

# MEDITERRANEAN CATALUNYA FORUM

#MEDCAT

## THE FUTURE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION: INTEGRATING STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND COHESION AFTER 2020

**4 February 2019**

**Venue:** Palau de Pedralbes  
Avinguda Diagonal, 686 - 08034 Barcelona

This international seminar is promoted by the Catalan Government in collaboration with the Euroregion Pyrénées-Méditerranée and the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission and organized “back to back” with the renewal of the presidency of the Euroregion Pyrénées-Méditerranée, from the Government of the Generalitat de Catalunya to the Balearic Islands and the organization of the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission Political Bureau.

The event will focus its debates on the future of the Mediterranean region, understood as a macro area for multilevel and multi actor cooperation on common challenges for the Mediterranean territories and its citizens. This debate will take place in a crucial moment of transition between the current and the following EU Programming periods and on the eve of the European Elections and the renewal of the European Commission.

In this framework and concerning the more specific debates on the future of Cohesion, Neighbourhood and Development policies - especially the perspectives for territorial cooperation in the post 2020 period - the participants will raise their attention on the added value and the importance of deploying more efforts for improving synergies towards a more efficient Mediterranean cooperation that can lead to more cohesion and sustainable development in the basin. With this goal in mind and the horizon of the next decade, the organizers - jointly with other Mediterranean Networks – will discuss the possibility to seal a wide territorial Alliance and discuss a political statement advocating for a future long-term integrated strategy or coordination mechanism capable of creating sound links between existing strategies, initiatives, key players, funding streams and instruments, towards a better and sustainable future for all.

The seminar is organized in the frame of the Mediterranean Catalunya Forum, and a series of international events launched by the Catalan Government that will gather different initiatives, conferences and project forums aiming to reinforce the place and the relevance of the Mediterranean, as well as the role of the regional cooperation in the EU and Euro-Mediterranean agenda and policies.



## PROGRAMME

**8:30-9:00h**                      **Registration**

**9:00-10:00h**                      **HANDOVER OF THE PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROREGION  
PYRÉNÉES-MÉDITERRANÉE (EPM), FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF  
CATALUNYA TO THE BALEARIC ISLANDS.**

*Balance of the EPM's 2018 activities and perspectives. Speeches by:*

- **Quim Torra**, President of the Government of Catalonia
- **Carole Delga**, President of the Occitanie Region
- **Francina Armengol**, President of the Government of Balearic Islands

**10:00-11:00h**                      **COFFEE BREAK FOR PARTICIPANTS / EPM PRESS CONFERENCE IN  
PARALLEL**

**11:00-11:30h**                      **OPENING OF THE SEMINAR**

- **Alfred Bosch**, Minister of Foreign Action, Institutional Relations and Transparency of the Generalitat de Catalunya: Catalunya, a mediterranean country: Presentation of the new mediterranean strategy of the Government of Catalonia.
- **Apostolos Katsifaras**, President of the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission and Governor of the Region Dytiki Ellada (Western Greece)
- **Francina Armengol**, President of the Euroregion Pyrénées-Méditerranée and President of the Government of Balearic Islands
- **Carole Delga**, President of the Occitanie Region
- **Nasser Kamel**, Secretary General - Union for the Mediterranean

**11:30-13:00h**                      **SESSION I: "EMERGING STRATEGIES: TOWARDS MORE  
INTEGRATION, INNOVATION AND COHESION IN THE  
MEDITERRANEAN"**

*The session will review the state of play concerning the current macro-regional strategies, sea basin and other relevant cooperation initiatives for the sustainable and integrated territorial development in the Mediterranean (E.g. EUSAIR, WestMED, BLUEMED, PRIMA among others). This multilevel governance approach is made in a long-term perspective of territorial needs, towards a more efficient implementation and to develop more synergies. The future of territorial cooperation in the Mediterranean will also be addressed during this session as one of the main drivers for generating concrete actions on the ground.*



*Main issues to be discussed: What are the specificities of the Mediterranean regional cooperation? Why this multilevel and multi actor cooperation is necessary in the region? Which is its added value? What challenges are facing the main actors involved? Why the debate about the Mediterranean region and Neighbourhood policy is so strategic at that moment? Which concrete ways to better bridge different but interlinked strategies and initiatives without doubling efforts? Which future for the Territorial Cooperation in the Mediterranean?*

Introductory remarks by **Thomas Perrin**, University Lecturer in Planning and Urbanism – Laboratory TVES-Territoires, Villes, Environnement et Société at Lille University (France)

*Interventions by:*

- **Marc Lobet**, European Commission- DG REGIO
- **Alessandra Sensi**, Head of Sector Environment and Blue Economy, Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat
- **Mercedes Acitores**, Interact Programme

Territorial needs and views from the Regions:

