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CPMR
INTERMEDITERRANEAN
COMMISSION

Final Declaration

CPMR Intermediterranean Commission General Assembly

6th - 7th of July 2017 - Naples (Campania)

This document constitutes the Final Declaration of the CPMR IMC General Assembly, gathered on the 6th and 7th of July 2017 in Naples (Campania).

It is thus intended as an IMC CPMR contribution to the debates on the future of the EU, cohesion and the multilevel cooperation at basin level. It includes reflections on emerging strategies and initiatives, migration, neighbourhood, maritime affairs, climate environment, energy, transport and accessibility, amongst other themes.

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In continuity with the previous Declarations of the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission (IMC)¹, the members of the CPMR IMC General Assembly wish to transfer the following political messages to EU, Euro-Mediterranean and International Institutions as the main Mediterranean stakeholders. The CPMR IMC:

I. FUTURE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION: MEDITERRANEAN VIEWS

A MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE APPROACH BASED ON COHESION, SOLIDARITY AND COOPERATION

1. **Observes** that the complex challenges Europe is facing in the internal and external policy spheres have contributed to nourish uncertainty, euro-scepticism and fear in the Regions and especially amongst citizens. They have also generated an unstable political environment, seen in the rise of nationalism and the Brexit vote in 2016. The Brexit negotiations which began in June 2017, will have different levels of impact at all over Europe including in the Mediterranean.
2. **Underlines** that uncertainty is especially felt in Southern European countries, even if one can observe a positive turn of events with the recent victories of pro-EU coalitions in important EU Mediterranean countries like France. The IMC wishes that future elections in other EU countries such as Germany and Italy will also give a positive impetus towards a reinforced European project.
3. **Argues** that Local and Regional Authorities(LRAs) are the first to feel the impact of many of EU challenges, and must, therefore, be central in providing solutions to the everyday problems facing communities, citizens and enterprises. Mediterranean LRAs are possibly among the most concerned and fragile territories, despite a high and often unexploited potential at socio-economic level.
4. **Recognizes** the importance of developing regional maritime strategies for sustainable blue growth preserving ecosystem services at sea and acknowledges the role of Mediterranean FLAGs in promoting territorial cohesion and cooperation on blue growth initiatives through a multi-actor bottom up management approach.
5. **Fully supports** the global vision expressed by the CPMR in its political [statement](#) of 9th of May calling for a reformed Europe built on: strengthened territorial, social and economic cohesion; reinforced cooperation and partnership inside and outside its borders; and a Europe based on shared values with solidarity at its core. The EU must see cohesion as a fundamental pillar in its future strategies and budgets, paying a special attention to the Mediterranean and working on a reformed model in which the whole of the EU should walk at a similar pace, towards the same goals, and sharing strong common values.
6. **Underlines** that co-operation and partnership demonstrate solidarity working in practice, through networks, joint initiatives, projects and exchanges. Regions are amongst the key players in this field of action and the Mediterranean is showing an excellent and growing environment of key actors cooperating at public and private level on different scales, involving also academia and civil society, within the EU and with its Southern Neighbours. The IMC is, therefore, in favour of a strong focus on territorial cooperation within the EU and with current and future neighbouring countries.
7. **Calls** on Europe to build its future fully exploiting territorial potential and basing it on a multilevel governance model, capable of putting the citizens and LRAs at the core of its reflections and future action, even as a stronger global actor. Democratic participation should be at the heart of the future of Europe, defended, promoted and reinforced.
8. **Maintains** that to cope with territorial needs, the EU must prioritise and promote tangible investments in competitiveness, innovation, research, education and training, sustainable energy production, fight against climate change and environmental protection, blue growth and the maritime economy, accessibility, and developing sustainable solutions to emerging challenges such as migration, while preparing for the new ones.

