and energy efficiency, but there is still a lack of consistency and coordination between regional policies.

Various public private operators are added to these that can be represented by major industrial groups or by a multitude of small players. Civil society and community residents play an increasingly important role in the preparation of public policy for renewable energy and in the decisions on the installation of new production units. Public policies are only one link in the sequence that leads to the production of renewable energy and energy efficiency. At the other end of the chain, there are a multiplicity of private companies, specialized in the production, installation and operation of renewable energy facilities. Within the "private sphere", significant differences were observed between highly globalized and concentrated electricity generation sectors, and production sectors of heat, often much more decentralized and fragmented.

The Mediterranean Regions since 2009 focused on the field of the promotion of Renewable Energies. The first aim was to create the conditions for good governance in Mediterranean regional policies, focusing on the analysis and inventory of regional renewable energy strategies, in order to build up a shared knowledge of each Region's energy context and to identify the areas in which greater convergence of renewable energy policies was possible. Secondly, the objective was to provide an operational content, by developing concrete actions in order to: promote renewable energies in the Regions; develop a pan-Mediterranean renewable energies platform; increase the competitiveness of the territories; reconcile the different objectives in the use of renewable energies, competitiveness, and security of supply; sustainable bio-energy and the bio-economy. These activities took place within the overall objective of pooling and sharing knowledge, in order to create new "Mediterranean" tools (database, methodologies, etc.) and local partnerships. In pursuit of these objectives, the group launched a survey of interested Regions on governance, the exchange of experience and good practice between the regions and territories and defend the Regions' interests. The IMC organized seminars and meetings until 2014 on these topics and contributed to setting up significant EU cooperation projects.

Over the last four years, three projects have in particular been developed by a consortium formed of Mediterranean regions - members of this group – and the IMC CPMR:

- ENERMED, on the improvement of the quality of regional policies in support of Renewable Energies (RE), the contribution of RE to energy production, the economic, social, environmental, landscaped impact of the projects on RE;
- ELIHMED on the improvement of energy efficiency and the promotion of energy saving in low income housing (LIH) in the MED area;
- MARIE "Towards Energy Efficiency Improvement in the Existing Mediterranean Buildings".

These three projects – with the technical and political support of the Inter-Mediterranean Commission - produced the political declaration of Ljubljana: Responding to challenges regarding energy efficiency and renewable energy in the Med Buildings and a joint Policy Paper: Improving MED transnational cooperation answers to Energy Efficiency challenges in buildings that was presented and debated in the framework of the final MARIE and ELIHMED events in 2014.

Other projects such as SURE "Towards Energy Efficiency Improvement in the Existing Mediterranean Buildings" were developed in the context of the IMC CPMR and the CIUDAD programme together with partners from Europe, Belarus and Morocco. Other MED Innovation projects such as EMILIE, REPUBLIC-MED, ENCERTICUS, GRASP, CO-EFFICIENT, etc. have developed innovation lines to increase energy efficiency and are proposing new energy renovation measures for Building Energy Renovation.

Accordingly, in 2013-2014, the group felt the need to widen its range of activities to cover matters of energy efficiency, tackling energy issues in a more comprehensive way, encouraging more partners to actively collaborate in specific matters, to join initiatives, to contribute to the work of the CPMR intergroup on "Energy and Climate Change".

Now the results of these and other projects from the IMC members are underway, to shape new actions at both a political and a technical level (both in the field of ETC and other programs for cooperation H2020, ESIF funds in general etc.). Over the 2017-18 period, special priority will be given to the definition of a **Joint Action Plan for the Energy Renovation in Mediterranean Buildings** and new water-and-energy-related synergies will be provided. Several projects on these issues are under development, such as SHERPA, within the

framework of Interreg Med, which will contribute to the definition of such a plan in the area of public buildings.

It should be noted that, at the time, the work of the IMC on Water and Energy also contributed to the IMC reflection on Climate Change collaborating with the MED Commission of UCGLU in the preparation of a common policy position on Climate that was approved at a summit of local and regional democratic representatives at Marseilles, in December 2014, and was passed on to all the main institutional stakeholders, in preparation for the COP21 meeting in Paris. The group also contributed to the ARLEM report on climate change and energy in 2015-2016.

