



GENERAL MEETING OF THE CPMR INTERMEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION

Thursday 28 and Friday 29 June 2018 - Patras (Dytiki Ellada-EL)

Conclusions of the internal session of Thursday 28 June

Apostolos Katsifaras, President of the Dytiki Ellada Region and President of the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission, gave a welcome speech and presented the agenda of the meeting. He reviewed the 2016-2018 mandate that he had the honour of chairing. He recalled the complex situation across the European landscape in recent years, a situation that persists with changes in Spain and Italy, instability in the Middle East and Africa, and the migration crisis. Hence the importance of adopting a shared strategy and initiatives for the entire Mediterranean area.

Davide Strangis put the minutes of the last meeting of the Political Bureau of the Intermediterranean Commission in Cartagena to the vote and they were approved unanimously.

Davide Strangis gave an update on the **election of the new Political Bureau of the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission for 2018-2020**. He presented the corrective measure for a better balance of seats in the Political Bureau. This measure was approved unanimously. He then presented the new [Constitution of the Political Bureau](#) of the Intermediterranean Commission, detailing the national delegations of the Regions within the Bureau. The new Political Bureau list was approved unanimously.

Davide Strangis then presented the candidature of the Dytiki Ellada Region for the 2018-2020 Presidency of the Intermediterranean Commission. Apostolos Katsifaras was unanimously elected by the members of the Annual Meeting.

Apostolos Katsifaras expressed his gratitude at the renewed confidence demonstrated by the members of the Intermediterranean Commission. He reinforced his commitment to the citizens and the general development of the Mediterranean. He recalled the power and energy of the Mediterranean cultural heritage, and the challenges we face today that are of global importance. Hence the importance of the Mediterranean in the current political reality. He announced future initiatives and expressed hope that the creativity of the Mediterranean area will be enhanced so that democracy and development can continue. Finally, he assured members of his support and commitment for all the projects that we will be able to develop.

There followed a series of discussions for the appointment of the new Vice-Presidents of the Political Bureau. For Italy, the Region Emilia-Romagna, represented by Patrizio Bianchi, will take on the Italian vice-presidency. **Lodovico Gherardi** spoke to express his commitment on behalf of the Italian Regions in the work of the Intermediterranean Commission and for the development of the European project as a whole.

For Morocco, Oriental and Rabat-Salé-Kenitra Regions will take turns for the vice-presidency: for the 1st year (2018/2019), the Oriental Region represented by Ettayeb El Masbahi will take on the Moroccan vice-presidency. And for 2019/2020 it will be the Region of Rabat-Salé-Kenitra, represented by Aouatif Derrous. Aouatif Derrous spoke to give thanks for the confidence placed in her Region. She congratulated the work of Mohamed Sadiki and assured her support for future work. For the Oriental Region, **Ettayeb El Masbahi** also spoke and applauded the values of solidarity, support and respect for differences. He recalled the main orientations of the Intermediterranean Commission and assured the support of the Eastern Region for implementing these, particularly on the issue of migration, given the place occupied by the Oriental Region in the Mediterranean. He expressed his commitment to finding solutions to the problems facing our people today.

For Spain, the Andalusia Region was appointed for the vice-presidency. **Ángel Luis Sánchez Muñoz** gave thanks for the trust demonstrated and assured the full commitment of the Andalusia Region to the work of the Intermediterranean Commission.

For France, two applications were presented: that of the Occitanie Region and that of the Sud Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region. A consultation is in progress. A decision for the French vice-presidency will be taken subsequently.

Davide Strangis explained that the 1st vice-presidency of the Intermediterranean Commission still needs to be appointed, as well as the deputy chair of the Intermediterranean Commission at the CPMR Political Bureau.

Apostolos Katsifaras concluded the session and gave special congratulations to Mohamed Sadiki for his involvement in and support to the work of the Intermediterranean Commission.

Davide Strangis then introduced the discussion on the political messages of the Annual Meeting of the Intermediterranean Commission:

- The [political calendar of sustainable tourism](#): after a reminder of the collaborative process to prepare the document, and the latest amendments, the document was approved by the Regions of the Annual Meeting.
- The [political position on the future of territorial cooperation in the Mediterranean](#): after a reminder of the development and structure of the document, **Davide Strangis** presented the various amendments.

