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CPMR
INTERMEDITERRANEAN
COMMISSION

Final Declaration

CPMR Intermediterranean Commission Political Bureau

1st February 2017 - Barcelona (Catalonia)

This document constitutes the Final Declaration of the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission Political Bureau, gathered in Barcelona on the 1st of February 2017 at the UfMS premises, the day before the West Med Stakeholder conference (2/2/2017).

It is thus intended as a contribution to West Med maritime initiative's debates and further development but also positions the organization on the overall Blue Economy Agenda for the Mediterranean and other key thematic issues of strategic interest for the Med Regions (e.g. migration, neighbourhood, climate, socio-economic cohesion, among others).

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In continuity with the previous Declarations of the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission (IMC)¹ and the last CPMR General Assembly Final Declaration (Azores, November 2016), the members of the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission Political Bureau wish to transfer the following political messages to European, Euro-Mediterranean and International institutions as to the main Mediterranean stakeholders. The CPMR Intermediterranean Commission:

I. BOOSTING BLUE ECONOMY WHILE PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH EMERGING STRATEGIES & INITIATIVES

SUPPORT TO THE WEST MED MARITIME INITIATIVE

1. **Welcomes** the Roadmap for the Communication of the European Commission (EC) on the "[Initiative for the Sustainable Development of the Blue Economy in the Western Mediterranean](#)" (West Med) and the [report 3](#) on its feasibility and added value that are coherent with the reflections and demands previously expressed by the Intermediterranean Commission and its Regions.
2. **Offers** its contribution to the forthcoming activities and in particular to its 1st Stakeholder conference on 2/2/2017, looking forward to the formal approval of the EC Communication and Action Plan in the first semester of 2017 during the Maltese presidency of the EU, and its launch before the end of the year.
3. **Identifies** - among the key actions that could be possibly undertaken in West Med - the following ones that could have a major impact in the Regions while counting on their direct participation or support:
 - Develop bio-technologies in traditional sectors based on marine biological resources, in connection with regional smart specialization strategies.
 - Bolster networking between maritime institutes, academies and the industry, and increase maritime profession awareness and attractiveness among the youth, in connection with the CPMR Vasco da Gama Initiative, the Regions, and EU actions as Blue Careers.
 - Foster the establishment of regional maritime clusters in connection with national ones and promote networking at West Med level.
 - Promote sustainable thematic tourist routes, sea-land itineraries, fishing tourism and new tourism models towards deseasonalisation, based on sound knowledge of tourism capacity & impacts, and ICZM-MSP planning tools.
 - Develop Short Sea Shipping, including Motorways of the sea (and related port terminals), and encourage green shipping through clean fuels as LNG, learning from the experiences of other basins like the Baltic and ensuring that the regions are consulted by the States on the possible locations for clean fuels facilities in the West Med.
 - Improve the sustainable development and management of fisheries (especially artisanal fisheries) and in particular the management/monitoring of discards, while promoting the diversification of sustainable & certified aquaculture and capacity building actions.
 - Boost marine litter and waste water management through awareness raising, technology and recycling facilities, and develop innovative solar powered seawater desalination facilities.
 - Stimulate new technologies for the exploitation of marine renewable energies, improve efficiency of installations, and make the access to investments and funds easier.
 - Develop innovative approaches for the adaptation & response to coastal erosion/pollution and promote coordinated ICZM-MSP and capacity building (exploiting existing initiatives as the [Bologna Charter](#) or projects as SIMWEST MED involving the Regions, in coordination with PAP/RAC).
 - Launch a pilot action similar to [ADRIPLAN](#), the project successfully developed and co-funded by the EC (DG MARE) aiming at supporting the MSP process in the Adriatic-Ionian region.

