



Corfu Declaration

We, Parliamentarians coming from 15 different Mediterranean countries, present at the 6th Annual General Assembly of the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD) held in Corfu, Greece (3-4 May 2007), adopt unanimously the following declaration:

1. While overviewing the achievements of the first decade of the 21st century, acknowledge that, despite the vision and framework set by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) seven years ago and despite the initiatives and efforts invested by international organizations and the Governments of the region, there is still a considerable gap between the time-bound tasks and targets of the various relevant processes and the achievements realized.

2. In particular, we express our anxiety about the deterioration of living conditions in parts of the Mediterranean region due to the exacerbation of armed conflicts as well as the high pressures exerted on natural resources resulting, among others, from increasing population, higher climate variability, expansion of desertification and unsustainable models of production and consumption.

3. We are convinced that the promotion of Sustainable Development in the countries of the Mediterranean Region depends on a set of prerequisites that still need to be fulfilled, among which of priority are:

a) The removal of the root causes of armed conflicts and wars through the honest implementation of the UN resolutions, conventions and declarations.

b) The coordinated action of governments and their increased cooperation on issues of management of shared and national resources in consultation with competent stakeholders including the civil society.

c) The systematic provision of information on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) with emphasis on education on sustainable consumption (ESC) to all concerned stakeholders, including elected representatives.

d) The creation of suitable conditions for women and the increased recognition of their role and participation in society, especially filling existing gaps;

e) The enhancement of the role and active involvement of MPs, acting beyond governments and political parties, in order to strengthen democratic processes in the countries of the region, particularly on issues important for development, employment, environment and education.

4. We are convinced that the major socioeconomic humanitarian problem of illegal migration to and through the Mediterranean is closely linked to serious problems and pressures on environment and natural resources in the countries of Sub Saharan Africa. We urge all Mediterranean countries and the EU to implement policies assisting the aforementioned countries in effectively address these problems.

5. We emphasize that the effective management of national and shared water resources must become an integral part of all countries' efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), an approach that takes account of competing water needs in an equitable, efficient and sustainable manner, is recognised as the appropriate response to the challenges faced. IWRM should be reflected in all national development planning instruments and budgets as well as the plans of sectors such as agriculture, energy, industry, health etc. Activities within the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI), the GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystems, the joint Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process on Shared Water Resources Management and other processes, contribute to these objectives and should be strengthened. Water should be recognised as a critical area and should be placed higher in the EU agenda as well as in the operational programmes of EU and Mediterranean countries. Furthermore, acknowledging the Petersberg Africa Process (facilitated by UNDP/GEF) and recognizing the potential for exchange of experiences between COMPSUD and Parliamentary networks in Africa we express the willingness of COMPSUD to participate in the Petersberg Africa Process.

6. We call all countries to ratify and implement the Kyoto Protocol and to participate in the international action for reducing pollutants causing climate change. To this end we strongly support the development of Renewable Energy Sources in the Mediterranean, which has sun and wind as some of its prominent features and encourage governments and the Commission to place renewable energies in the centre of their energy policies in the region as well as to enhance research on global warming effects on the Mediterranean.

7. We urge governments to introduce innovative instruments, including 'green' investment, in order to promote their policies and effectively protect the natural resources, in particular water and forests.

8. We strongly recommend enhancing regional cooperation to share visions, experiences and good practices that can bring societies and concerned stakeholders closer, increasing their synergies and speeding-up the processes towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the creation of a sustainable future for the Mediterranean and the continents surrounding it. In this spirit, we call for a more effective cooperation between parliaments and environmental movements.

9. To this respect, we applaud the relevant work of Parliamentary bodies, such as the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly, the Inter Parliamentary Union, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly etc., that promote a coordinated action of elected people from different countries and regions towards common goals and we recommend COMPSUD to strengthen the links with these bodies, particularly on issues related to Environment and Sustainable Development.

10. We endorse the efforts undertaken by the European Commission under the European Neighborhood Policy (ENP) and we expect that a sufficient level of funding within the European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) should be earmarked for environmental integration both at regional level of implementation (Regional Strategy for the Mediterranean) and at the national level (National Action Plans).

