



## Summary of the work and decisions of the Plenary Meeting of the Intermediterranean Commission

5 November 2015 – Firenze (Toscana - Italy)

### 1. EVALUATION AND FORWARD PLANNING OF ACTION BY THE CPMR INTERMEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION

Mohamed Sadiki, Vice-president of the Intermediterranean Commission, elected by the Regional Council of Rabat-Salé-Kenitra and Mayor of Rabat, was appointed by the President of the Intermediterranean Commission and of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region, Michel Vauzelle, to chair the Intermediterranean Commission's plenary meeting, held as part of the General Assembly of the CPMR. The president of the Intermediterranean Commission had to delegate his attendance as a result of force majeure.

Consequently, Vice-president Sadiki chaired the meeting and gave a summary - in accordance with the messages transmitted by the President - of the main activities of the Intermediterranean Commission in 2015 as well as the context of its action and key planning for future projects. In particular, the following points were highlighted:

- Approval and implementation of the [Intermediterranean Commission Action Plan 2014-2016](#) with its priority areas, restructuring of working groups and the boost to new priority themes (e.g. Economic and Social Cohesion)
- The context of the network's activity, strongly affected by a succession of tragedies, calling for a united and fast response, various calls for action by the EU and the international community, as well as specific actions and messages from the IMC in relation to:
  - the migration crisis, the "[We are all Mediterranean](#)" campaign (whose messages were also included in [the political position of the CPMR on migration management](#)) and the fight against terrorism along with the looming spectre of rejection of others, xenophobia, racism and fundamentalism.
  - The economic and financial crisis and the support to the Greek people expressed during the Intermediterranean Commission GA in Nafplio.
  - The challenges of climate change, with specific reference to the MED COP 21 and COP 21.
  - The projects being carried out, and the concrete opportunities to promote existing and emerging strategies in the Mediterranean to work towards an integrated macro-region (EUSAIR, and new strategies, starting from the Maritime Strategy for the Western Mediterranean).
  - The review of the European Neighbourhood Policy, its connection with other EU policies and the place that exists for the regions, expressed in the [CPMR Intermediterranean Commission contribution to the EC Consultation](#).
  - The concrete projects and initiatives for cooperation undertaken and for development by the Intermediterranean Commission and its regions (EU territorial cooperation projects at transnational and cross-border level, exchange of best practices, etc.).
  - The work to mobilise and expand the network in the regions of Southern and Eastern Mediterranean.

The Plenary also received further information about the [activities](#) successfully completed in 2015 and the main actions planned for the coming months in the presentation given by the Executive Secretary. The latter paid particular attention to completed European cooperation projects, and those currently being funded and developed, as well as the 6 applications recently presented to the Interreg MED Programme and the new ones being prepared (see "drafts folder" sent prior to the meeting along with the Executive Secretary's PPT presentation).

## **2. DISCUSSION ON THE DECLARATION AND ACTIVITIES OF THE IMC**

The Plenary also provided an opportunity to present the draft version of the Final declaration of the CPMR which was introduced by the CPMR Cohesion Policy Director, Nicolas Brookes, and which covered its 4 main themes. It was noted that the draft declaration was drawn up with the support of the IMC Secretariat and does in fact include, among other things, its most recent messages relating in particular to migration, neighbourhood policy and climate.

The Intermediterranean Commission members demonstrated their general agreement with the text and discussed a few proposals for amendments, which were shared and transferred to the review group (Catalonia's proposals with regard to transport, environment and migration, proposals from the Generalitat Valenciana relating to cross-border cooperation, etc.). Most of the proposals were incorporated into [the final document approved by the CPMR](#).

Members also expressed their approval of the Intermediterranean Commission activities and emphasised the important role that regions can play in neighbourhood and migration policies, as well as their desires to strengthen ties of cooperation and promote macro-regional and maritime basin strategies around the basin. Members also expressed comments or proposed concrete actions that they plan to undertake, aimed particularly at the short and long term handling of the migration crisis (receiving refugees and integration policies: presentations by Catalonia, Andalusia and Valencia Regions).

Other Regions, like Tuscany, underlined the scale of the migration challenges and the inter-cultural dialogue taking place in the basin in relation to the global crisis and the importance for regional authorities to be included and involved in all the different types of action and policy definition phases impacting on these issues. Tuscany then mentioned the need to support the democratic process in Tunisia and the opportunities for participation in order to facilitate the creation of opportunities for dialogue, coexistence and sharing of experiences (with a specific focus on youth and women) between Israelis and Palestinians.

## **3. INTERNAL ISSUES**

The Plenary approved the minutes of the Napflio General Assembly as well as the correspondence between the activities and the financial documentation, which includes a budget for 2016.

With regard to new members, the Plenary was informed of the application by Shkodër (Albania) to join the IMC (application approved), of the interest expressed by the Governorate of Kebili (Tunisia) which is in the process of formalising its membership procedure and that of the Campania Region (Italy) which has expressed its desire to rejoin the CPMR and the Intermediterranean Commission. In addition, Vicepresident Sadiki made a commitment to help the network so that it can expand and consolidate its cooperation with the new Moroccan regions.

With regard to the calendar (available on the Intermediterranean Commission [website](#)), the Plenary was informed of the latest developments concerning the programme of events in Rabat on 25-26 November 2015:

- The [Intermediterranean Commission Political Bureau](#) which will focus on decentralization, cooperation, neighbourhood and migration policies, is exceptionally open to all members and outside observers (UCLG Mediterranean Commission and the new Moroccan regions).
- Connected events organised by the UCLG Mediterranean Commission will be open to all members of the IMC: [Workshop on the quality of public services](#) on the 25/11 [COM MED Policy Council](#) of the UCLG on the morning of 26/11.

With regard to the organisation of the next Intermediterranean Commission General Assembly in 2016, the Secretariat has not received any formal proposals, so [the call was reiterated to members](#) in order that a decision can be taken during the Rabat Political Bureau or, in any case, as quickly as possible.