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

- Extend the geographical and thematic scope of existing databases, improving their interoperability, transparency and accessibility to all kinds of scientific, private and public operators.
 - Promote awareness campaigns on marine environment protection and biodiversity, and support the establishment and co-management of marine protected areas among the stakeholders in cooperation with MedPAN.
 - Set-up a “Sustainable Maritime Initiatives Lab” for the West Med area, as a mechanism to exchange best practices concerning the management of maritime issues.
4. **Underlines** the importance of capitalizing previous and current projects developed with EU funds (e.g. in the framework of INTERREG MED / ENPI CBC MED), and the need for boosting specific mechanisms for mainstreaming & funding alignment to co-finance “West Med” future actions (see section below).
 5. **Suggests** to develop synergies with the [Copernicus Marine Environment Monitoring Service](#) and promote it as a useful tool for the West Med forthcoming actions.
 6. **Hopes** that the West Med initiative could constitute a pilot for the entire basin, including in particular the Eastern Mediterranean.

SUPPORT AND MONITORING OF THE EUSAIR

7. **Will keep** contributing to the monitoring and implementation of the EUSAIR on the ground, supporting and strengthening the EUSAIR’s multilevel and multi-actor governance, and working to concretize the added value regions can provide. This will be done through the monitoring of on-going parliamentary pilot actions, synergies with the Facility Point strategic project funded by Interreg ADRION, advocacy actions and pilot projects to be conceived mainly in the framework of the CPMR Task force on the Adriatic Ionian Strategy and the Intermediterranean Commission thematic working groups.
8. **Stresses** the importance of developing an effective dialogue towards the mainstreaming of funds between the managing authorities of national, regional and territorial programs co-funded by the ESIF and the key implementers of the EUSAIR.
9. **Agrees** on the need to gradually adapt the strategy and the territorial cooperation programmes of the area to new incoming and pressing challenges as migration.
10. **Enlightens** the importance to foresee synergies and communication between EUSAIR and the emerging West Med, in order to foster exchanges of experiences at all levels, complementarities and coordination.

FOLLOW UP OF THE UFM BLUE ECONOMY AGENDA AT REGIONAL LEVEL

11. **Celebrates** the good advancements of the UfM Working Group activities on Blue Economy where the CPMR and its Intermediterranean Commission is represented as permanent observer.
12. **Looks forward to contributing** to the follow up activities with the regions, through concrete actions, projects and synergies. In particular, concerning the boosting of the Virtual Knowledge Centre, the support to the promotion of futures UfM Stakeholder conferences on Blue Economy, the cooperation on training & skills in the maritime sector, the identification of key actions and projects involving Local and Regional Authorities (LRAs).
13. **Intends** to set up an internal Task force (embedded in its Working Group on the Integrated Maritime Policy and Transport) to monitor and boost the follow up of the UfM Agenda on Blue Economy at regional level.
14. **Invites** the UfM States to endorse or give their support to the [Bologna Charter](#) for the sustainable development of coastal areas and calls for possible synergies in concrete projects arising from its [Joint Action Plan](#)² and its forthcoming review.

² Such as MedCoast4BG on the co-evolution of human activities in coastal areas, sustainable tourism and ICZM-MSP or the support to the internationalization of the Italian National Coordination Board on Coastal Erosion.

PRESENT & FUTURE SYNERGIES WITH EU COOPERATION PROGRAMS

15. **Will take stock** and capitalize all the reflections, experiences and results arising from all the INTERREG MED Projects where it is currently involved as partner or associate that are connected to Blue Growth, environmental issues and emerging strategies/initiatives.
16. **Will share**, disseminate and promote in particular the results of 3 Horizontal projects (InnoBlueGrowth, PANACEA, BleuTourMed) and 2 modular projects (Co-Evolve and Mitomed+) on innovation and Blue Growth, environment and biodiversity, sustainable maritime and coastal tourism and its connection with MSP-ICZM, Decision Supporting Systems and Indicators. The Intermediterranean Commission will also capitalize other relevant projects funded by INTERREG MED, ENI CBC MED and other programs in which its Regions are actively involved, and promote cross-fertilization.
17. **Will be happy to contribute** to the reflections on the axis 4 of Interreg Med on governance and its Platform project as observer³. The Intermediterranean Commission reaffirms its importance for the gap analysis and identification of strategic projects towards a better governance in the Mediterranean.
18. **Will develop further synergies** with the Interact Med Lab group reflections on maritime issues related to territorial cooperation and emerging strategies and initiatives.