¹([Barcelona](#) 2013, [Patras](#) 2014, [Venice](#) 2014, [Marseilles](#) 2014, [Nafplio](#) and [Rabat](#) 2015, [Venice](#) 2016, [Barcelona](#) 2017)

9. **Observes** that the Mediterranean regions of Europe are clearly showing the growth of disparities in the EU and that Europe has never needed “cohesion” as much as it does today. In fact, the 2008 financial crisis has accelerated regional disparities and is now leaving some regions and MS unprepared to face pressures of global competition. Besides, despite an EU average unemployment rate being at its lowest level since 2009, over 40% of young people are unemployed in Mediterranean regions of Greece, Spain and Italy. In addition, the concentration of wealth in Europe is harming the very fabric of Europe and its “convergence” model. Regional disparities matter because they threaten peace and social stability, fuel populism, and disrupt the completion of the Single Market.
10. **Strongly supports** the proposals included in the last CPMR [Policy Position](#) and calls for a reinforced and reinvigorated EU Cohesion Policy in the Post 2020 period as the main EU investment policy (on simplification, territorial cooperation, European Social Fund, partnership, territorial dimension & financial instruments). The future Cohesion Policy should cover all Regions of the Union, addressing the growing social, economic, environmental and territorial disparities, and counterbalance the negative impacts from the functioning of the Single Market. It shall also foresee a single set of rules for all European Structural and Investment (ESI) Funds.
11. **Stands completely against** the principle of macro-economic conditionality, to avoid a double penalty for regions when they respect the rules of the Stability and Growth Pact. Regions cannot be held responsible for the national deficit as they usually are already subject to strong budgetary restrictions compared to the States. Moreover, as stated in the article 174 TFEU, the economic, social and territorial cohesion of the EU should be preserved.
12. **Asks** the EC and the MS to carefully reflect on the future configuration and strengthening of the EU Territorial Cooperation in the post 2020 period, developing programmes based on territorial needs and assets, and on a budgetary envelope adequate to the challenges and objectives, to be increased overall for territorial cooperation and especially for its transnational component. It also enlightens the importance to link transnational programmes at the crossroads of several sea basins and macro-regional strategies or initiatives, as well as enabling cooperation among insular territories that belong to a same sea basin, thus enhancing the level of complementarity between ETC mainstream and other EU programmes.
13. **Reminds** the importance to add in the territorial typologies of the Tercet regulation (EC 1059/2003) a new typology “island/non island” at NUTS 3 level. The juridical basis of this proposal is constituted by the article 174 TFEU and could allow EUROSTAT to elaborate new fundamental statistics at island level (UAL and NUTS3) in the future. Without this provision nor type of statistics, it will be very hard to consider the complexity of island territories in Europe and more specifically in the Mediterranean, and compare island dynamics to continental ones.
14. **Welcomes** the report 2016/2302(INI) which takes direct inspiration from the CPMR study “[The territorial dimension of Cohesion Policy financial instruments](#)” especially that financial instruments perform better in well-developed regions and metropolitan areas, where financial markets are better developed. This is particularly true and problematic for the Mediterranean area, which is clearly still not benefitting enough nor in a balanced way from these kinds of instruments.
15. **Considers** that clear boundaries should be identified between the EU Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) and Cohesion Policy concerning the areas of intervention and the types of projects to be supported. This would maximise their respective objectives in a complementary way as long as clear rules for interaction between the EFSI and ESI funds are identified. EFSI projects shall be additional investments generating a clear EU added value and contributing to job creation and economic growth, in line with the established performance-based character of Cohesion Policy.
16. **Keeps wondering** if and how the European External Investment Plan (EIP), conceived to encourage investments in the EU Neighbourhood and Africa (boosting growth and business opportunities and creating long-term prospects for these countries), will involve Local and Regional Authorities.

17. **Is interested** in better understanding the vision of the EC concerning the possible support of Cohesion policy to the integration of migrants in the post 2020 period and its possible relation and complementarity with other kinds of instruments for migration issues.
18. **Stresses** that Smart Specialisation Strategies are a fundamental instrument of Cohesion policy that should be boosted in the future to bolster innovation capacity at regional, Mediterranean and EU levels.

