

What is the political role for the Mediterranean Regions in pollution control?

Maritime Regions Cooperation for the Mediterranean (MAREMED)

What links are there between maritime policies of the EU, Regions and States in the Mediterranean?

4 April 2012

- The Mediterranean Regions which are members of the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission met in Barcelona on 25 January 2008 and unanimously adopted a final declaration and a political proposal document entitled

“Declaration of the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission on the consideration of Maritime questions by the Barcelona Process Union for the Mediterranean”

- **Prior conditions:**

The Mediterranean Regions are delighted that the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean is taking maritime policies as one of its priorities and, in particular the problem of pollution control in the Mediterranean.

Condition n°1: Reform the legal status of Mediterranean waters.

The Regions must believe that pollution control, the management of fish stocks, the fight against illegal fishing and issues relating to maritime safety and security all require the extension of maritime zones of competence for coastline States, going beyond the limit of territorial waters.

For example through the setting up of ecological protection zones, they ask coastline States to reflect on the introduction of a specific legal status for the Mediterranean, backed by the corresponding powers and resources.

Condition n°2: Allocate an appropriate budget, reflecting the urgency of maritime problems in the Mediterranean, in particular in the area of pollution control.

The Mediterranean Regions refer mainly to their proposal for a renewed Euro-Mediterranean partnership and the creation of convergence funds and a sufficiently large multilateral fund (Med-Regio and Med-funds).

Condition n°3: Introduce an integrated maritime policy for the entire Basin.

That is consistent with the European initiative and its action plan.

Condition n°4: Improve the multilateral governance of Mediterranean maritime policies.

The Regions believe that the current tools are inadequate or inappropriate, both at Euro-Mediterranean level and with regard to the Mediterranean Action Plan, especially in the framework of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development. They consider that only new governance of the Mediterranean space, implying close cooperation between international, national, regional and local levels, will provide a means of supplying appropriate responses to the major maritime issues in the Mediterranean.

The Mediterranean Regions must:

- Note that demographic changes, the increasing creation of urban sprawl, and economic and tourist development all exert increasingly strong pressure on the Mediterranean coastline and result in a marked rise in the risks of exclusion of local people from their own coastal zone as well as the degradation of living conditions along the coast;
- Wish this social dimension to be given greater significance in public policies throughout the Basin;

- Consider that the fight against emerging types of pollution in the Mediterranean should be a priority and ask that greater attention be paid by States and the international community to the question of pollutants carried by major rivers and catchment areas along the Mediterranean;
- Recall that the Mediterranean is one of the world's most seriously affected zones as regards the consequences of climate change and ask that States and international bodies cooperate more on the monitoring and forecasting of meteorological and oceanographic issues and seek measures that could be taken to adapt to climate change along the Mediterranean coastline;

- Are delighted with the initiative taken by maritime research agencies to host Euro-Mediterranean discussions and approve the terms of the Toulon Declaration which, in particular, allowed for a sharing of oceanographic resources in the Mediterranean and the development of global research programmes throughout the Basin;
- Believe that regional and local authorities provide the best guarantee for the long-lasting implementation of appropriately-scaled, integrated, operational, territorial management which can then be taken on board by citizens;

- Reiterate their commitment to take part, through the CPMR, in the Euro-Mediterranean debate on Mediterranean maritime policies and the Horizon 2020 initiative for de-polluting the Mediterranean Sea;
- Are ready to contribute to the development of European and international programs for cooperation on maritime issues, especially in the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan and the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development.

As Conclusion:

- Pollution control in the Mediterranean, the adaptation of coastal zones to the consequences of climate change, the management of marine resources, and maritime safety and security are priority issues of concern to all coastal Regions and that their consequences spread far beyond coastal States;
- The social, environmental, and economic importance of maritime issues in the Mediterranean;
- The need to consider maritime issues to cover the Basin as a whole;
- The need to give coastal States and the international community the tools required for good governance of maritime policies in the Mediterranean;



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PROJECT CO-FINANCED BY
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Development Fund**