



CPMP
INTERMEDITERRANEAN
COMMISSION

Summary and conclusions from the Political Bureau of the Intermediterranean Commission

15 February 2018 - Cartagena (Murcia-Spain)

INTRODUCTION

Fernando LÓPEZ MIRAS, President of the Autonomous Community of Murcia, welcomed the participants and recalled the important role of Cartagena in the Mediterranean cartography. He reiterated the major challenges of the Mediterranean area, particularly in relation to agriculture and water, issues that are essential for the entire basin. He also mentioned the tourism sector, which is very important for the Region of Murcia and concluded by thanking all those involved in these days.

Apostolos KATSIFARAS, President of the Dytiki Ellada Region and President of the Intermediterranean Commission, gave his thanks in turn to the Region of Murcia for its hospitality. He thanked the port authority and participants for their investment in the meetings of the working groups (Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy and Territorial Cooperation and Macro-Regional Strategies) held the previous day. He mentioned the major topics on which the Intermediterranean Commission is involved and called for a Europe of shared values respected by all. A Europe for the economic and social future of its citizens. Faced with various instabilities and enormous challenges, he insisted upon the need for strong political decisions and reiterated the importance of the cohesion policy, and greater flexibility in budgets to deal with emerging problems. He ended his introduction by reiterating the importance of cooperation to give our people a better future.

Carmen HERNÁNDEZ, Head of the "European Territorial Cooperation" unit at the Spanish Ministry of Finance and Public Administration, congratulated the President of Murcia and thanked him for organising these meetings in Cartagena. Although it is a difficult city to access, she believes that this is how we get to know our territories. She mentioned the PANORAMED project, a fine example of cooperation that contributes to the development of the Mediterranean area and the synergies in place. She also called for more simplification, more flexibility and proportionality in the management of cooperation programs.

Antonio del PINO, PANORAMED leader at the Spanish Ministry of Finance and Public Administration, also extended his thanks to all the organisers of this day. He gave a quick presentation of the PANORAMED project: [Watch the presentation](#)

SIGNATURE OF THE BOLOGNA CHARTER

Apostolos KATSIFARAS presented the [Bologna Charter](#) and recalled that it is open to all coastal authorities in the EU and to all the member regions of the Intermediterranean Commission. **Fernando LÓPEZ MIRAS** proceeded to sign the document for the Region of Murcia. **Patrizio BIANCHI**, from the Emilia Romagna Region, concluded and thanked the Region of Murcia for becoming involved in this political document which forms the basis of the joint actions of the Mediterranean Regions for the sustainable development of coastal zones and protection from phenomena like coastal erosion.

SESSION 1 - EMERGING STRATEGIES, INITIATIVES AND THE FUTURE OF COOPERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Eleni HATZIYANNI, for the Kriti Region (Crete) and PANORAMED Liaising Leader, gave a [presentation](#) on the key issues for improving governance and cooperation in the Mediterranean. She recalled the diversity of this space but stressed the importance of creating synergies and cooperation mechanisms.

Patrizio BIANCHI, member of the regional executive of Emilia Romagna, in charge of EU policies for development, education, training, universities, research and employment, gave a [presentation](#) about a

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strategic vision for sustainable development in the Mediterranean. Cohesion and networking in the Mediterranean in relation to innovation, for example, are essential if we want to prevent divisions in Europe. Education, migration and blue growth are key issues that should guide our proposals for giving our citizens a peaceful future. We must work for a Mediterranean alliance for sustainable development. **Patrizio BIANCHI** recalled that the budget must simply remain an instrument: it is not Europe's end goal. The Mediterranean is also not on the periphery of Europe but rather it is at the heart of the future of this space. Finally, he recalled the work undertaken by Emilia Romagna on "big data" for a better organisation of sustainable lives. The EU must provide the resources needed for the development of the Mediterranean and therefore of Europe. We must reject any EU proposal to reduce the resources of the cohesion policy, as this is the best instrument for initiating the development of human capital and innovation in Southern Europe.