FOR A REGIONAL & TERRITORIAL DIMENSION IN THE EU NEIGHBOURHOOD SOUTH AND MIGRATION POLICIES

19. **Recognises** that the security, migration and development challenges in the EU and the Southern Neighbourhood, as well as their related policies, keep requiring a reinforced coordinated action from the EU and the international community. In fact, the humanitarian emergency concerning migrants fleeing from wars, still remains dramatic and unsolved. Regarding migration challenges, the situation has not improved enough despite the new mechanisms and the several operations launched by the EU from 2015 onwards (and the high number of allocated funds). In the EU, the asylum system clearly needs to be reformed (in order to be compliant with international and internal laws) and something is beginning to change. However, the current relocation system is still progressing slowly (only 20.869 people have been relocated since the launch of the scheme in 2015). Generally speaking, the total number of refugees worldwide has reached 22.5 million of people at the end of 2016, which is a very sad record.
20. **Observes** that migration is a matter that needs to be addressed with a long-term perspective in mind, not only addressing security matters on the coast lines, but also tackling the root causes of human movements, cooperating with countries of origin, fighting against poverty and human trafficking, and improving socio-economic development. In this sense, we require to strictly complying with the OECD recommendations regarding the fight against illicit trafficking in arms and countries which do not respect human rights or are involved in armed conflicts. Likewise, this requires advancing towards legal migration schemes, reforming the EU common asylum system towards common and better standards in all MS, as well as improving the reception and integration of migrants, developing common solidarity schemes, favouring humanitarian corridors and more effective repatriation mechanisms. All these actions will be beneficial in the long-term perspective to prepare Europe to the unknown but possibly devastating perspectives of climate change and famine related migrations (e.g. from the Sahel).
21. **Is concerned** by the increasing flow of migrant minors and the vulnerability they are exposed to during their dangerous journeys. It is necessary to establish joint discussions among 1) sending 2) in transit, and 3) receiving Regions to deal with this situation from all perspectives to protect minors' lives and rights.
22. **Keeps** asking the States and the EU for a proper involvement of Mediterranean LRAs in EU dialogues and decision making on migration, with adequate assistance and resources, as a part of a wider strategy based on a multilevel governance approach and addressing common socio-economic and political challenges in the Mediterranean. In this perspective, it asks the Member States to directly allocate funds to LRAs as it is precisely at their territorial level where integration takes place.
23. **Intends** to help the CPMR Task Force on Migration developing a mapping-survey exercise on the innovative approaches and experiences of the regions on the reception and integration of migrants, enlightening their potential as well as the gaps and further needs on the ground, towards a multilevel governance approach.
24. **Will also contribute** to delivering updated, consistent and precise technical and political proposals towards the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) reform and the revision of the Multiannual Financial Framework in 2018 for the post-2020 programming period.
25. **Will keep promoting** the development of concrete cooperation proposals on migration issues under different funding instruments (e.g. ENI, EU Trust Fund for Africa, AMIF, ESIF etc.) concerning policies and measures for reception and integration of migrants, socio-economic development, prevention of violent extremism and radicalisation (even in territories of origin of migrants, like the Maghreb area).

Furthermore, it will interact with other initiatives addressing migration, building up synergies for a multilevel cooperation (e.g. PANORAMED task on Migration, UCLG, and UNDP actions, among others).

26. **Calls** the EC and other potentially interested backers to evaluate the possibility to co-fund the MIPEX-REG project that is about to be launched by a core group of CPMR Regions, constituting the pilot version of the [Migrant Integration Policy Index](#) at regional level.
27. **Reaffirms** the need to boost the involvement of LRAs in the EU Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) on the ground as well as the importance of linking the ENP with the promotion of emerging macro-regional and sea basin strategies or initiatives, fully exploiting the added value of territorial and decentralised cooperation and considering the possibility of applying the methodologies and partnership principles of the EU Cohesion policy. In line with the above, regions should directly benefit from ENI funding.
28. **Is developing** its pilot capacity building activities towards an integrated territorial development model in the Neighbourhood South foreseen with [Platforma](#), in the framework of the Strategic partnership with the EC. These activities foresee the preparation of a Manual on the topic, which draft has been presented during the General Assembly, the capitalisation of valuable experiences arising from the regions and a participatory training to be organised in 2017 or the beginning of 2018, with a specific focus on Tunisia & Morocco and on elected representatives or public servants from Med LRAs.
29. **Regrets** its ineligibility as full partner, neither directly nor with a “flexibility” type rule, under the 1st call of ENI CBC MED program, which is a crucial program for tackling key aspects of territorial integrated development at basin level. IMC will in any case, strongly promote the participation of its members but kindly asks the EC and the Program itself to try to find a solution for the future calls.