11. We fully support the Horizon 2020 Initiative to de-pollute the Mediterranean and express our wish to see the proper implementation of the agreed operational

programme, in cooperation with all relevant partners and in particular with UNEP/MAP, supported politically and with adequate funding from the EU and other sources. To this end it is crucial that all Mediterranean countries ratify the “Land-based Pollution Sources” Protocol of the Barcelona Convention. The role of civil society and other stakeholders in the Horizon 2020 programme should be instrumental. In this framework, COMPSUD should respond to the call of the European Commission and be involved actively in the Steering Group of Horizon 2020.

12. We reiterate our suggestion that the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EMP), the European Neighborhood Policy (ENP) and the European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) as well as all countries and institutions involved, must be fully supportive of the relevant recommendations of the Sustainability Impact Assessment of the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area (SIA EMFTA).

13. We call on governments to introduce and discuss Trade Agreements in Parliaments.

14. We call that the provisions of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development are fully streamlined with those of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

15. We call for sub-regional cooperation of neighboring Mediterranean countries on designating Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSA) in specific parts of the Mediterranean Sea including in parts of the Adriatic-Ionian.

16. We welcome a Mediterranean Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) along the lines of the Strategy on ESD already agreed by the majority of the Mediterranean countries within the framework of the UNECE; such a strategy should pay particular attention to the growing unsustainable consumption in the region. This strategy should be considered as an addendum to the MSSD elaborated in the framework of the Barcelona Convention.

17. We urge that the role and work of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) being one of the rare regional examples of advanced form of consultation and governance needs to be upgraded, strengthened and enriched by inputs from the region's Parliamentarians. It should be examined if MCSD could be used as a monitoring body of the EMFTA implementation.

18. In view of the Greek Presidency of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly in 2008, we recommend that COMPSUD becomes available and acts as think tank and supportive mechanism for the most in-depth and effective work of the EMPA in areas covering the protection of the environment and sustainable development.

19. We welcome the organisation, within COMPSUD activities, of Biannual Meetings of Mediterranean Parliamentarians in Corfu Island, under the aegis of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs that would review progress achieved and identify ways for parliamentarians to assist such processes.

COMPSUD by its nature is firmly committed to work with all other relevant Parliamentary Bodies, International Organizations and networks and contribute to all regional initiatives promoting the Sustainable Development of the Mediterranean Region.

Annex

ESD: Education for Sustainable Development

According to the UNECE Strategy for ESD, adopted at the High-Level Meeting in Vilnius (March 2005) “*Education for Sustainable Development*” (ESD) is an evolving and dynamic concept that encompasses a new vision of education seeking to balance human and economic welfare with cultural traditions and respect for the environment and the earth’s natural resources. To this end, ESD is interdisciplinary and holistic, value – driven, promoting critical thinking, problem-solving and participatory decision-making, and employing a variety of educational methods.

ESD broadens the scope of Environmental Education (EE) integrating the components of governance and culture and including the themes of : protection of the environment and natural resources, poverty, health, citizenship, democracy, human rights, social and economic development, gender equity, cultural diversity and sustainable production and consumption patterns.

ESC: Education on Sustainable Consumption

Education for Sustainable Consumption (ESC) is an integral part and component of ESD aiming to contribute to the development and reinforcement of sustainable production and consumption patterns through appropriate behavioural changes and cultural models adaptation. ESC was stimulated from the Marrakech Process that is actually the international collective effort to develop the 10 Years Framework Programme¹ (10YFP) (Morocco, 2003). In order to valorise the experiences of the Marrakech Process and to create appropriate synergies among different processes on sustainability and education, Italy has decided to take leadership of a Task Force on “Education for Sustainable Consumption” (ESC). The Task force on ESC will focus on the Mediterranean basin with main objective to focus on the role of formal learning processes in providing knowledge, awareness and competences aimed at enabling individuals and social groups to be the key actors of change towards more sustainable consumption behaviours.

