



CPMR INTERMEDITERRANEAN
COMMISSION

Summary and conclusions from the plenary meeting of the Intermediterranean Commission

3 November 2016 - Ponta Delgada (Azores, PT)

INTRODUCTION

Apostolos Katsifaras, President of the Intermediterranean Commission and Governor of the Dytiki Ellada Region (Greece), welcomed the participants and thanked the Azores for their hospitality. He expressed his solidarity with the Italian regions recently hit by new earthquakes.

He then referred to the structural crisis that Europe is currently experiencing and which has been going on for several years. Finally, he recalled the major challenges faced by the regions in relation to climate change, terrorism, migration, etc., and that are threatening the cohesion of our territories, especially in the Mediterranean. The President recalled the role of the Intermediterranean Commission in this general context and the role of cooperation from a global perspective.

He then outlined the priorities of the Intermediterranean Commission for 2017-2018, particularly the work of the Intermediterranean Commission and its regions on the blue economy and the opportunity granted to us as formal observers in the UfM working group for the Blue Economy. He also raised the issues of identity that make the strength and diversity of the Mediterranean, especially for the young people of our regions. Finally, he recalled the role played by working groups in developing cooperation in our network.

He thanked the work of the members and the Secretariat in achieving our objectives and concluded by looking ahead to the next meeting of the Political Bureau of the Intermediterranean Commission to be held in Barcelona in early 2017, probably in synergy with the Conference of West Med stakeholders.

Apostolos Katsifaras concluded this introduction by putting the minutes of the Veneto 2016 Annual General Meeting to the vote and these were unanimously approved.

DRAFT FINAL DECLARATION OF THE CPMR

Apostolos Katsifaras recalled that the priorities of the Intermediterranean Commission are already an integral part of the text of the final declaration. Contributions and amendments have already been made to support the direction taken by the Intermediterranean Commission.

Nicolas Brookes, CPMR Director, briefly presented the text of the Final Declaration prepared in accordance with the Executive Secretaries of the various Geographical Commissions of the CPMR. He highlighted the main messages about the future of Europe, the revision of the EU budget, transport, energy, climate, migration, etc.

Davide Strangis, Executive Secretary of the Intermediterranean Commission, explained that the guiding principles of the geographical commissions were taken into consideration in the draft final declaration as soon as its preparation began. He detailed the amendments received and gave a reminder of the process for managing these amendments.

Different Regions (**Jesús García** for Melilla, **George Alexakis** for Crete and **Miguel Ángel Sánchez Muñoz** for Andalusia) spoke to add a series of comments and proposals for further amendments to the Final Declaration.

Davide Strangis recalled that these elements must be identified and presented to the resolutions synthesis group for final validation - Read the [Final Declaration of the CPMR - Azores 2016](#).

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INTERNAL INTERMEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION QUESTIONS

In his [presentation](#), **Davide Strangis**, Executive Secretary of the Intermediterranean Commission, began by taking stock of the European projects submitted and approved for the Intermediterranean Commission and the CPMR. He recalled the usefulness of projects for our members and for the added technical, and even political, value of our work.

Davide Strangis then presented the Intermediterranean Commission's 2016 accounts and 2017 budget before final approval by the CPMR Annual General Meeting.

He talked about the ongoing work of updating the global action plan of the Intermediterranean Commission for 2017-2018 and the action plans of the four working groups in line with this. The coordination (co-presidencies) of these working groups (and their internal task forces) may be updated in accordance with the wishes of the Regions. The update process includes a discussion on the draft global plan of action at the next Political Bureau and its ratification at the 2017 AGM. The working groups will have time during the first half of 2017 to update their plans in line with the global plan and in collaboration with the members and the Intermediterranean Commission Secretariat.

Davide Strangis highlighted the new Task Force on Fisheries and Aquaculture to be coordinated by the Region of Andalusia and which will probably meet in early 2017. Regarding the "Water and Energy" working group, Davide Strangis recalled the Valencia meeting on 17 and 18 October 2016 and in particular the [position on water](#), a document that members approved unanimously.

Davide Strangis talked finally about the collaboration with the Union for the Mediterranean on the blue economy that provides for the signature of a specific agreement with a validity of two years between the CPMR and the UfM (within the scope of the MoU already approved in 2017) to provide support for the Ministerial declaration of 2015. This agreement will be signed in the coming months. The Lazio Region has offered its cooperation on this project and will provide personnel who will work in synergy with the Intermediterranean Commission Secretariat and the UfM Secretariat. The Secretary also referred to the perspectives and actions recommended in the framework of the initiative relating to the Western Mediterranean as well as the work with Platforma on issues of capacity building on the southern shore for integrated territorial development.

He gave a short reminder of the [Activity Report](#) from July 2016 to November 2016 and the [General calendar](#) of the Intermediterranean Commission focusing on the events of MedPan, Med Cities, the Falr and ARLEM in Morocco. Finally, he gave a reminder about the next meeting of the Political Bureau which will probably be held in early February in Barcelona. The 2017 Annual General Meeting will be held before the summer.

Apostolos Katsifaras closed the meeting and thanked the participants for their participation.

CONCLUSIONS

The plenary approved:

- The minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting
- The contributions of the Regions of the Intermediterranean Commission in the Final Declaration of the CPMR
- The financial records (accounts and 2017 budget proposal to be approved by the CPMR)
- The activity report July-November 2016
- The [policy position presented by the "Water and Energy" working group](#)

The plenary took note of:

- the process to update the IMC 2017-2018 global action plan and those of its working groups and a series of new developments:
 - Coordinating region of the new IMC Fisheries and Aquaculture Task Force: Andalusia
 - Changing relations with the UfM and the forthcoming signing of a specific agreement to support the implementation of the 2015 Ministerial Declaration on the blue economy
 - EU projects presented, approved and being evaluated
- Calendar of upcoming meetings (always updated on the website) and particularly the Bureau meeting to be held in Barcelona in early February 2017.