BUILDING THE FUTURE OF COOPERATION UPON THE POTENTIAL OF YOUTH, SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY AND MED IDENTITY

30. **Recognises** that Mediterranean regions are strongly affected by endemic youth unemployment and by the social integration problem that results from it. Fighting youth unemployment must thus be an essential priority for the construction of a viable socioeconomic context in every EU and Mediterranean territories. Youth generations can constitute the main pillars for the future development of the basin if they participate actively in society, particularly in territorial governance, education and employment systems.
31. **Acknowledges** the need to develop north-south and south-south cooperation in the field of higher education with a view to increasing the employability of young people in the Mediterranean region in order to (1) promote mobility of youth, student, teachers, PhD and volunteers; (2) improve the recognition and comparability of diplomas, sectors, competences and certifications; (3) strengthening understanding between the socio-economic world and higher education (adaptation of training offer, supply and demand tools for employment, validation of skills, recognition of acquired competences); (4) support the networking of Euro-Mediterranean higher education institutions facilitating partnerships, exchanges and dissemination of good practices.
32. **Reconfirms** the importance to improve the conditions for the consolidation of Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) at EU and Mediterranean levels, as a system to promote alternative ways of production, consumption and funding towards a more sustainable, solidary and inclusive model of development capable of valorising the youth, entrepreneurship, and the Mediterranean identity. The IMC is working on a prospective report on the SSE in the Mediterranean regions that will be presented during the next meeting of the WG on Economic Social cohesion in Montpellier in September 2017.
33. **Notes** and recognize the importance of networks of Mediterranean FLAGs specifically devoted to attract young generations and women in coastal communities.
34. **Welcomes** the [Education Handbook on Intercultural Citizenship the Euro-Mediterranean](#) region published by the Anna Lindh Foundation, which constitutes “a unique resource for educators, schools, civil society, governments, youth, and citizens at large for strengthening awareness around the common values among the people of the region.”

35. **Intends** to develop synergies and interact with the Mediterranean Citizens' Assembly Foundation and its current works and reflections on the Mediterranean citizenship.
36. **Will work** on youth policies and in particular on a dissemination initiative "Regions for Youth and the Mediterranean Identity" to be defined in the mandate 2017-2018 and developed through social networks. This initiative will have the aim of sharing the opportunities for youth (job opportunities/inclusion) provided by the regions and all their actions aimed at promoting a common identity in the Mediterranean (e.g. cultural tourism), being oriented also to contribute to the CPMR reflections on the Future of the EU and the understanding Med citizens have of regional actions.

II. SUPPORTING EMERGING INITIATIVES & STRATEGIES THAT CAN STRENGTHEN MEDITERRANEAN COOPERATION& GOVERNANCE TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

FULL SUPPORT TO WEST MED MARITIME INITIATIVE AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION

37. **Welcomes** the [Communication of the European Commission \(EC\) on the "West Med" initiative and its Framework for Action](#) adopted on 19 April 2017 [COM(2017)183], which consider and mention several of the proposals made by the IMC Regions in February 2017, also integrating reflections and demands previously expressed, including specific initiatives as the Bologna Charter. It also calls for its full endorsement by the involved countries.
38. **Will be available** to further contribute to the final definition and future implementation of the Framework for Action that has been proposed, possibly collaborating with its regions on key projects and actions, and capitalizing the results that its running projects will provide. It also calls the EC and the involved countries to work to promote an effective funding alignment, channelling and coordinating existing EU, national and regional funding schemes relevant to the initiative's goals.
39. **Asks** for a clear form of representation (e.g. observer status) for the IMC Regions in the West Med Task Force that will be supporting the governance of the initiative. This would allow a better and direct coordination with the regions and a major impact of the initiative on the ground.
40. **Strongly suggests** the EC and the involved countries to work from the very beginning in a perspective of possible extension of the West Med initiative to the rest of the Mediterranean.