The group also contributed to the workshops of the Mediterranean Commission of UCLG providing experiences on integrated territorial development and in particular linked to energy renovation in buildings.

Furthermore, the IMC through the group participated in several consultations, for example the Interreg Med Program in view of the 2014-2020 programming and gave inputs to the new ENI CBC Med programme concerning Energy and Water issues (through the actions of the IMC and its members), as well as contributing to consultations on the new European directives on renewable energies and energy efficiency. The IMC also forged partnerships with several external partners dealing with water and energy (ex. IMC-Center for Mediterranean Integration and several universities, also in the framework of cooperation projects).

On the other hand, it should be noted that on the 25th of September 2015, world leaders adopted a set of global objectives (ODS) to eradicate poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new agenda for sustainable development. Each objective has specific goals to be achieved over the next 15 years and several have to do with climate, energy and water. To achieve these goals, everyone has to do their part: governments, the private sector, civil society. Therefore, the group will try to positively influence the localization of some of these goals related to its objectives and activities.

II- General Objective

To contribute from the actions of the regions – in collaboration with the key Mediterranean actors – to the sustainable development of the Mediterranean basin, providing concrete responses to strategic challenges in the area of water and energy and the implementation of the most relevant directives and policies and the local and the regional impact of the European Union on these matters.

This objective will be implemented through specific lines of action both at the level of political actions as well as pilot and European projects.

III-Lines of action

The “Water and Energy” group seeks to develop the following three lines of priority action throughout its mandate and with a medium-long-term projection over coming years:

1- Respond to the strategic challenge of the Water in the Mediterranean

a) Implementation of the Framework Directive on Water (WFD) – Blueprint for the Mediterranean and response to water challenges on a Mediterranean scale

With the intention of transferring the special problem faced by the Mediterranean regions in the application of the FDW to the European institutions and main actors, they will continue to develop those aspects that are considered of greatest interest with regard to the previous document on the WFD and the Mediterranean specificities. On the other hand, the group will pursue the lines of action of the political document, approved by the Plenary of the Intermediterranean Commission in November 2016.

Expected outcome:

- Diffusion of the specific problem of the implementation of the WFD in the Mediterranean and monitoring thereof.

- Development of the lines of action of the 2016 IMC policy document concerning research and cooperation as well as plans for the reuse of reclaimed water through the use of renewable energies.

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- b) Increased presence of the IMC in debating forums on water in the context of European institutions (Commission, European Parliament, the Regional Committee and ARLEM) with a view to presenting the specific points of the Mediterranean regions in matters concerning water and collaboration with key players in the European and Mediterranean landscape.

It is the regions that know the problematic issues and it is also the regions that have to apply a great majority of the measures. In many cases, these solutions require inter-territorial collaboration. It is a matter of proposing mechanisms to achieve this collaboration. The efficiency of hydraulic systems increases when an interconnection exists between them. We frequently witness the approval of norms prepared by countries from the centre and the north of Europe that are very expensive and difficult to apply in our countries and, in addition, are in many cases inefficient or respond to problematic issues that are not those of principal importance in relation to conservation and the improvement of our environment and natural resources. It is of great importance to increase the presence in debating forums with a view to transferring specific knowledge of the peculiarities of our regions, and the measures that may be applied to resolve these issues in relation to water and the environment.

Actions/expected results:

- Synergies and possible collaboration with: the MEP Water Group of the European Parliament, the European Commission (e.g. DG ENVI, Directorate C Quality of Life, Water & Air), Committee of the Regions / ARLEM and other networks and bodies (e.g. (WSSTP), the Water Working Group of ERRIN, in the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) Action Groups, the Network for Water in European Regions and Cities (NETWERCH2O), the European Federation of Water Supply and Sanitation Technology National Water Associations (EUREAU), Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean (GWP-Med), Collaboration and participation with other stakeholders involved in defending the interests of water in the Mediterranean: Mediterranean Water Institute (IME) Marseille, FIMA, Foundation- Water Institute, based in Murcia etc.
- Participation in Conferences and consultations organized by these institutions and actors. In particular, participation in the group created during the Public Consultation process on the Political Options in the optimization of Water Reuse in Europe, in collaboration with Murcia (group created by the European Commission). Participation in the EIP (European Innovation Partnership) Action Group. The Water DG of the Generalitat Valenciana is already part of the Finnowater group. Participation in conferences can be distributed among the members of the Group in order to cover as many forums as possible and to transmit the group's key messages.

