TERMS OF REFERENCE
AGRIMED – Sustainable agriculture and food sovereignty in the Mediterranean

I – Background

This Task Force has been elaborated as a follow-up of the “Agriculture and food security facing climate change in the Mediterranean” report, coordinated by Region Sud1 and ratified by the ARLEM of the European Committee of the Regions on 22 February 2021.

Following on from the special report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (MedECC) of 2019, the ARLEM report makes an alarming assessment of the situation in the Mediterranean with regard to Sustainable agriculture and food sovereignty facing climate change.

The report also proposes a whole series of technical and political recommendations to be implemented locally and in the framework of bilateral/multilateral cooperation to remedy the situation, and which the IMC will aim to operationalize.

In order to help stem the vicious circle that would lead to tens of millions of victims of the consequences of climate change and famine by 2050 in the Mediterranean basin, the IMC will see to it to assert proactive positions and support concrete projects on the issues of sustainable food production, food security and food sovereignty in the Mediterranean. This will also enable the Member regions to enhance and promote the specific features and traditional know-how of Mediterranean agriculture and alimentation in the framework of decentralised cooperation, European/Euro-Mediterranean funds and programmes, development aid and, more generally, emerging macro-regional integration.

II – Objectives and key actions

It is proposed to set up a task force on “Sustainable agriculture and food sovereignty – AGRIMED” within the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission “Water and Energy” working group. The idea is to bridge water-

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1 The report was coordinated by Mrs. Agnès RAMPAL, President of the Euro-Mediterranean Commission of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur Region and member of the European Committee of the Regions.
energy-alimentation issues as many actions have also been developed around this nexus in the Mediterranean.

This Task Force could take full advantage of the opportunities of the new EU programming period 2021-2027 and the Green Deal, to support the elaboration of projects proposals to European calls as well as the application to very concrete actions and objectives in line with the recommendations of the ARLEM report. As a priority, the Task Force could position itself to:

- **Develop a “Euro-Mediterranean Observatory on Agricultural Markets, Resilient Agricultural Practices and Sustainable Food Systems”**
  
  - This observatory would identify and share policies and good practices on sustainable agriculture, fisheries, food security, preservation of food cultural heritage, etc.
  
  - It would act as a resource centre based on participatory approaches through direct dialogue with local institutions and communities, it would analyse the evolution of the agricultural, halieutic, environmental and food situation in the face of climate change.

- **Structure a “Mediterranean Products” or “Mediterranean Diet” label with precise specifications and a major communication plan**
  
  - This label would equate a qualitative guarantee from a nutrition, health and sustainable origin (sustainable agriculture, sustainable fisheries...) point of view of the Mediterranean origin on the model of the SIQO (AB, IGP, AOP) or at least of the High Environmental Quality (HVE) label.
  
  - This would be done in connection with the promotional development of the Mediterranean diet internationally, on the model of the International Conference on the Revitalisation of the Mediterranean Diet (Palermo, May 2019) and for export at major international trade fairs (e.g. International Food and SIAL Trade Fair, etc.).
  
  - Also, Festivals or “Mediterranean Gastronomy Weeks” for the promotion of labelled products could be organised annually by several cities and host countries on an itinerant basis from one edition to the next.

- **Capitalizing existing projects results that have also worked on similar issues to understand how their indicators could serve as a complementary basis to define a potential label.**
  
  - In this sense, the SolaQua project (H2020) on solar irrigation could constitute a complementary state of reflexions regarding the sustainability of agriculture, bridging to the technological aspect of energy and water management.

### III – Key actions 2021-2022

Within the framework of a strategic action plan co-constructed on the basis of a questionnaire sent to the members of the IMC, the “Sustainable agriculture and food sovereignty in the Mediterranean – AGRIMED” Task Force could:

- Monitor the work, initiatives and emerging strategies of the UN, the EU, the UfM as well as in the different scales of public policies in the different Member States in relation to Mediterranean agriculture;

- To put forward joint positions and initiatives to strengthen the consideration of the issues of sustainable agriculture and food sovereignty in the Mediterranean in the various international, Mediterranean and European bodies;

- Facilitate networking and information sharing with transnational, regional and local actors. All the actors and networks that make up the “Food Policy coalition” could be particularly targeted, in addition to representatives of European agricultural interests and their national variations (COPA-COGECA, IFOAM, ECO-PB, etc.); strategic partnerships could also be envisaged with the FAO, CIHEAM, etc.;
➢ Contribute to the implementation, notably through the exchange of good practices, of projects and initiatives useful for the promotion of sustainable Mediterranean agriculture and fisheries, allowing farmers and fishermen to live decently and contributing to the protection of biodiversity in the area. A particular focus on the replicability and transferability of projects in general, as well as on initial and continuing training in particular, would be envisaged;

➢ Identify, promote and develop new transnational and cross-border cooperation projects or initiatives by capitalising on the results of past or ongoing projects (e.g. PRIMA, ENI CBC Med, Green Growth Community (INTERREG-MED, etc.) and by creating new partnerships.

➢ Follow-up the implementation of the SolaQua project (H2020) and increment synergies with the present topics of sustainable agriculture and food sovereignty.

IV – Organization and calendar 2021-2022

Region Sud proposes to coordinate the newly created “Sustainable agriculture and food sovereignty in the Mediterranean – AGRIMED” Task Force during an initial two-year pilot phase (2021-2022), with the support of the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission Secretariat and all Member regions for which this topic is relevant. Its work would also be carried out in close collaboration with the other IMC working groups and the CPMR General Secretariat.

The Task Force could meet regularly in person or remotely during events of interest related to the work themes. Coordination from one meeting to another will be done by email, telephone and/or videoconference. Information and all documentation useful to the work of the Task Force will be sent by email and will also be available in a Dropbox and/or on the CPMR intranet. The folder will be private for external users, but accessible to all member Regions.

A first meeting of the Task Force could be organised in spring 2020 to:

- Present the conclusions of the ARLEM report in details;
- Discuss the objectives of the Task Force with the IMC members and identify the first areas of collaboration, possibly by sending a questionnaire to all members to map practices and expectations.

In addition, the years 2021 and 2022 are rich in international events directly or indirectly related to the Task Force theme. Therefore, the Task Force could mobilise, intervene and/or participate in events within the framework of a non-exhaustive calendar which would include, among others, the following:

- **Working Group (WG) “Environment and Climate” of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM):** March/April 2021 (date and place to be confirmed)
- **2nd UfM “Environment and Climate” Ministerial Summit in Cairo (Egypt):** 1st semester 2021 (date to be confirmed)
- **Biodiversity COP15 in Kunming (China):** 17 to 30 May 2021
- **High-level conference on “Oceans” organised by Aix-Marseille University (AMU) at the European Committee of the Regions in Brussels (Belgium) and sponsored by Region Sud/Agnès RAMPAL:** 16 June 2021
- **World Conservation Congress of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in Marseille (France):** 3 to 11 September 2021;
- **UN Summit on Food Systems 2021:** 2nd semester 2021 (date and place to be confirmed);
- **2nd Summit of the two shores of the Mediterranean:** 28 and 29 November 2021 (date and place to be confirmed);
- **French Presidency of the Council of the EU (1st semester 2022):** “Agroecological practices” are among the main priorities identified by France for its presidency.