MONITORING THE EUSAIR AND BOOSTING MULTILEVEL COOPERATION

41. **Will keep** monitoring the EUSAIR implementation in coordination with the CPMR Task force on the Adriatic Ionian (AI) Strategy and the IMC thematic Working Groups, supporting new EU projects and coordination actions among different kind of stakeholders.
42. **Calls** the EU Parliament and the Commission to support the creation of the Adriatic Ionian Network of Universities, Regions, Enterprises and Cities (AI-NURECC). The aim of this network would be to deliver more flexible and efficient solutions, promoting the exchange of knowledge, public and private partnerships, business to business and R&I solutions. Besides, it would support the already existing official EUSAIR bodies by ensuring a more structured dialogue among key AI public and private stakeholders, bridging the current on-going work performed by the various partnerships, programmes and local organisations between the EUSAIR Fora, and build on the derived expertise.
43. **Reiterates** the importance to foresee synergies and communication between the EUSAIR and the emerging West Med, to foster exchanges of experiences at all levels, complementarities and coordination towards a Mediterranean integrated strategy.

PROMOTING SYNERGIES ON BLUE GROWTH AND RESEARCH & INNOVATION

44. **Welcomes** the progress made by the [BLUEMED](#) initiative on "Research and innovation for blue jobs and growth in the Mediterranean" since 2014 and its Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) as well as the progress of the recent Coordination and Support Action [BLUEMEDCSA](#). BLUEMED offers to UfM countries a shared strategic framework for working towards a healthy, productive and resilient Mediterranean Sea. It is designed to boost the full potential of the marine and maritime sectors by structuring transnational cooperation to create new "blue" jobs and promote and improve social wellbeing, sustainable prosperity and the environmental status of the basin.

45. **Offers its collaboration** to support the follow-up of BLUEMED’s SRIA and the related actions in the Mediterranean regions, promoting their direct involvement, capitalizing the results of the projects in which it is currently involved concerning Innovation and Blue Growth, Biodiversity protection or Sustainable Tourism, and possibly studying some strategic alliances on topics such as R&I in the field of coastal protection, blue careers, awareness raising on marine litter, etc.
46. **Supports** the [MedSpring](#) (FP7) project’s White Paper, which recalls the importance of the [PRIMA](#) (Partnership in Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area), as a decisive framework to develop a “stable long-term and sustainable frame for partnerships respecting co-ownership, co-decision and co-financing principles”.
47. **Welcomes** the [UfM Ministerial declaration on Euro-Mediterranean cooperation through Research & Innovation](#) (Malta –04/05/2017), PRIMA’s [Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda \(SRIA\)](#) and the recent creation of the PRIMA Foundation. It underlines the importance of the initiative for pooling the know-how and financial resources of the EU and participating States (481 M Euros), to foster ground-breaking solutions for sustainable water provision & management and food production in the basin.
48. **Underlines** that some of the SRIA’s objectives are particularly interesting for its Regions, like water-saving solutions, nutrition/Mediterranean diet, food and water chain efficiency, land and water sustainability in arid and semi-arid watersheds, policies and governance of water management systems, among others. For these reasons, the IMC will carefully follow the development of the initiatives and the calls that will be launched.

STRESSING THE KEY ROLE OF TERRITORIAL COOPERATION TO FOSTER MEDITERRANEAN GOVERNANCE

49. **Stresses** the important role that the PANORAMED project – the platform project linked to the axis 4 of Interreg MED –will develop during the next years towards an improved and shared Mediterranean governance and the support to emerging initiatives and strategies. It also underlines the relevance of the Interreg ADRIAN’s work concerning the support to the EUSAIR, particularly through its 4th axis.
50. **Insists** on the importance to develop more consistent synergies among the main territorial cooperation programmes operating at Mediterranean scale, including the cross-border programmes funded by the ENI Instrument (and the ERDF), and to boost their connection with emerging initiatives and strategies.
51. **Welcomes** the first synergies developed with the cooperation programmes and PANORAMED partners in the framework of this General Assembly and the strategic importance of the future works of PANORAMED that will start discussing maritime surveillance, sustainable maritime and coastal tourism, and cross-cutting issues such as migration, liaising and mainstreaming or innovation.
52. **Commits** to share its views and contribute to the reflections from the regional point of view, engaging as PANORAMED’s associate and capitalising key results from the projects in which it is currently involved.
53. **Congratulates** the Interreg MED programme for its inclusive approach “We are Med” towards community building, fostering awareness raising among key stakeholders and the integration of projects’ reflections and data. It also suggests that other cooperation programmes in the future could evaluate the possibility to replicate this kind of transversal and horizontal dynamics, which could have a positive impact at all levels.

