

# Summary and conclusions from the meeting of the Intermediterranean Commission

18 October 2018 - Funchal (Madeira - Portugal)

## INTRODUCTION

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**Panagiotis Bramos**, Vice-Governor of the Dytiki Ellada Region (Greece), and representative of the President of the Intermediterranean Commission, welcomed the participants and thanked the Region of Madeira for its hospitality. He gave apologies for Apostolos Katsifaras who, for health reasons, could not travel to attend this meeting. He referenced the last General Meeting in Patras, and presented the objectives of the meeting, in particular the debate that needs to take place regarding the matter of amendments to the CPMR's Final Declaration.

**Dimitris Karampoulas** spoke on behalf of President Katsifaras to reiterate his commitment to the fundamental principles of the Intermediterranean Commission and CPMR's actions. He brought the conclusions of the General Assembly and the Patras seminar on the cohesion policy and co-operation in the Mediterranean to a vote. These conclusions were approved unanimously, and **Dimitris Karampoulas** opened the debate on the amendments.

## DRAFT 2018 FINAL DECLARATION OF THE CPMR

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**Davide Strangis**, Executive Secretary of the Intermediterranean Commission, reiterated the voting procedure for the Final Declaration and the process for managing any amendments. He then presented the amendments, from the simplest to the most problematic.

A non-exhaustive summary of the discussions:

Catalonia and the Oriental sought clarification on point 61. **Ettayeb El Masbahi** wanted clarification of the notion of "country of origin". Damien Périssé spoke to recall the request of the Pays de la Loire Region which made a distinction between country of origin and country of transit within the context of cooperation. The Rabat Region proposed "country of provenance". **Dimitris Karampoulas** expressed a wish to retain the vocabulary used in official EU documents. Following the request of the Sud Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region on the amendment of Catalonia, it was agreed that the Catalonia Region will individually support its amendment.

At point 62, **Davide Strangis** suggested different reformulation options. The third proposal put forward by the presidency was selected for voting in the synthesis group. **Dimitris Karampoulas** explained that this concerns migrants and local populations.

At point 63, the participants reached consensus regarding the retention.

At point 64, **Davide Strangis** asked the participants about a possible merge of amendments or a specific point to be supported. A merge will be supported.

At point 65, Catalonia sought a reformulation.

At point 66, the participants reached a consensus.

Finally, the Balearic Region returned to point 27 and the point relating to the 150 km and expressed its wish for the Intermediterranean Commission to vote against it because this element is contradictory to our positions.

**Davide Strangis** called on the Regions to report any other amendments that appear to contradict their positions. He concluded on the amendment from Lazio at point 45 which obtained the consensus of the members.

Read the [CPMR Final Declaration - Madeira 2018](#)

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## POLITICAL BUREAU OF THE INTERMEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION

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**Dimitris Karampoulas** recalled the various discussions that led to the joint application by the Sud Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and Occitanie Regions. The two Regions reached agreement on the question of the French Vice-Presidency at the Political Bureau of the Intermediterranean Commission: for 2018/2019, the Sud Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region will act as Vice-President and the Occitanie Region will take over for 2019/2020. Agnès Rampal and Guy Escoplé reiterated their commitment to the service of the Mediterranean Regions. Agnès Rampal announced a series of important events including the "Summit of the two Shores" that will take place in Marseilles in June 2019. This could offer possible synergies for the Intermediterranean Commission Assembly in 2019. Guy Escoplé explained that he wanted to organise a Political Bureau in 2020 in his Region.

The members also agreed on the appointment of Patrizio Bianchi as First Vice-President of the Intermediterranean Commission, and of the Catalonia Region as deputy for the President of the Intermediterranean Commission at the CPMR Political Bureau.

## OPPORTUNITIES AND PROSPECTS FOR THE INTERMEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION IN RELATION TO BIG DATA

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**Stefania Leoni**, for the Region Emilia-Romagna, began by giving apologies for Patrizio Bianchi, who had to remain in Italy for personal reasons. She explained that her [presentation](#) will be available on the Intermediterranean Commission website. She stressed the importance of the theme of Big Data for the near future and territorial policies. And she talked about the Big Data event that will be organised with the Intermediterranean Commission in Bologna in December 2018.

## INTERNAL INTERMEDITERRANEAN COMMITTEE QUESTIONS

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**Davide Strangis** give a quick presentation of the financial elements of the Intermediterranean Commission, particularly the 2019 budget.

He concluded with the 2018/2019 Intermediterranean Commission calendar and recalled the upcoming dates:

- December 2018, big data event in Bologna (Emilia-Romagna);
- February 2019: Political Bureau of the Intermediterranean Commission and seminar with the Euro-Region in Barcelona (Catalunya);
- In spring 2019, a seminar of the "Economic and Social Cohesion" working group in Montpellier (Occitanie)
- In the first half of 2019, the General Assembly of the Intermediterranean Commission (date and location to be confirmed);
- In the context of the Mediterranean of the future, an event will be organised in Marseilles on 24 June in Marseilles (Summit of the two Shores);
- Invitation from the Comunitat Valenciana for an event in Alicante on the external aspects of migration.

## CONCLUSIONS

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The plenary approved:

- The minutes of the 2018 General Meeting in Dytiki Ellada;
- The minutes of the seminar on "The added value of European cohesion policy and cooperation in the Mediterranean" - Dytiki Ellada 2018;
- The contributions/proposals for amendment consolidated by the Regions of the Intermediterranean Commission in the Final Declaration of the CPMR;
- The financial records (2018 accounts and 2019 budget proposal to be approved by the CPMR);
- The activity report for July-October 2018.

In conclusion, **Panagiotis Bramos** thanked all the participants for their attendance at this meeting and invited all members to the next Political Bureau of the Intermediterranean Commission taking place in Barcelona in February.