EMP: Euro-Mediterranean Partnership

The Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, held in Barcelona on 27-28 November 1995, marked the starting point of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (Barcelona Process), a wide framework of political, economic and social relations between the Member States of the European Union and Partners of the Southern Mediterranean.

The Barcelona Process is a unique and ambitious initiative, which laid the foundations of a new regional relationship and which represents a turning point in Euro-Mediterranean relations. In the Barcelona Declaration, the Euro-Mediterranean partners established the three main objectives of the Partnership:

1. The definition of a common area of peace and stability through the reinforcement of political and security dialogue (Political and Security Chapter).
2. The construction of a zone of shared prosperity through an economic and financial partnership and the gradual establishment of a free-trade area (Economic and Financial Chapter).

¹ The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, signed at the WSSD (2002) calls upon all governments to take action to “change unsustainable patterns of consumption and production”. In order to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production, the Plan invited all institutional and non institutional subjects to promote the development of the 10-year framework of programmes (10YFP) of sustainable consumption and production, as an integral part to the follow-up to the WSSD.

3. The rapprochement between peoples through a social, cultural and human partnership aimed at encouraging understanding between cultures and exchanges between civil societies (Social, Cultural and Human Chapter).

ENP: European Neighborhood Policy

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) was developed in 2004, with the objective of avoiding the emergence of new dividing lines between the enlarged EU and our neighbours and instead strengthening the prosperity, stability and security of all concerned. The EU offers our neighbours a privileged relationship, building upon a mutual commitment to common values (democracy and human rights, rule of law, good governance, market economy principles and sustainable development). The ENP goes beyond existing relationships to offer a deeper political relationship and economic integration. The level of ambition of the relationship will depend on the extent to which these values are effectively shared. The ENP remains distinct from the process of enlargement although it does not prejudge, for European neighbours, how their relationship with the EU may develop in future, in accordance with Treaty provisions.

The central element of the European Neighbourhood Policy is the bilateral ENP Action Plans agreed between the EU and each partner. These set out an agenda of political and economic reforms with short and medium-term priorities. Implementation of the first seven ENP Action Plans (agreed in early 2005 with Israel, Jordan, Moldova, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Tunisia and Ukraine) is underway and that of the latest to be agreed (with Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia) is about to begin. Lebanon will follow shortly and the EU-Egypt ENP Action Plan is nearly agreed. Implementation is jointly promoted and monitored through sub-Committees.

ENPI: European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument

As part of the reform of EC assistance instruments started in 2007 the European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument will replace the MEDA and TACIS and various other programmes in place until today. The ENPI is designed to target sustainable development and approximation to EU policies and standards - supporting the agreed priorities in the ENP Action Plans (as well as the Strategic Partnership with Russia, which was previously also covered by the TACIS programme). Funds allocated to individual country programmes will depend on their needs and absorption capacity as well as their implementation of agreed reforms.

GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystems

The Global Environment Facility (GEF), established in 1991, helps developing countries fund projects and programs that protect the global environment. GEF grants support projects related to biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, the ozone layer, and persistent organic pollutants.

In order to accelerate the implementation of the Strategic Action Plans signed by the Mediterranean countries in the framework of UNEP/MAP, the Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem is being launched by GEF, UNEP and the World Bank as a collective effort open to all the countries of the Basin and to all international and bilateral cooperation agencies.

The Strategic Partnership will provide financial resources and technical knowledge readily available to countries that embrace the goal of improving the environmental conditions of the Mediterranean Sea through a combination of capital investments, economic instruments, policy and regulatory frameworks and public participation.

It will also develop a strategic regional approach to investments for greater benefit to the basin countries. In addition, a framework will be designed to replicate and transfer investment experiences throughout the region.