III. BOOSTING SECTORAL POLICIES AT THE CORE OF REGIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

MARITIME AFFAIRS: PROMOTING BLUE ECONOMY WHILE PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

Regarding Blue Economy and Growth, the collaboration with the Union for the Mediterranean and the SDGs:

54. **Welcomes** the reflections of the UfM Working Group on Blue Economy and the progress made towards the reshaping of the Virtual Knowledge Centre and the preparation of the Regional Stakeholder conference on BE, that will be held at the end of 2017. The IMC offers its collaboration to the setting up of workshops that could actively involve its regions with reflections on subjects as the promotion of

maritime investments in different sectors (e.g. marine energies or blue biotechnologies), smart specialisation, biodiversity protection, sustainable fisheries or sustainable maritime and coastal tourism.

55. **Announces** the successful constitution and launch of its Task Force on the “Follow-up in the Regions of the UfM’s agenda on Blue Economy” that will be the structured interface for the collaboration with the UfM Secretariat. It will work on themes such as maritime investments, Maritime Spatial Planning, the links with emerging maritime initiatives, as well as on several related topics, developing surveys, concrete reflections, capitalising projects results, contributing to the identification of new ones, supporting the implementation and dissemination of the VKC, etc.
56. **Stresses** the importance of joining efforts towards the “localisation” of the Sustainable Development Goals, and its will to collaborate with its regions, to the implementation of Goal 14: “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.”

Concerning marine energies, yachting and maritime surveillance

57. **Underlines** the importance of capitalizing ongoing (MAESTRALE, PELAGOS, iBLUE, PROteus etc.) and future cooperation projects on marine renewable energies, yachting and maritime surveillance which implementations it actively follows through the InnoBlueGrowth Horizontal project ([Interreg Med](#)).
58. **Will support** - through these projects -the sharing and dissemination of knowledge and results among policy-makers, entrepreneurs and citizens, and the orientation of investments directed to specific blue growth sectors. The outputs will contribute to the improvement of territorial policies, the creation of transnational clusters on blue energy and maritime surveillance, promoting innovation and R&D capacities, knowledge and technology transfer, transnational cooperation, and developing common understandings on challenges and collective solutions. They will also concretely contribute to the relaunch of the yachting sector, using new methodologies and innovation for business models, including sustainability pillars.

Concerning the future of the fisheries in the Mediterranean:

59. **Shares** the concern of the European Commission and Parliament regarding the overexploitation of certain populations of fish stocks in the Mediterranean and welcomes the process of reflection on the future management of fisheries in the basin, recently shaped in the [Ministerial Declaration of Malta](#).
60. **Manifests** its conviction that the future of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) in the Mediterranean is inextricably linked to the capacity of the EU and the Member States (MS) to develop an approach capable of recovering fish resources while ensuring the economic and social development of Mediterranean fisheries.
61. **Invites** the EC and the MS to develop an approach to Mediterranean fisheries that can allow a new, integrated and multi-level management of the fishing effort, rather than a system based on output management approaches (e.g. TACs, that would be unfit to the nature of multi-species demersal fisheries in the basin). This management should be accompanied by an analysis of the socio-economic impacts, be careful, precise and conceived at territorial level (co-management/responsibility, multi-actor participatory approaches, etc.). As already proposed by some Mediterranean regions (proposed by Catalonia), it should go beyond the simple reduction of fishing efforts by the withdrawal of vessels and rather promote the decrease of fishing time in the framework of a bio economic fishing management, based on scientific assessments per fishery. In fact, it is important to maintain the maximum number of active vessels as possible to ensure the anthropological, social, economic and cultural role of the Mediterranean fisheries sector.
62. **Commits** to undertake further reflection on the management of the fishing effort, the external dimension of the CFP in the southern Mediterranean, the strategies for developing a sustainable, diversified and certified aquaculture and its possible synergies with the off-shore wind farms, as well as on the EMFF 2014-2020 implementation and its future post-2020.