Miguel GARCIA-HERRAIZ, Deputy Secretary General for environment and water - Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean, talked about the blue economy in the Mediterranean. He called for a global vision on the subject and said that the UfM aims to connect the Regions' priorities with global issues. The UfM roadmap focuses on human development, sustainable development and regional integration. On neighbourhood issues he recalled the importance of establishing strong links with the southern shore and with the Balkans and the Black Sea. He concluded with the [PRIMA](#) and [BLUEMED](#) programs which are linked to the UfM agenda and blue growth issues. He concluded his talk by recalling the organisation of the Mediterranean Games that will be held in Tarragona this summer and he cited publications of interest to share with the Regions. "*Greening the Blue Economy*" has been developed with the CPMR's Intermediterranean Commission.

Christos THEOPHILOU, Policy Officer - "Mediterranean and Black Sea Maritime Policy" Unit - DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the European Commission, gave a [presentation](#) on the Western Mediterranean Maritime Initiative and EUSAIR. He recalled the three objectives and the symmetry of the program for the Western Mediterranean: a healthier and safer sea area, an intelligent blue economy and better governance of the sea.

Ana REPULLO GRAU, ENP CTF MED Program Director - DG NEAR - European Commission, presented the progress of the European Neighbourhood Policy, the Neighbourhood Instrument and cross-border cooperation. She recalled the results of the evaluation of the ENI CBC MED program and discussed the evaluation of cross-border cooperation under the Neighbourhood Policy in general, as well as the needs that have been identified: maintaining dialogue between the stakeholders and the link with stakeholders on the ground. She also hoped for an improvement in coordination and synergies, and a focus on shipping. She recalled that the general geography of the Mediterranean remains the major challenge. She concluded by talking about cross-border cooperation in the context of the next programming and stressed the importance of better coordination between the NEAR and REGIO DGs.

Serena ANGIOLI, Vice-President of the Intermediterranean Commission, member of the Campania regional executive in charge of EU funds, youth policies and Mediterranean cooperation, recalled the impact that the general situation of the Mediterranean has on European policies. She also talked about the political and technical contributions of our actions and reiterated the importance of the territorial dimension that forms the basis of policy definition.

Mohamed SADIKI, Vice-President of the Intermediterranean Commission, Regional Councillor of Rabat Salé Kenitra and Mayor of Rabat, recalled that the Mediterranean basin must be observed and connected via a macro-regional dynamic. He discussed decentralisation in Morocco and Tunisia and the role of the southern shore Regions in the European balance and the co-construction of macro-regional strategies at basin level.

Justyne CARUANA, Minister for Gozo, insisted on the commitment required in European policies to improve the quality of life of our citizens, wherever they reside. She recalled that we have to fight social exclusion via the cohesion policy that enables us to reduce inequality. Cooperation, solidarity and commitment are the key words that must guide our actions. She also explained that Gozo was identified as one of the most sustainable tourist areas in 2017. She then discussed environmental issues, in particular in relation to plastics management, and recalled the link with blue growth and the emerging WestMED maritime initiative. She hoped that access to EU funds would be enhanced to expand opportunities in the blue economy and emerging sectors.

Giannis FONTANAS, Vice-Governor of the Ionia Nissia Region (Ionian Islands), spoke to explain that the Regions have a better vision of the reality faced in the territories.

Claude WOHRER, from the Secretariat General for the Sea (France), discussed the WestMED initiative and recalled how it applies to regions at organisational level. For France, a community is in place with state-regional coordination, and she would also like to ensure that information is properly circulated to the other countries concerned. The idea behind the initiative is to open up to all Mediterranean countries and operate with a system close to the idea of macro-regions. She explained the role of the CPMR and the Regions in ensuring that the positions of the WestMED Steering Committee are well integrated in all our territories and reflect the overall position of our Regions.

Guillaume CROS, Vice-President of the Occitania Region, expressed a desire to return to the question of the renationalisation of policies. He wants a very strong message on the rejection of this renationalisation, which in his opinion would be tantamount to a virtual abandonment of the European project itself. He called for vigilance on our part and while maintaining the cohesion policies, believes we must refuse or at least limit renationalisation as much as possible.