Horizon 2020 Initiative to de-pollute the Mediterranean

Following-up on the commitment of all of the Euro-Mediterranean Partners the European Commission launched in 2006 the Horizon 2020 initiative that aims to tackle the top sources of Mediterranean pollution by the year 2020. The Commission is building a coalition of partners to implement it. The recent Commission Communication establishing an environment strategy for the Mediterranean sketches out the detail of Horizon 2020, grouping planned activities under four headings:

- Projects to reduce the most significant sources of pollution. The initial focus will be on industrial emissions, municipal waste and urban waste water, which are responsible for up to 80% of Mediterranean Sea pollution.
- Capacity-building measures to help neighbouring countries create national environmental administrations that are able to develop and police environmental laws. Using the Commission's research budget to develop greater knowledge of environmental issues relevant to the Mediterranean and ensure this is shared. Developing indicators to monitor the success of Horizon 2020.

IWRM: Integrated Water Resources Management

Integrated Water Resources Management is a process which promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources in order to maximize the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems.

MCSD: Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development

The MCSD was established in 1995 within the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP), as an advisory body with the following mandate:

- to identify, evaluate and examine major economic, ecological and social problems set out in Agenda MED 21, make appropriate proposals thereon to the meetings of the Contracting Parties, evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation of decisions taken by the Contracting Parties and facilitate the exchange of information among institutions implementing activities related to sustainable development in the Mediterranean;
- to enhance regional cooperation and rationalise the inter-governmental decision-making capacity in the Mediterranean basin for the integration of environment and development issues.

MED EUWI: Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative

The Mediterranean Component of the EUWI (MED EUWI) was announced during WSSD (Johannesburg, 2002) and is an integral part of the EUWI, sharing its overall objectives. More specifically, MED EUWI aims to:

- assist design of better, demand driven and output oriented water related programmes
- facilitate better coordination of water programmes and projects, targeting more effective use of existing funds and mobilization of new financial resources and,
- enhanced cooperation for project's proper implementation, based on peer review and strategic assessment.

MDGs: The Millennium Development Goals

The MDGs represent a global partnership that has grown from the commitments and targets established at the world summits of the 1990s. Responding to the world's main development challenges and to the calls of civil society, the MDGs promote poverty reduction, education, maternal health, gender equality, and aim at combating child mortality, AIDS and other diseases. They form a blueprint agreed to by all the world's countries and all the world's leading development institutions. Set for the year

2015, the MDGs can be achieved if all actors work together and do their part. Poor countries have pledged to govern better, and invest in their people through health care and education. Rich countries have pledged to support them, through aid, debt relief, and fairer trade.

MSSD: Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development

The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development endorsed by the Parties of the Barcelona Convention at their 14th conference in Portoroz, Slovenia, 8-11 November 2005 calls for action to pursue towards sustainable development goals so as to strengthen peace, stability, and prosperity. It takes into account the weaknesses of the region and the threats it faces, but also its strengths and opportunities. It also considers the reality of the gaps between the developed and developing countries, and lays the stress on the necessity to help the transition of the Mediterranean countries of the East Adriatic, the South and the East. The challenge for all the Mediterranean countries is jointly to benefit from the Strategy in terms of human and economic development, environmental protection, and culture protection. The Strategy is structured around four objectives and seven interlinked priority fields action.

The four main objectives are: i) contribute to economic development by enhancing Mediterranean assets ii) reduce social disparities by implementing the UN Millennium Development Goals and improve cultural integration iii) change unsustainable production and consumption patterns and ensure the sustainable management of natural resources iv) improve governance at the local, national, and regional levels. The seven priority fields of action are water resources; energy management and addressing impacts of climate change; transport; tourism; urban development; agriculture and management of the sea; coastal areas and marine resources.

Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process on Shared Water Resources Management

The Petersberg Process was initiated in 1998 by Germany concerning the cooperation on the management of transboundary waters.

The Athens Declaration concerning "Shared Water, Shared Future and Shared Knowledge", accepted during the Greek Presidency of the EU (2003), provides a framework for a long-term process to support cooperative activities for the management of shared water resources in the SEE and Mediterranean regions. The Athens Declaration Process is intended to assist the countries of the region, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, to prepare Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and water efficiency plans for major river basins and lakes, including a range of complementary interventions, with a coordinated mechanism to allow for exchange of information and experience between activities.

The World Bank (WB) participates as a core partner in both processes.