Regarding Sustainable Maritime and Coastal Tourism:

63. **Enlightens** the importance of capitalising on the cooperation [projects](#) on sustainable tourism in which the IMC and some of its member Regions are involved, namely CO-EVOLVE, MITOMED+ and BleuTourMed (Interreg MED modular & horizontal project), and future ones (that are under evaluation or conception) to help better shape related regional policies:
- CO-EVOLVE promotes the co-evolution of human activities and natural systems as guiding principles for tourism planning process in Mediterranean coastal tourism destinations. Actions plans deriving from this principle will be tested in pre-identified pilot areas, according to a previous analysis of threats and enabling factors, and a toolkit. They will then be transferred at basin scale with the help of the IMC. The results of this project, in line with ICZM, will influence policy making related to tourism planning process. The action will be also extended to other southern and eastern Med countries in the framework of an umbrella project to be presented for UfM labelling: “MedCoast4BlueGrowth.”
 - MITOMED+ promotes a Mediterranean sustainable maritime and coastal tourism model based on sound indicators for decision support systems, including the “Green Beaches model,” a core element of maritime and coastal tourism. The IMC will encourage the replication of this model in other Med tourism destinations and its mainstreaming into regional policies.
 - BLEUTOURMED supports community building among all Interreg MED modular projects on Tourism. It also aims to maximise the capitalisation and impact of the project’s results at all levels. Regarding this, the IMC will encourage the dialogue between both the other modular and horizontal projects.
64. **Will keep promoting** new projects, reflections and advocacy actions through its Task Force on Sustainable Tourism and Culture on aspects such as stimulating performance and competitiveness, improving knowledge, strengthening sustainability and mainstreaming of tourism. Specific actions will concern: indicators, culture, nature, scientific, business & food tourism itineraries, open data, fishing tourism, cruise tourism, med diet, etc. The TF will also bring reflections to the PANORAMED project and the emerging strategies, promoting collaboration with external organisations on sustainable tourism.

On education, training and mobility in the maritime sector:

65. **Will keep supporting** initiatives related to education, training, skills and employability in the maritime sector, especially those targeting young people and promoting mobility. The IMC intends to keep participating in cooperation projects related to these topics, following up at basin level the [CPMR Vasco da Gama Initiative](#) and exploring synergies with the actions of the Union for the Mediterranean (e.g. regional meetings on higher education internationalisation and academic mobility in the Euro-Mediterranean region, specific projects etc.) and other key players.
66. **Will promote** interactions between LRAs, universities, research centres, maritime institutes, and the private sector to ensure a real match between the needs of the maritime sector in maritime and peripheral territories, and the educational and trainings they offer.
67. **Ensures** that it will particularly promote among its members the CPMR initiative “[Vasco da Gama Youth Mobility](#) (VDG YM)” aimed at supporting the mobility of students and jobseekers in the EU in the thematic areas of blue and green growth. It also announces the launch of the 2nd “Vasco Da Gama” Summer School that will take place in Bari at the end of July 2017, being hosted by the University “Aldo Moro” (IT).

TRANSPORT & ACCESSIBILITY

68. **Urges** once again the EC and the MS to accelerate the implementation of the infrastructures located on the CEF corridors affecting the Mediterranean – according to the priority projects for the regions – and the development of connections between them and the Motorways of the Sea. In particular, it urges them to prioritise the works on the Mediterranean corridor in order to allow its completion before 2030, fully considering regional and local perspectives.

69. **Supports** the amendment proposed by the Mediterranean Regions included in [the CPMR technical note](#) on the CEF review concerning the Annex I and the “list of infrastructures of the Core Network Corridors.”
70. **Highlights** the importance that the corridors’ *fora* should serve for evaluating the CEF implementation but also to generate an impulse to the coordination dynamic among the regions, especially when dealing with cross-border infrastructures. In such cases, the corridors coordinators should foresee appropriate methods or mechanisms to promote this kind of coordination and the active participation of the regions.
71. **Manifest** its interest in being more involved in the future implementation of the EU airport strategy, and CPMR reflections on this theme, as it will have a considerable impact in the accessibility of the Mediterranean coastal and insular regions as on its socio-economic development.