Davide STRANGIS, Executive Secretary of the Intermediterranean Commission, concluded and summarised the main ideas of this session: the need for a more ambitious European project for all territories, the protection of the cohesion policy, a special focus on maritime issues and migration, the need for a Mediterranean alliance for sustainable development and innovation, the role of the UfM, the EU and the various cooperation programs, the need for synergies for a truly integrated and structured Mediterranean. He recalled that we must consider the Mediterranean as a whole and observe and build long-term macro-regional or maritime basin cooperation dynamics in the broadest sense, even if this is in a gradual manner and with a variable geometry. Finally, he emphasised the promotion of decentralisation and, at the same time, the integration of new countries into cooperation, especially for the next programming period and future territorial cooperation programs.

SESSION 2 - COASTAL AND MARITIME SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Davide STRANGIS introduced the session and the political agenda of the Mediterranean Regions in relation to sustainable tourism. A framework for action has been prepared and points have been identified to improve the sustainability of the sector in the Mediterranean and beyond. The tourism sector is key to economic development, but the resulting environmental pressures must not be overlooked. He made reference to the Intermediterranean Commission's document: [Promoting sustainable tourism in the Mediterranean Regions](#).

In her [presentation](#), **Blanka BELOSEVIC**, Head of WP Tourism PANORAMED - Croatian Ministry of Tourism, discussed the major issues of sustainable maritime and coastal tourism and governance-related questions, with a focus on the Mediterranean. She explained that Europe is the number 1 tourist destination in the world, with of course cities like Paris which are very well located but also with new destinations, for example those in the Balkans.

Christos THEOPHILOU, Policy Officer - "Mediterranean and Black Sea Maritime Policy" Unit - DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries - European Commission, presented the prospects for coastal and maritime sustainable tourism in the EU and in the Mediterranean. He emphasised that Maritime Spatial Planning is essential for the sustainable development of maritime and coastal tourism - Watch the [presentation](#) by Christos Theophilou.

Giuseppe SCIACCA, Executive Secretary of the CPMR Islands Commission, discussed sustainable tourism in the islands and mentioned specific challenges and the issues and potential - Watch the [presentation](#) by Giuseppe Sciacca.

David PAVÓN, University of Girona and for the [Mitomed](#) project, presented the work on indicators and management models (Watch the [presentation](#) by David Pavón). He explained how to compare and contrast data according to the sources in the platform under development. The idea being to promote the applicability of data and indicators and to simplify systems to facilitate the comparability of tourist destinations. It encourages the Regions and their municipalities to participate in testing and transferring project results.

Roberto MONTANARI, Emilia Romagna Region, presented the progress of the project [Co-Evolve](#) and Med Coast 4 Blue Growth in relation to Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Maritime Spatial Planning (Watch the [presentation](#)).

Agustina MARTÍNEZ, Manager of "Cartagena Puerto de culturas", spoke to present the process of redeveloping the city of Cartagena that has been established for twenty years. (Watch the [presentation](#)). She

highlighted the city's enormous cultural and historical heritage, presented all the existing infrastructure for tourism development and drew attention to some revealing figures concerning sustainable tourism activity in Cartagena.

Miguel GARCIA-HERRAIZ confirmed that Med Coast 4 Blue Growth, supported by the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission, has been endorsed by the 43 states of the UfM and provided a [link](#) for more information about projects related to the blue economy in the Mediterranean.

Stavros KALOGNOMOS, Project Leader at the CPMR, discussed the link between sustainable mobility and tourism, through the experience of [CIVITAS DESTINATIONS](#) - Watch the [presentation](#) by Stavros Kalognomos. The project offers Regions the opportunity to replicate pilot activities (urban sustainable transport measures, etc.).

Vincent ERNOUX, Coordinator - Office of the MEDEV CTF MED IEV Program for the Western Mediterranean, gave a [presentation](#) on the IEV CTF MED projects relating to heritage and cultural tourism. In the current period, the role of tourism is paramount, and it is a recurring theme in the program with expected results in terms of the creation of tourism products via numerous projects that have been presented by the stakeholders.

Davide STRANGIS spoke on behalf of the Latin Arc, for the [BleuTourMed](#) project, and introduced the Interreg MED community on sustainable tourism. He spoke about the large and diverse community, and the capitalization activities: this community of projects addresses common key topics: the impact on tourism, data management, sustainable economic growth and governance. He explained that a conference will be held in Rome on 18/19 April to present the results.