II. INCREASING THE INVOLVEMENT OF REGIONS IN THE DECISION MAKING PROCESSES REGARDING MIGRATION MANAGEMENT AND THE SUPPORT TO THEIR ACTIONS

SECURITY AND MIGRATION CHALLENGES

19. **Notes** that the common security and migration challenges continue to require stronger and more coordinated action from the European Union and the international community. Indeed, despite all the efforts and financial allocations of the EU, the humanitarian emergency (with horrible tragedies and thousands of deaths over all Mediterranean routes), remains unsolved, posing serious issues both to the welfare of migrants and of all our societies.
20. **Keeps asking** the States and the EU for:
 - A higher involvement of Mediterranean LRA's in the EU dialogues and decision making on migration (according to their competences, having distinct responsibilities and playing a complementary role to that of National Governments).
 - More assistance and resources to the LRA's, not only for managing the current crisis (reception and integration of migrants, with a more direct participation of the regions in the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund), but also for coping with the side effects of the issue.
 - A more sustainable, coordinated and efficient management of the flows, with a special attention to more effective asylum procedures, relocation, repatriation, humanitarian corridors, and fight against smugglers, as part of a wider strategy addressing common socio-economic and political challenges in the Mediterranean.
21. **Welcomes** the initiative of UNHCR, IOM and 72 organizations for a new "Regional Refugee & Migrant Response Plan for Europe" and encourages the EU to empower the cooperation with these organizations.

CONCRETE ACTIONS TO BE PROMOTED AND BOOSTED

22. **Intends** to contribute to the forthcoming CPMR's 2nd survey on regional experiences concerning integration measures, in order to boost the exchanges and learning by implementing processes but also to grasp the overall issues, gaps, tendencies and most effective solutions to be promoted at EU and Med level.
23. **Calls** the EC and other potentially interested backers to support MIPEX-REG, the future pilot version of [Migrant Integration Policy Index](#) at regional level, that will be hopefully launched in 2017 supported by a core group of CPMR Regions and possibly widely extended afterwards.
24. **Considers** fundamental to participate - with its regions and organisations such as UNDP Art - in project proposals for the Trust Fund for Africa, oriented to improve public policies for the management of migration and prevent violent extremism and radicalisation in countries of origin, transit and destination of migrants.

³ e.g. when deemed necessary by the project partners and the program on specific working groups and tasks as "migration" or "mainstreaming".

III. BOOSTING INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COHESION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY & ACTIONS ON THE GROUND

25. **Reaffirms** the need to boost the involvement of LRAs in the European Neighbourhood Policy (and the European Neighbourhood instrument) on the ground and the importance of linking the ENP with the promotion of emerging macro-regional and sea basin strategies or initiatives as the emerging [West Med](#), fully exploiting the added value of territorial and decentralized cooperation.
26. **Asks** the European Commission and the participating countries in the ENI CBC MED programme to find a smooth arrangement to ensure the eligibility of the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission in the future calls for projects. The active participation of the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission in this program could constitute an asset for the multilevel cooperation and involvement of the Regions on topics such as maritime affairs (ICZM and sustainable tourism on top), efficiency energy & water management (among others), as for capitalization & impact at advocacy level.
27. **Supports** the recommendations of the 4th Forum of Local and Regional Authorities of the Mediterranean (FALR) and from the [workshops in Sousse](#). In particular, the role of LRAs in territorial diplomacy, their action to support youth policies and the integrated territorial development model, as the basis for a sustainable, harmonious and polycentric development and cohesion in all the Mediterranean.
28. **Intends** to keep pursuing 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, capitalizing valuable experiences arising from the Regions and a participatory training to be organized in 2017 with a specific focus on Tunisia & Morocco and on elected representatives/ public servants from Med LRAs.

