

Carlos Eleno: "We want all governments to have a coordinated view of the coast"

Carlos Eleno has opened today the special session on governance in the Mediterranean coastal areas that is part of the project MAREMED.

The Department of Infrastructure and Transports of FEPORTS has hosted, for two days, a working group of the European project MAREMED, which falls within the framework of the implementation of an integrated maritime policy in the Mediterranean. The overall project goal is to strengthen the coordination of regional maritime policies among themselves but also through their implementation at national, European and Mediterranean level.

Specifically, this project, which involved FEPORTS, the Institute for Studies and Cooperation Port of Valencia, focuses on the pillars of the maritime policy with a strong transnational dimension such as integrated coastal zone management, pollution, adaptation to climate change in coastal areas, fisheries and management of coastal and maritime data. Coordinated by the Provence-Alps-Côte d'Azur region, project leader, fourteen regional partners from France, Spain, Italy, Greece and Cyprus and also the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions participate in the initiative.

The Director General of Ports, Airports and Coasts of the Generalitat of Valencia, Carlos Eleno, accompanied by the director of FEPORTS, Vicente Cerdá, was commissioned to inaugurate the first of two work sessions in Valencia this week, specifically the special session about governance of coastal areas in the Mediterranean.

This session aims are to compare the regulation framework for the management of coastal areas in different regions of countries that have signed the Barcelona Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean and to exchange experience about governance and the adjustment of regions to the ICZM policies promoted by the European Union. This will also allow the exchange of experiences on good practices in integrated coastal zone management.

Carlos Eleno recalled that one of the goals promoted by the Department of Infrastructure and Transports is trying to gather all relevant authorities to have an equal view of the coast: "We want to find a comprehensive approach and coordinated mechanisms with a simplified administrative framework", he said.

For example, he reminded that an agreement had been signed by the Ministry of Environment, the Department of Infrastructure and Transports and the city of Alicante for the development of the North Bay of Alicante: "It took about a year and a half to convince all administrations they are now involved. When the three governance levels will realize the improvement of the situation, we'll move easier", said Carlos Eleno.

"These projects of integration and cooperation on the coast do not have to include only a step. For example, in the case of the North Bay project there was two phases. The first corresponding to the "Paseo Marítimo" will be executed by the Department of Infrastructure and Transports with a budget of six millions Euros, but for the rest of the project, the agreement between administrations will be essential".

In yesterday's session MAREMED members moved in the analysis and definition of management mechanisms and inter administrative coordination and exposed the experiences of different regions, such as the aforementioned or Camp Levante Project in Almeria. On Tuesday's conference, there will be two work sessions on the Water Framework Directive.