



**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE
UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN**

RECOMMENDATION

of the Committee on Energy, Environment and Water

on

- 1. Ecological and Sustainable Tourism**
- 2. Renewable Energy**
- 3. Let's Do It Mediterranean!**
- 4. Protection of the Marine Environment**

Presented by the Committee Chair

Stefan Schennach (Austria)

1. Ecological and Sustainable Tourism

- Having regard to the fact that the riparian countries of the Mediterranean have been confronted with serious environmental, social and economic challenges due to the movement of people for the purposes of holidays, education, job seeking; and also in order to escape poverty, persecution, war, or political fluctuations. Having specific regard to the movement of people in the South and East Saharan Regions, which was induced by the revolution in Libya and by the wars in Syria and Iraq from 2010 onwards, and has contributed to the chaotic mass movement of refugees, leading to dramatic endings and mass graves;
- Noting that the cross-border issue of refugees requires immediate action in fields such as water supply and sewage, nutrition, energy and shelter; and that these aspects need to be taken into account within ecologically compatible and sustainable long-term development programmes, especially given the importance of tourism within national economies along the entire south and east Mediterranean coast. The Committee on Environment, Energy and Water, therefore, has pursued eco-tourism as an exemplary step towards a multiple response to the above issues from an environmental, social and economic viewpoint;
- Noting the proposal of the Chairman to hold a joint meeting with the Committee on Economic and Financial Affairs, Social Affairs and Education in order to determine a common strategy on eco-tourism which is aligned with the principles of the Barcelona Convention—from the perspectives of dealing with sustainability, resource management, regional development, regional added value and labour market, mobility, water consumption and quality, waste management, maintaining of historic sites, obstruction of countryside and coastline, and renewable energy strategies;
- Underlining the key role tourism plays in the growth of the Mediterranean countries' economies and labour markets, and on the consumption of energy and water sources;
- Considering the impact of irresponsible tourism on the Mediterranean;

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1. Requests the promotion of a tourism that is ecologically and economically compatible;
2. Urges appropriate management of the “touristic footprint” by way of promoting recycling and waste prevention, through working with existing and new investors in the sector;
3. Welcomes investments in renewable energy as a sustainable solution to the tourism sector's growing need for energy; and as a contribution to the ecological wellbeing of the region within the context of climate change;

4. Invites the Member States of the PA-UfM to carry out capacity assessments as a starting point for the achievement of sustainable development in tourism and the development of solutions for coastal area management;
5. Recommends a management strategy for landscape consumption, the improvement of the quality of the Mediterranean seabed and its environs, and the creation of protected areas with prohibitions of excessive use and obstruction;

2. Renewable Energy and its key role for Energy Supply

- Having regard to the meetings of the Committee on 12-13 June 2014 in Barcelona and 6-7 October 2014 in Zagreb, where one of the key themes was renewable energy in the context of the constructive exchange of information on the obstacles to switching to renewable energy sources and adopting green energy policies, enhanced working processes on the future of renewable energy—further noting various instructive presentations of stakeholders from public and private sectors for the purposes of supporting the progress in the renewable energy technologies, and stressing the fundamental role of awareness in the course towards renewable energies;
- Having regard to the Mediterranean Solar Plan (MSP) and the Committee’s attendance at the Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership (FEMIP) Conference in Naples in October 2014, followed by the meeting on structuring the Extended Technical Committee (ETC) in Barcelona in November 2014;
- Having regard to the Committee’s further meetings with key players on the issue of implementing a “renewable future” in the Mediterranean, which specifically focus on the urgency and long-term determination of renewable energy and energy efficiency;
- In view of the consequences related to the energy crisis and the drop in the price of fossil fuels;
- Considering especially the impact of climate change on the Mediterranean basin;
- Acknowledging the outcome of the major conferences and summits in 2014, namely the Lima Climate Change Conference on 1-14 December 2014 and UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) on 10-12 November 2014;
- Recalling the legally binding targets of the EU’s Energy Policy for 2020 to 2030, also adopted by the UfM;
- Stressing the key role of the Mediterranean Eco-Islands Network in cooperation with UNIDO, not only in terms of the expanding the production and consumption of renewable energy resources, but also in having a positive effect on the existing Eco-Towns Network;