Calendar: 2017-2018

- c) Exchange of good practices from the Mediterranean

The high value added to water in the Mediterranean basins (because of the characteristics of its climate and soil) and the large problematic issues that arise for its management (because of its scarcity and irregular supply) have meant that the management of water in many Mediterranean regions is a magnificent example of effective and integral management that takes into account both surface and subterranean waters, conventional and non-conventional resources (reuse and desalination), investigation and innovation in this area, models of governance. It is very important that these good practices be used to good effect and their results exploited.

Actions/Expected outcomes:

- Summary of Good Practices or experiences, reports and exchange day

The exchanges will focus on the lines identified in the political document of 2016 ie:

1. Relation between available water and energy. Use of alternative energies (eg photovoltaic for irrigation / pumping systems)
2. Emerging pollutants
3. Impacts of spills on the coastal environment
4. Integrated water management and administrative and governance systems (management models, legal entity of the managing body - public entity, subject to public or private legal order, mixed, company, difficulties and strengths, financing, control mechanisms and effectiveness of models, regional entities regulating tariff criteria / guidelines, maintenance obligations of municipal water supply and sanitation networks, discharges, reclaimed water, etc.)

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- July-September 2017: development of a questionnaire and the concept of an exchange day on integrated water management with a focus on administrative systems
- September-November 2017: compilation and preparation of data (possible production of a report)
- December 2017: setting up of the exchange meeting on the management of the urban water cycle in the Spanish, Mediterranean and EU regions (consideration will be given to the application to some regions of other geographical commissions of the CIM).
- January 2018: realization of the exchange day
- February 2018: conclusions, development of cooperation and application in each territory (use of lessons learned to shape regional policies and the administrative approach to water resources management in each region)

d) Preparation and presentation of projects in the new programming period.

Different actions are proposed, with a view to responding to subsequent calls for projects aimed at the presentation of projects eligible for funding in the new European funding programmes.

In continuity with earlier works of the IMC in the exchange of good practice in the management of water, the presentation of projects will find a place in the new calendar of this working group, in which the solution of problems over satisfaction of demand is combined with the achievement of environmental objectives, in line with European and Mediterranean policy. Many of these projects are perfectly viable, but require funding to be carried out. One objective of the IMC has to be for European investment to focus on this type of project. To do so, in addition to disseminating good practice compiled in earlier periods, and to encourage them to be translated into new measures and policies at regional, local and basin level, the work of collecting project and expert data will continue.

Actions/expected outcomes:

- Inventory update of projects already carried out over the earlier period in Territorial Cooperation/MED/LIFE/Framework Programme/ENPI which involve the regions in water issues and capitalization
- Updating of a database of experts on water resources management (Group members)
- Preparation of cooperative projects with a view to the funding opportunities over the new programming period (MED INTERREG, ENI CBC MED, INTERREG EUROPE, UIA, H2020, LIFE), together with the names identified for the political document of 2016.

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Several projects have been submitted by the regions involved in this group and are awaiting evaluation (ex. Interreg Europe and H2020) to be adopted for synergies with the CIM-CPMR, work on exchanging new practices and for capitalization. Other projects will be conceived within the framework of the next calls.

e) Other topics for possible treatment

- Analysis and proposals for the treatment of specific local issues, such as those related to islands and depopulated areas.

2 – To adapt to energy challenges and to promote the potential of renewable energies and energy efficiency in the Mediterranean

a) Continue the work of the Task force launched in 2016 to drive energy renovation in Buildings of the Mediterranean in the framework of Multi-Level Governance to design and to implement the Joint Action Plan in agreement with the Declaration of Ljubljana and the Policy Paper “Responding to challenges regarding energy efficiency and renewable energy in Mediterranean buildings”¹².

