

The Bologna Charter 2012

A Med regions initiative for the re-launching of the European policies for sustainable development and the protection of the Mediterranean coasts

The “Bologna Charter 2012” (*European regions charter for the promotion of a common framework for strategic actions aimed at the protection and sustainable development of the Mediterranean coastal areas*) has been adopted by the Emilia-Romagna Region ([Resolution of the Regional Government n. 1346, 17th September 2012](#)), as result of a fruitful joint work between coastal Administrations, partners in a long cooperation experiences within relevant European projects.

Aimed at the strengthening of the role of the coastal Administrations in the context of European policies and initiatives at the Mediterranean scale – coastal protection, integrated management, adaptation to climate change – the “Charter” also promotes a Macro-Project initiative for the next programming period of European Structural Funds (2014-2020), designed for a coherent Mediterranean macro-thematic and multi-sectoral strategy, open also to the coastal Administrations of the South and East of the Mediterranean.

Re-launching the principles of the former political agreement (the Bologna Charter 2007, born in the BEACHMED-e Regional Framework Operation, www.beachmed.eu), the “Charter 2012”, developed within the MAREMED project (www.maremed.eu) with the support of the FACECOAST Med-cluster (www.facecoast.eu), is expected to be signed by about 20 Mediterranean coastal Administrations in the first phase (tentatively in March 2013 in Bruxelles) and then potentially by all the other Administrations and Bodies with coastal competences in the Mediterranean basin.

A first step towards its signature, after its official transmission to the first phase partner Administrations, has been the meeting held in Bologna (on the 29th October 2012) between Emilia-Romagna Regional Councillor of Soil and Coast Defence and Civil Protection, **Paola Gazzolo** and **Monique Petard**, Vice President of the Council of Hérault Department (Languedoc-Roussillon) in charge for the Environment and Agenda 21, who was in Italy for an institutional mission. They discussed about the several aspects of the Charter and of the Marco-Project initiative and shared the opportunity of the appointment in Bruxelles, foreseen by March 2013, for the Charter signature.

After the meeting a Press Release was launched and collected by several Italian News portals.