Guillaume CROS, Vice-President of the Occitania Region, spoke about the notion of sustainable tourism. He recalled the enormous pressure on the Mediterranean Regions. Even though this sector is booming from a general point of view, we must not neglect the fact that certain Regions "suffer" from tourism. It is therefore important to work on the notion of responsible and intelligent tourism so as not to compromise the balance in the territories in the future. Tourism must take its place among the general policies of sustainable development, with priority number 1 being the protection of natural resources. He concluded with the idea that the aspirations of the inhabitants of tourist destinations must not be neglected because although tourism is a major economic lever, there must be an understanding of how to manage the difficulties and the conflicts of use which are associated with it. He referred to the HERIT-DATA project led by Tuscany, in which the Occitania Region participates with the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission and other Regions. The strategic project funded by MED Interreg addresses the issues of mass tourism, trying to provide sustainable management solutions through innovation and the use of Open Data.

Raquel HUETE NIEVES, General Director of Tourism - Generalitat Valenciana, discussed the renovation work on housing and the Region's strategy for sustainable tourism. People in Valencia have become mindful of key factors such as respect and high-quality hospitality. Brands have been identified. Finally, she recalled that SMEs are the basis of our economies, and she explained that we must ensure decent working conditions for all.

Mercè ESCRICHS, responsible for the quality/competitiveness of tourism sector - DG Tourism - Generalitat de Catalunya, referred to the biosphere certification obtained by Catalonia for sustainable and economically responsible tourism, but also from environmental, cultural and social points of view - Watch the [presentation](#) by Mercè ESCRICHS.

Manuela BIGI, Co-leader of the PANORAMED Tourism WP - Toscana Region - Director of economic and tourist promotion, gave a [presentation](#) on tourism in Tuscany, and recalled the shared issues in terms of sustainability. She reiterated the issue of tourist expectations/motivations and acceptability. And explained that the use of data and communication are key elements in this matter.

Elena GORI, Co-leader of the PANORAMED Tourism WP - University of Florence - Dept. of Business and Economics - Associate Professor, added to Manuela Bigi's presentation with a presentation of the Tuscany Tourism Management Program. She detailed the participatory approach that allows for better information and data sharing and being liberated from any pressure to be able to identify proposals and strategies for concrete actions.

Apostolos PAPAFOTIOU, for the Peloponnese Region, presented a historical excursus of cultural and socio-economic relations between the Mediterranean Regions, linking up with the promotion of sustainable tourism.

Davide STRANGIS, Executive Secretary of the Intermediterranean Commission linked the different experiences presented, emerging strategies such as WestMED and BLUEMED, highlighting the contribution of the Regions to the development of sustainable tourism in the Mediterranean, and, particularly, to the future development of PANORAMED activities and concluded the session.

SESSION III - MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE AND MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

Apostolos KATSIFARAS introduced the session on this important subject for all the Mediterranean Regions.

Orland CARDONA, Head of Institutional Relations and Participation - Generalitat de Catalunya, presented an evaluation of the CPMR's work on migration management. He recalled the key messages and prospects for reforming the shared asylum system, multi-level governance and finance instruments. The EU agenda will be presented in May for short- and medium-term actions, with regard in particular to asylum, but it is not certain that an agreement will be reached. He expressed surprise that the Regions are still not seen as the main players in migration management when they are at the forefront on this subject. Exclusive powers remain in the hands of Member States and central governments. According to him, a horizontal multidisciplinary approach of integration is necessary, and funds must be provided for the regions. The question of integration remains crucial: he recalled that Catalonia has experienced a population explosion in the last ten years, with an additional 1 million inhabitants.

Davide STRANGIS recalled the essential role played by interregional cooperation on such an important subject. He recalled the work of the CPMR, via a questionnaire which gathered a large amount of information and is preparing for a publication on this topic. He explained the political messages related to financing for post-2020. He called for the participation of all Regions wishing to supplement the information collected because the publication and its political messages will be validated at the next CPMR board meeting in March.

Sorrentino FATICA, responsible for migration for the PANORAMED program, recalled that migration is a growing phenomenon in the Mediterranean. He referred to the same approach for retrieving information relating to migration issues and at the same time to PANORAMED's two working groups on maritime safety and tourism.

