



CPMR INTERMEDITERRANEAN
COMMISSION

Meeting of the Intermediterranean Commission

17 October 2019 - Palermo (Sicily - Italy)

CONCLUSIONS

INTRODUCTION

Patrizio Bianchi, Regional Councillor of Emilia-Romagna, First Vice-President and *Acting* President of the Intermediterranean Commission, opened the meeting. He took the opportunity to thank Apostolos Katsifaras for his contribution in the course of the presidency of the Dytiki Ellada Region. After having reiterated the objectives of the meeting, he made a presentation on the state of cooperation in the Mediterranean, the Alliance for Cooperation in the Mediterranean #MedCoopAlliance, the various programmes that are involved in territorial cooperation and the main issues.

Élodie Nunes, Executive Secretary of the Intermediterranean Commission, presented the minutes of the Marseille General Assembly, which were unanimously approved.

MEDCOOPALLIANCE

Gemma Aubarell, for the Catalonia Region, coordinator of the Task Force "Territorial Cooperation and Macro-regional Strategies" of the Intermediterranean Commission, provided an overview of the MedCoopAlliance, in particular of the development perspectives for this initiative. She summarized the progress made in defining the work plan, which was essentially based on three points: the creation and structure of this network platform, the priorities for strengthening it and broadening the partnership, and, finally, its added value. She outlined some guidelines for 2020: the platform's management, the focus of work on all the shores of the basin, financial capacities and the platform's operational role in structuring work in the Euro-Mediterranean area, in specific sectors.

Tajana Huzak, Assistant to the Croatian Minister for Regional Development and European Funds, outlined Croatia's investment measures. She highlighted the interest of MedCoopAlliance and expressed her support for this initiative. She pointed out Croatia's commitments in territorial cooperation, in particular cross-border cooperation, and mentioned a number of cooperation projects, including PANORAMED, in which her ministry is involved and which she believed was a good example of multi-level cooperation.

Daniela Bica, director of the "Programming" department of the Sicily Region, referred to the two programmes in which she is involved: Interreg Italy-Malta and the IEV Italy-Tunisia. She underlined the Sicily Region's commitment to these neighbourhood policy programmes and the various identified objectives. She outlined the actions to be taken to bring the two Mediterranean shores closer together.

Ilia Mazzone, for COPPEM, spoke and formalised the signature MedCoopAlliance by this Sicilian-based network. She made a brief presentation of [COPPEM](#) and their reasons for supporting the MedCoopAlliance. She reminded the audience of the possibilities for cooperation between the two shores and called for more cooperation between the various stakeholders.

Élodie Nunes acknowledged the contributions and pointed out that these aspects and best practices would gradually be integrated into the Task Force's scope of work and subsequently distributed.

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DECLARATION ON SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY

Guillaume Cros, Vice-President of the Occitania Region and Vice-President of the Intermediterranean Commission, made a presentation of the [Declaration on Social and Solidarity Economy](#) (SSE) introduced by his Region. He mentioned the efforts of the "Economic and Social Cohesion" working group that the Occitan Region coordinates with the Lazio Region. He stated that SSE is a priority subject for cooperation in the Occitan Region and reminded the group of the last meeting held in Montpellier in April 2019, during which it had been decided to prepare this Declaration.

Guillaume Cros emphasised the importance of SSE as a direct and effective response to local issues. He stressed the importance of this sector in the Occitania economy, and in the Mediterranean economic context as a whole. This new business model, which combines social value and economic growth, while being sustainable, is a model to promote. He concluded his speech with the main messages of the Declaration for a social and solidarity-based Mediterranean in the future. Finally, he expressed the wish that these messages be brought to our main interlocutors.

Patrizio Bianchi brought the Declaration to the vote. It was unanimously approved.

Agnès Rampal underlined her support to the Declaration and encouraged the Regions to participate in the event for the Mediterranean of the future, which would be held on 25/26 November in the South Region.

CPMR MANIFESTO

Davide Strangis, Executive Director of the CPMR, made a brief presentation of the drafted Political Manifesto of the CPMR to be presented to the General Assembly for voting. To view the Manifesto, click [HERE](#).

INTERNAL ISSUES OF THE INTERMEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION

Élodie Nunes provided an update on internal issues. She pointed out that the action plans of the various working groups had been updated for 2019-2020, presented the activity report of the Intermediterranean Commission and the financial documents that would also be voted on at the CPMR General Assembly.

As a reminder, following the departure of Apostolos Katsifaras, the *Acting* Presidency was held until this plenary meeting by Patrizio Bianchi, 1st Vice-President of the Intermediterranean Commission. The various Vice-Presidents of our Commission have also consulted each other in order to designate the *Acting* President who will be the successor, from January 2020 to the next General Assembly in May 2020. The decision resulting from these discussions will be shared as soon as possible with the members and will be subject to the approval procedure by the members of the Political Bureau of the Intermediterranean Commission.

In addition, in this context, George Alexakis has been appointed Vice-President of the Intermediterranean Commission for Greece.

Finally, **Élodie Nunes** reminded the meeting of the forthcoming sessions of the Political Bureau in the Occitania Region (4/5 February 2020) and the General Assembly 2020 in Andalusia (May 2020).

Patrizio Bianchi thanked the members for their participation and closed the session.

End of discussions