- **Agnès Rampal**, Regional Councillor Sud Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (France) and Vice-President of the Intermediterranean Commission
- **Tayeb Masbahi**, Vice-President Region of L'Oriental (Morocco) and Vice-President of the Intermediterranean Commission

A pioneer maritime strategy for the sustainable maritime and coastal development of Catalonia and the Mediterranean:

- **Sergi Tudela**, Director-General for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs of the Government of Catalonia: the 2030 Maritime Strategy of Catalonia

Debate with participants

*Introduction and moderation by **Davide Strangis**, Executive Secretary of the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission*

**13:00-13:30h**      **JOINT POLITICAL DECLARATION AND STRATEGIC ALLIANCE FOR IMPROVING MEDITERRANEAN COOPERATION IN A LONG-TERM PERSPECTIVE**

*Speeches by representatives of the organisations promoting the #MedCooperationAlliance and signature of the Declaration*

- **Apostolos Katsifaras**, President of the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission and Governor of the Region Dytiki Ellada (Western Greece)



- **Francina Armengol**, President of the Euroregion Pyrénées-Méditerranée and President of the Government of Balearic Island
- **Valérie Dumontet**, Vice-President Arco Latino and of the Department of Aude
- **Xavier Tiana**, Secretary General of MedCities
- **Francesco Cocco**, Secretary General of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion

**13:30-14:30h            MEDITERRANEAN LUNCH**

**14:30-16:00h            SESSION II: “MEDITERRANEAN PIONERING ACTIONS:  
IMPROVING SYNERGIES AMONG STRATEGIES AND  
STAKEHOLDERS”**

*The session will focus on actions, instruments and tools capable of generating synergies among initiatives, strategies, cooperation programmes, projects and key stakeholders (e.g. local and regional authorities, private sector, academia, civil society organizations etc.) that could contribute to build in the future a more cohesive, sustainable and co-owned Mediterranean.*

*Main issues to be discussed: How to bridge in a more integrated way all the shores of the Mediterranean basin to be more cohesive? How to increase the weight of the area at EU and international level as well as its potential to innovate? Which actions or mechanisms to support an increase gradually the co-ownership by all Mediterranean countries and actors involved at territorial level? How to integrate concretely specific strategies and pioneering initiatives?*

*Introductory remarks by **Andrea Noferini**, Researcher at the Institute of European Studies of the Barcelona Autonomous University and Assistant Professor at the University Pompeu Fabra (Catalonia)*

*Interventions by:*

- **Prof. Patrizio Bianchi**, Regional Minister of Emilia Romagna Region, 1st Vice President of the Intermediterranean Commission on “Big Data as an instrument at the service of territorial policies, value chain networks and Mediterranean strategies”
- **Teresa Medina**, Deputy Director in charge of economic programming – Government of Catalunya, and leader of PANORAMED working group on innovation, Interreg MED project: governance, activities concerning liaising, mainstreaming, innovation and the future strategic projects on sustainable tourism and maritime surveillance.
- **Guillaume Cros**, Vice-President of Occitanie Region European on the European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) and their potential to improve Mediterranean cooperation and strategies.



- **Monica Barni**, Vice-President of Tuscany, on youth inclusion, education, research & innovation as key enablers for new opportunities, co-ownership and the integration between strategies and policies in the Mediterranean territories.
- **Francesco Cocco**, Secretary General of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion (AIE) on the “Adriatic Ionian Network of Universities, Regions, Chambers of Commerce and Cities” (AI-NURECC) and its potential for improving the triple helix cooperation at EUSAIR level.
- **Béchir Béjaoui**, Marine Environment Laboratory (MEL), National Institute of Marine Sciences and Technologies (INSTM) Tunisia, partner of “Med Coast for Blue Growth” UfM labelled project.

*Debate with participants*

*Introduction and moderation by **Xavier Bernard-Sans**, Director of the Euroregion Pyrénées-Méditerranée.*

#### **16:00-16:30h CLOSING SESSION**

*Synthesis and conclusions of the sessions of the seminar:*

- **Valerià Paül**, University Lecturer in Geography and Planning at the University of Santiago de Compostela and Director of the Euro-Regional Studies Centre (Galicia/Northern Portugal)
- **Antoni Durà Guimerà**, Professor of Geography - Autonomous University of Barcelona

*Closing by **Mireia Borrell**, External Relations Director General - Government of Catalonia..*

#### **16:30-16:45h COFFEE BREAK**

#### **16:45-19:30h PARALLEL MEETINGS OF THE CPMR INTERMEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION AND THE EPM (ONLY FOR MEMBERS)**

 Political Bureau of the Intermediterranean Commission

 Assembly of the EGTC Euroregion Pyrénées-Méditerranée - Debates on budgetary orientation