- Develop the 5 lines of action defined in 2014, in the framework of the MARIE-ELIHMED-PROFORBIOMED capitalization process, covered in the aforementioned Policy Paper as basic lines of action for the joint design and development of the **Joint Action Plan for the Energy Renovation in Mediterranean Buildings**:
 - Coordination of regional strategies in Energy Renovation in buildings and development public-private sector partnerships
 - Actions to improve the market for energy renovation at all levels (to interconnect supply and demand)
 - Information (availability, comparability, quantity and quality of relevant data for energy renovation in buildings) and awareness raising/awareness activities.
 - Capability-strengthening actions (ERB Management, services for housing, new efficient passive Solutions etc.)
 - Improvement of alignment and coordination of funds (H2020, Life+, CTE, ESIF...) for energy renovation in buildings (mainstreaming)

The Task force will slowly involve external participants at other levels of governance and financial entities/clusters, assisting public/private cooperation in a plan of multilevel governance.

- Promotion of specific coordinated projects by regions and/or with external partners, in particular implementation of the European SHERPA project (Interreg Med) which is among its objectives to contribute to the drafting of the joint action plan by the public Mediterranean buildings.
- Actions with political impact (complementary – accompaniment), by way of example, use of the reflections of the TF and of the projects for contribution to consultations of the EP and of the Committee of Regions on the revision of the directives on energy efficiency.
- Initiate synergies with the existing initiatives, platforms such as the Charter of Mayors, IMEDER, and others.

This action and TF will be the priority of the energy pillar of this plan for the IMC in the 2017-2018 mandate.

b) Promotion of renewable energies in the Mediterranean

- Develop actions with a political impact (ex. Continue the reflections on the application of prominent EU directives like REDII /communications in this field)
- Set in motion initiatives/projects for specific cooperation to promote renewable energies in the Mediterranean with special attention to the southern shoreline (beginning with the capitalization of previously developed projects by the regions and other actors).

¹ prepared by AVITEM and Department of Territory and Sustainability of the Catalan Government

- Organization of seminars on the exchange of experiences.
- c) Bring the Mediterranean perspective to the reflections of the IMC, of the CPMR and of external partners with regard to the mitigation of climate change
- Participation in the drafting of specific political documents for Assembly's and Bureau's
 - Participation in events organized for the lead-up to COPs.
 - Contribute to public consultations on importance to EU directives / communications that are of interest
 - Synergies with the Climate CPMR TF, the Islands and Atlantic Arc Commissions.
- d) Develop and consolidate the relations with the main "energy" actors of the Mediterranean and with the entities that finance actions in this framework
- MEDENER, Union for the Mediterranean, Centre or Mediterranean Integration.
 - Energy clusters, ESCOs.
 - EIB, Private banking sector etc.
 - Other networks of sub-national governments (Med Cities, Arco Latino...) and themes (Climate Alliance...)

3 – Water and energy as transversal elements: promote the synergies between actions that involve a joint water-energy approach (e.g. Climate Change), as well as projecting its elements of transversality towards the activities of the Intermediterranean Commission working groups on other sectoral policies.

- e) Joint approach and Energy-Water synergies in the framework of the action for the adaptation and mitigation of Climate Change:
- Analyse the integration of water management with energy and territory. The consideration of factors such as the water-energy binomial and climate change in the policy of waters, taking into account that the European Commission also supports initiatives on climate change and on the energetic utilization of water.
 - Moreover, in this field, the possibility also arises in this field of proposing synergies with Climate-KIC, Knowledge and Innovation Community on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation.
 - Participation in the "MED COP" and transversal reflections on Climate Change and the contribution of good regional practices to the exercise driven by the joint position on Climate Change with the MED Commission of CGLU.
 - Contribution to the work of the new CPMR Climate Task Force
- f) Synergies with the Economic and Social Cohesion Working Group (WG) and its "Culture and Tourism Task Force" (and linked projects):
- The management of water as a cultural and touristic element.
 - Problematic issues of Tourism with regard to the management of hydro-resources and proposed solutions.
 - Energy efficiency and renewables in the framework of the conception and implementation of Sustainable Tourism,
- g) Synergies with WG Transport and PMI