Manuel Pleguezuelo, for the Region of Murcia, spoke on the matter of the 150 km for cross-border maritime cooperation. **Davide Strangis** explained that although this limit is mentioned in principle it is unlikely in fact to be applicable. **Agnès Rampal**, from the Sud Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region, spoke about the IEV program, and expressed a desire for it to be maintained while at the same time raising its simplification. She recalled that these programs are extremely important for building a peaceful future for the Mediterranean area. **Ettayeb El Masbahi**, for the Oriental Region, agreed with this point of view and expressed hopes that the Mediterranean will become a true area of cooperation. **Lodovico Gherardi** referred to an adaptation of the criteria to the question of geographical location.

- The [Patras 2018 Final declaration](#): **Davide Strangis** presented the main chapters of this declaration and the various amendments received.

Lodovico Gherardi clarified the amendments of the Emilia-Romagna Region. **Guy Escoplé** commented on point 93 and expressed hopes that the Perpignan-Montpellier section be mentioned but Davide Strangis explained that it could not be mentioned here because a stronger position from the CPMR was being prepared. It will be more sensible to mention it in this context. **Guy Escoplé** agreed with this point. **Daria Terradez**, from the Region of Valencia, also referred to two areas that she feels are important to them and therefore expressed hopes that they be considered in the CPMR document. The proposal will be integrated into the final version of the declaration.

Davide Strangis addressed issues internal to the Intermediterranean Commission and introduced the report on the activities of the working groups of the Intermediterranean Commission.

- **Guillaume Huet**, for the Sud Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region, and **Núria Bedos**, for the Catalonia Region, gave a summary of the group "Territorial cooperation and macro-regional strategies". They emphasised the importance of the period for the lobbying work of the group and the negotiation of the next programs for the Mediterranean. They made a slight digression to talk about the Panoramed project and mentioned the training module for the development of public services drawn up especially

for Morocco and Tunisia, in the framework of the Platforma project, and expressed hopes that this project be continued.

- **Manuel Pleguezuelo**, for the Region of Murcia, and **Guillaume Huet**, for the South Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region, gave an update of the "Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy" group. They recalled the most recent meetings and the group's main themes relating both to transport and SMI, a theme that brings together many parties. **Julien Ciglar**, for the Occitanie Region, spoke more specifically on the issue of marine renewable energies and floating wind energy (see [presentation](#)). He recalled the general conditions of the Mediterranean basin and gave details of several related projects. He spoke about the environmental impact, which is lower for floating wind turbines than for offshore wind turbines. Technical problems are also easier to rectify because they can be managed on the ground. An inventory is in progress between the two Regions of Occitania and Sud Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, joint studies are also to be considered.
- **Guy Escoplé**, for the Occitanie Region, gave an update on the "Economic and Social Cohesion" group, covering particularly developments from that morning's meeting. He talked about the various meetings held since July 2017. He took the opportunity to applaud the work of Campania, and in particular the contribution of Serena Angioli. He recalled the main working areas, especially in relation to the social economy, and the various projects related to youth policies, a theme that is of special importance for the future of the Mediterranean area.
- **Daria Terradez**, for the Generalitat Valenciana, and **Aouatif Derrous**, for the Rabat-Salé-Kenitra Region, gave an update on the "Water and Energy" working group. They recalled the unique characteristics of water management in southern European countries, and the link between water and renewable energies. **Daria Terradez** gave notice of the next meeting of the group on 18/19 September in Seville.

Davide Strangis presented the activity report of the Intermediterranean Commission, reviewed the cooperation with the networks and presented the [calendar](#). He emphasised two points: migration within the scope of the CPMR Task Force on this subject, and the very prolific cooperation projects for the Intermediterranean Commission in recent years. He then gave an update on the Commission's positive financial situation and put special emphasis on the contribution, including financial, from cooperation projects. Finally he looked at the question of members: the Marche Region is now a member of the Intermediterranean Commission. He concluded with the general CPMR strategic plan which will be validated during the General Meeting in Madeira in October 2018.

Apostolos Katsifaras concluded this session with congratulations for all the work done! We need to continue our work on the challenges facing all our Regions: innovation, energy, blue growth! He advocated an opening towards the whole basin.