WATER, ENERGY & CLIMATE

29. **Recalls** the messages of the [political position on water and energy](#) approved by Intermediterranean Commission Plenary (Azores, November 2016) that shows the commitment of the Regions, as well as their specific demands and perspectives on joint work on these topics for the future.
30. **Stresses** in particular its interests in the following topics: 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 desalinization; the alteration of coastal aquatic ecosystems as a consequence of eutrophication following the use of reclaimed waters or fertilizers; reclaimed water quality control.
31. **Asks** for more financial support from the EU and Mediterranean countries to the Regions, universities and all relevant stakeholders to cooperate on these topics.
32. **Will notably support** regional plans and joint activities for boosting research and technological development to improve yields and water conveyance efficiency, as well as the linkages with the production of renewable energies. These efforts are meant to generate new synergies at technical and political level based on the triple helix principle, as well as a direct impact on policies for efficient water management and concrete projects on the ground.
33. **Announces** that through the SHERPA⁴ Interreg Med Project, the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission will contribute with its members to the setting up of 200 energy renovation projects in public buildings aimed to generate energy & money savings, as well as increased public-private investments, partnerships and new jobs on the ground. Through the project and an internal Task force, the Intermediterranean Commission will also foster coordination among regional strategies on energy efficiency in Mediterranean public and private buildings and promote a joint action plan.
34. **Renews** its support to the forthcoming editions of the *Med COP Climat* to be held in two of its member Regions in 2017 (Sicily) and 2018 (Sousse) that are fundamental events to convey the Mediterranean vision to the COPs.

⁴ Shared Knowledge for Energy Renovation in buildings by Publics Administration - SHERPA

SOCIO-ECONOMIC COHESION

35. **Considers** fundamental to maintain a solid EU Cohesion Policy as a main instrument to tackle regional disparities and boost integrated and harmonious development of EU Med territories in the current and future programming periods. In this sense, clear boundaries should be identified between the EFSI and Cohesion Policy in order to maximize their respective objectives in a complementary way.
36. **Deems necessary** that its Regions effectively contribute to the CPMR reflections on the future of the EU Cohesion Policy, in particular on the aspects related to simplification, territorial cooperation, European Social Fund, partnership, territorial dimension & financial instruments.
37. **Enlightens** the importance and the added value of INTERREG programs for Mediterranean regions in the framework of the EU Cohesion Policy – which budget should be increased in the future (e.g. especially for transnational programs at the cross roads of several sea basins and macro-regional strategies or initiatives), and recalls the possibility of setting-up a new Territorial Cooperation Programme for Mediterranean islands in the post-2020 period.
38. **Wonders** 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.
39. **Believes** in the importance to improve the conditions for the consolidation of Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) at Mediterranean level, in the SSE potential for the promotion of 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.
40. **Welcomes** the celebration of the UfM 2nd Regional forum and its focus on the youth “at the heart of the Mediterranean Agenda.” Participation of the youth in the public sphere, in territorial integrated development, and their effective inclusion in the labour system, are fundamental in order to avoid risks of exclusion and radicalisation and to contribute to the socio-economic cohesion of the basin.

TRANSPORT & ACCESSIBILITY

41. **Asks** the EC and the Member States 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.
42. **Highlights** the importance that the corridors' *fora* should serve as a context for evaluating if the CEF implementation arrangements and States investments are aligned with TEN-T priorities and with the compromises for 2030 regarding the core network.
43. **Will contribute** with its members to the overall CPMR reflection on the review and possible improvement of the CEF regulation for the post-2020 period, on the necessary reshaping of the Motorways of the Sea policy, and on the need for a renewal of the EU maritime transport policy, aiming to actually contribute to modal shift from road to waterborne transportation.
44. **Fully supports** the EP written declaration on “*the need for the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) to support regional accessibility,*” since it was largely inspired by the CPMR political positions and will be of great help during the upcoming phase of reviewing the CEF regulation. Therefore, the IMC wishes to promote its signature among all the MEPs elected on the territories of its member regions.

*Approved by the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission Political Bureau
in Barcelona on 1st February 2017*