- Identification and promotion of the potential of blue energies (drawing on the capitalization of MarInA-Med, the work of InnoBlueGrowth, and other initiatives)
 - Support for monitoring activity of the Framework Directive “Marine Strategy Framework Directive” and the implementation of its eco-systematic approach.
 - Support for monitoring the activity of the Maritime Spatial Planning Directive
 - Support for the future implementation of the SMDD 2.0 – MAP strategy
- h) Territorial cooperation and macroregional strategies in the Mediterranean
- Contributions to the reflexions of the content concerning macro-regional strategies and the emerging maritime basins in the Mediterranean.
 - Preparation of projects for the forthcoming programming period (ENI CBC Med, MED Programme, H2020, Life + others)
- Subsidiarily:
- i) Synergies with the “Core Group” of the CPMR on Cohesion Policy
- Contributions of the members with regard to debates on the implementation and the exploitation of ESI funds for actions related to water and energy in the Med regions.
- j) Synergies with the AGRIMED Working Group (launched by PACA)
- Contributions of the members with regard to debates/initiatives and themes that concern water-energy and agricultural/rural development.

IV- Organization

The working group "Water and Energy" is co-presided by the **Comunitat Valenciana** [Regional Government of Valencia] and the **Region Rabat-Salé-Zemmou-Zaer** which coordinate, support and dynamize the activities to be carried out with the support of the IMC Secretariat. The Comunitat Valenciana will be especially responsible for leading the water pillar of the group, while the Rabat Region will be the pillar linked to energy, both of which will promote the transversality of the work.

It is moreover possible to create specific task forces on the basis of the expressed needs and the specific initiatives that any one dynamic may require and the organization of special work to guarantee the efficiency and effectiveness of the actions. These task forces may be carried out by other regions in coherence with the planning of the proposed activities by the co-presidencies of the working group.

In the framework of the “Water and Energy” group, the following task forces will be created.

– Task force for Energy Renovation in Mediterranean Buildings, coordinated by the **Generalitat de Catalunya [Regional Government of Catalonia]**. This task force will pursue its objectives within the framework of the lines of action defined in this plan and in close coordination with the activities promoted by the SHERPA project.

- Other possible ad hoc task forces can be created on the preparation of specific European projects and actions for exchange of good practice (to be confirmed).

Meetings of the Group and their Task forces are organized taking into account the other meetings on the agenda of the CPMR and of the IMC. Travel and staff expenses from the regions will correspond to the members of the participating regions (except in the case of co-financing by some European project).

They may organize meetings and seminars in collaboration with other associated organisms, and in the framework of European projects.

Finally, e-mail communication, on-line exchange of documents (IMC website and new web integrating CPMR in preparation/dropbox), the organization of short follow up meetings by phone or videoconferencing (using for example openconf, gotomeeting) will all be encouraged, with a view to stimulating effective coordination and giving continuity to the tasks shared between members.

The working languages will be English, French and Spanish.

The distribution of tasks in the work to be done will be carried out in an efficient way in consultation with the members of the group and will take their specific characteristics, experience and preferences into account. The members of the group and the co-presidents will maintain permanent contact with the Secretary of the IMC who will provide support covering logistics, communication and the organization of work.

The members of the group will try to develop useful contacts with organizations, experts, pressure groups, and representatives of European institution in relation to the themes covered by the plan with the idea of improving their actions.

V- Calendar

Group events and other meetings and acts of interest:

- Med Spring final conference in Brussels, 6-7 July 2017
- Next meeting of the Working Group with focus on water in Seville, end of January 2018
- Forums about water 2017-18 (tbc)
- Meetings of TF Climate CRPM 2017-18: ex. 28 June 2017 on adaptation to climate change
- Arlem Commission on Sustainable Territorial Development in Brussels, 24 October 2017
- SHERPA meetings and conferences in 2017-18: steering committee 22-23 November 2017 in Crete and Associated Partner Forum, future meetings in 2018 back to back with the CIM energy efficiency TF etc.
- Seminar on Energy Efficiency Open days 2017, October 2017
- Community Events Med Nice HP project Interreg med on Energy Efficiency, October 2017 and 2018 (tbc)
- MED COP 23 tbc October 2017

Other possible meetings

VI- Annexes

I. Document on the WFD and the Mediterranean regions 2015

II. Water Policy Paper 2016

III. SHERPA 2017 project documentationtheref

These documents are available on the website of the IMC or upon specific request to the organization