The two processes are today linked in order to generate synergies and maximize the outcomes for the benefit primarily of the SEE region, rather than duplicate activities and consequently efforts. The joint Petersberg Process Phase II / Athens Declaration Process has become a reference for many other processes and activities in the region. The Process would complement European Union (EU) integration processes, the Stabilisation and Association process of the European Union and other ongoing initiatives in the region.

PSSA: Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas

A Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) is an area that needs special protection through action by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) because of its significance for recognized ecological or socio-economic or scientific reasons and

which may be vulnerable to damage by international maritime activities. The criteria for the identification of particularly sensitive sea areas and the criteria for the designation of special areas are not mutually exclusive. In many cases a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area may be identified within a Special Area and vice versa.

SIA EMFTA: Sustainability Impact Assessment of the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area

The Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs held in Barcelona in November 1995 set the year 2010 as the target date for the gradual establishment of the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area (EMFTA). This is to be achieved by means of the Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreements negotiated between the European Union and its Mediterranean Partners, together with Free Trade Agreements between the Mediterranean Partners themselves.

The European Union has set itself the objective of achieving sustainable development internally and promoting such development worldwide. In this context, trade liberalisation is not perceived as an end in itself, but rather as an essential tool contributing to sustainable development. The impact of trade measures needs to be assessed, therefore, in terms of environment, social and economic effects.

The European Commission has, therefore, recently commissioned an independent sustainability impact assessment (SIA) study of EMFTA which will examine the potential impacts of agreed trade measures on sustainable development. The major objective of this SIA study is to provide a reliable and widely accepted analysis and understanding of the impact of trade measures on sustainable development, in the context of ongoing and future trade negotiations for the EMFTA.

UNDP: United Nations Development Programme

UNDP is the UN's global development network, an organization advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. The organization has country offices in 166 countries, where it works with local governments to meet development challenges and develop local capacity. Additionally, the UNDP works internationally to help countries achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

UNDP provides expert advice, training, and grant support to developing countries, with increasing emphasis on assistance to the least developed countries. To accomplish the MDGs and encourage global development, UNDP focuses on poverty reduction, HIV/AIDS, democratic governance, energy and environment, and crisis prevention and recovery. UNDP also encourages the protection of human rights and the empowerment of women in all of its programs.

Furthermore, UNDP publishes an annual Human Development Report to measure and analyze developmental progress. In addition to a global Report, UNDP publishes regional, national, and local Human Development Reports.

UNECE: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) was set up in 1947 by ECOSOC. It is one of five regional commissions of the United Nations. The others are the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). Its major aim is to promote pan-European economic integration. To do so, UNECE brings together 56 countries located in the European Union, non-EU Western and Eastern Europe, South-East Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and North America. All these countries dialogue and cooperate under the aegis of the UNECE on economic and sectoral issues. To this end, it provides analysis, policy

advice and assistance to governments, it gives focus to the United Nations global mandates in the economic field, in cooperation with other global players and key stakeholders, notably the business community. The UNECE also sets out norms, standards and conventions to facilitate international cooperation within and outside the region. The area of expertise of the UNECE covers such sectors as: economic cooperation and integration, energy, environment, housing and land management, population, statistics, timber, trade, and transport. UNECE has 56 member States. However, all interested UN member States may participate in its work. Over 70 international professional organizations and other non-governmental organizations take part in UNECE activities.

UNEP/MAP: The United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan

Adopted in 1976 in Barcelona, MAP was the first UNEP's regional Sea Convention. This Barcelona convention and its 6 Protocols constitute legally binding instruments. The MAP was originally a framework for common actions (preparation of regional and national policies, capacity building and technical assistance) needed by the Mediterranean Countries to combat the pollution of the Mediterranean Sea itself (MAP Phase I).

In 1995, the Barcelona conventions were extensively amended to give a sustainable development focus and to deal with coastal area as well (MAP Phase II). Indeed activities carried out between 1976 and 1995 confirmed that socio-economic trends, combined with inadequate development planning and management are the root of most environmental problems. Estimates showed that up to 80 per cent of marine pollution was originated by land-based activities.