Miriam PÉREZ ALBALADEJO, Director-General of "Family and Social Policies" for the Region of Murcia, recalled that Murcia has always been a migration zone, although since the 90s, there have been strong changes with the arrival of migrants from North Africa and the sub-Saharan. She discussed their integration from a professional point of view in industry, construction, personal assistance services ... She talked about two plans that have been established within an approach of social cohesion. She concluded by explaining that Murcia is above the national average in terms of the number of migrants and that although the economic crisis has also triggered a phenomenon of emigration, the Region of Murcia already has three generations of migrants on its territory. She explained that the Regions cannot stand on the sidelines of cooperation with the countries on the issue of migrants. She gave her support to the CPMR's positions on migration funds.

Inmaculada Carda, Director General for Social Integration of Valencia recalled the demographic transition and new realities facing the Region today. In addressing exclusion issues, she explained the Region's policies on welcoming and integrating migrants within its territory and highlighted the related difficulties and innovations. **Inmaculada Carda** recalled that Valencian society has always been based on migration and embraces plurality and diversity. She stated that migration has always been perceived positively by the Valencian government. It took up the challenge in 2016 by setting up a specialised office for welcoming and integrating migrants, with professionals in human and civil rights to ensure optimum intercultural mediation focusing on three areas: social cohesion and co-habitation, social inclusion and guaranteeing migrants' rights. At the same time a Valencian plan for inclusion and social cohesion was drawn up, with a roadmap for a new policy that puts the human being at the centre of dialogue-based decisions

APPROVAL OF POLITICAL MESSAGES

The Political Bureau of the Intermediterranean Commission approved:

- The report of the plenary meeting of the Intermediterranean Commission in Helsinki
- The Political Agenda of the Intermediterranean Commission on Tourism: [Promoting sustainable tourism in the Mediterranean Regions](#)
- Support for the [UNIMED petition](#) and the [Alliance for Cohesion](#)
- Support for the key messages of the CPMR's draft position paper on migration
- The agreement for a written approval of a future political position on territorial cooperation in the Mediterranean that the Secretariat will draw up with the working group on territorial cooperation and macro-regions, or the presentation of a political position during the 2018 Annual General Meeting in Patras
- The activity report and the project report
- The financial documents of the Intermediterranean Commission
- The Liguria Region's application for membership to be ratified by the next CPMR Political Bureau and the 2018 Annual General Meeting of the Intermediterranean Commission in Patras
- The calendar of the Intermediterranean Commission, especially the next meeting of the Water Group, the DTI training in Morocco and the next Annual General Meeting of the Commission, 28/29 June in Patras
- Key topics to be developed in the Patras 2018 Final Declaration

INTERNAL QUESTIONS OF THE INTERMEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION OF THE CPMR

An assessment of the activities of the 4 working groups of the Intermediterranean Commission was presented by the co-chairs and by the secretariat.

Guillaume CROS, for the Occitania Region, gave an update on the "Economic and social cohesion" group. He recalled the Montpellier meeting in September and said that the social economy is an essential subject for the Occitania region. He referred to the report on this subject which has been presented and approved by the Regions of the Intermediterranean Commission.

Serena ANGIOLI, for the Campania Region, talked more about the activities of the group, with the presentation of a specific project for the creation of a Euro-Mediterranean citizen school to meet the needs of the people who form the basis of the Mediterranean society. She reiterated the importance of working on the Mediterranean identity.

Manuel PLEGUEZUELO, from the Region of Murcia, gave an update on the work of the "Transport and SMI" working group, particularly following the meeting on the previous day concerning transport and the blue economy and gave a reminder about the global update of the work plan.

Davide STRANGIS also gave a quick assessment of the work undertaken by the "Territorial cooperation and macro-regional strategies" working group on the previous day as well as that of "Water and Energy", referring in particular to the water-related activities scheduled in Seville and to the SHERPA project concerning energy efficiency in buildings.

COMMUNICATION AND PRESS

For more information: article published on the website of the Intermediterranean Commission of the CPMR "[Intermediterranean Commission Regions strengthen their alliance for sustainable development](#)" which includes the main contents and the press memos.