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE, WATER & ENERGY

On climate, environment and biodiversity:

72. **Regrets** the decision of the President of the US to withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement that risks to jeopardise its implementation. Nonetheless, it reaffirms the will of Mediterranean regions to contribute to its implementation, together with the EU and Euro-Mediterranean institutions.
73. **Supports** the establishment of the CRPM Task force on Climate and Energy, which will focus on joint actions towards adaptation and mitigation of climate change at EU level, promoting the exchanges of experiences among CPMR regions and their influence on the forthcoming related EU legislation and measures (by the means of precise commitments regarding CO2 emissions in their territories and policies aimed to the fulfilment of these objectives).
74. **Will keep supporting** the streamlining of networking and management efforts in the Mediterranean protected areas initiated by the Interreg Med project [PANACeA](#) that intends to develop a community of nature conservation stakeholders, promoting positive influence towards a more sustainable and knowledge-based behavioural and policy changes at basin scale.
75. **Welcomes** the conclusions of the Working group on Environment and Climate of the Union for the Mediterranean that concern important initiatives such as H2020. It particularly welcomes the specific mention of the [Bologna Charter](#) on adaptation to climate change in coastal areas as a key initiative to be promoted, and opened up to Southern and Eastern coastal administrations of the Mediterranean.
76. **Announces** that the [Bologna Charter](#) and its [Joint Action Plan](#) review process has started, calls all Mediterranean regions to participate in it, and new ones to adhere. It also welcomes the efforts of the CPMR Atlantic Arc Commission, which is evaluating the possibility of replicating the initiative in its basin, as the ones of the Italian National Coordination Board on Coastal Erosion that has successfully capitalised the initiative and produced specific guidelines with the participation of all its coastal regions.

On water management:

77. **Welcomes** the [UfM Ministerial declaration on Water in the Mediterranean](#) (Malta - 27/4/2017).
78. **Reaffirms** the interest of its regions in the promotion of innovative and more effective water management systems at Med basin scale, focusing in particular on: the use of renewable energies (e.g. photovoltaic) for reclaimed waters and desalination; the alteration of coastal aquatic ecosystems as a consequence of eutrophication following the use of reclaimed waters or fertilisers; reclaimed water quality control; and the study and comparison of administrative issues and experiences concerning water management at Mediterranean and European scales.
79. **Recalls** for more financial support from the EU and Mediterranean countries to the regions, universities and all relevant stakeholders to cooperate on these topics, promoting the exchange of experiences and intervention on the ground.
80. **Commits** to promote pilot and strategic actions and exchanges of experiences in this field involving public and private players and the academia.

On Energy Efficiency (EE) in Buildings and the promotion of Renewable Energies:

81. **Underlines** that the EU Directives concerning Energy Efficiency, currently being reviewed, should promote a more effective and multilevel governance model for Energy renovation in buildings, directly involving LRAs and generating a coordination and integration among national and regional strategies. This would have a positive territorial impact, promoting the collection and successful application of concrete measures and investment schemes for energy renovation, and thus reducing energy consumption, producing economic savings and new jobs, reducing CO₂ emissions and offering a better quality of life to end users.
82. **Will keep participating** in the implementation of the Interreg Med project [SHERPA](#), aiming at reinforcing the capacities of public administrations at regional and sub-regional level to improve EE in public buildings. SHERPA will develop a specific methodology and apply it to 200 energy renovation projects in public buildings located in Mediterranean regions, thus forming regional renovation strategies. SHERPA's results and the synergies with the IMC will contribute to the transference of results and capitalisation at basin scale. They will also produce a Joint Action Plan on Energy Renovation in Mediterranean Buildings that will be endorsed by the Regions at the end of the project.
83. **Looks with interest** at the efforts of the Centre for Mediterranean Integration (CMI) and its Forum on electricity and climate change concerning the [explanation of the EU Clean Energy Package](#) to the Mediterranean Partner Countries.

Approved unanimously by the CPMR IMC General Assembly gathered in Naples on the 7 July 2017