- Considering that both the Eco-Towns Network—initiated by the Committee—and the Mediterranean Eco-Islands Network have a common task: to collaborate with local governmental authorities in order to transform selected areas into renewable energy compatible systems, with the aim of eliminating reliance on fossil fuel within the Mediterranean basin;

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6. Responding more actively to policy changes towards energy efficiency, as supported by MSP and FEMIP, to increase energy savings and expand the regional economy and labour market;
7. Regards the role of MEDREG and of energy regulators in the Mediterranean as essential;
8. Launching collective efforts for the enhancement of networking and intergovernmental cooperation between south-south and south-north for the purpose of structuring a common energy policy and infrastructure in the region;
9. Urgently adopting the MSP;
10. Urging public sectors in the member countries to set up a role-model of transformation to environmentally compatible infrastructures and renewable energy consumption;
11. Promoting renewable energy systems by taking measures aiming at easing financial obstacles;
12. Promoting awareness and educational facilities at local, regional and national level, on the importance of issues relating to the implementation and consumption of renewable energy, in particular climate change, and aiming to increase the awareness of stakeholders and the general public on the issues of long-term profits and sustainable development;
13. Welcoming the Island of Vis as the first member of the Eco-Islands;
14. Inviting the Eco-Towns Network and the Eco-Islands Network to work efficiently together and coordinate at national, regional and international level;

3. Let's Do It Mediterranean!

- Having regard to the implementation—in 2014—of the “Let's Do It!” campaign launched in 2012 by the Committee;

- Noting that the independent civil initiative Let's Do It Mediterranean (LDIM), having been supported by the Committee and UfM, has become the first transnational action of the "Let's Do It!" Movement;
- Applauding that the LDIM clean-up day on 10-11 May 2014 resulted with the participation of 77.000 citizens from Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Israel, Italy, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey;
- Noting that the LDIM is designed to last for four years, and noting its goal to reach 1,000,000 participating citizens in all Mediterranean countries at the upcoming campaign on 9-10 May 2015;
- Welcoming that LDIM, with its unifying slogan, "three continents, one sea", calls upon all civil, local, governmental, international organizations and communities to lend a hand in working towards a clean Mediterranean;

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15. Underlines that citizen initiatives like LDIM are the pillars of security in the region to build trust and peace;
16. Takes note of the Let's Clean Up Europe! (LCUE) initiative happening on the same dates as LDIM, which will further extend the synergy of actions and enhance the development of in-country awareness campaigns, in order to better involve and mobilise public opinion towards waste management;
17. Invites the Assembly and the institutions of the UfM to give impetus to the efforts of LDIM by promoting and supporting the action on local, national and international levels. Within LCUE, members are invited to address involved partners to collaborate with LDIM in order to affirm solidarity;
18. Urges local and national authorities and institutions to collaborate with the LDIM by means of political, technical, financial, communicational and logistical support;

4. Protection of the Marine Environment

- Having regard to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean ("the Barcelona Convention") and its protocols, such as the Protocol concerning specially protected areas and biological diversity in the Mediterranean (1995/1999) and the Protocol on integrated coastal Zone Management (adopted 2008);
- Noting that, during its activities in 2014, the Committee has strengthened its relationship with the Network of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (MedPAN), which is based in

Marseille (France), and is currently made up of a network of 90 MPAs and 32 partners in 18 countries;

- Having regard to the Committee's declaration during the Zagreb meeting on 6-7 October 2014 on welcoming Horizon2020, LDIM and MedPAN as permanent partners of the Committee—as is already the case with the ECO-Towns network—in order to institutionalize the Committee's long-time cooperation with these organisations;
- Taking into account the different tasks of Horizon2020, LDIM and MedPAN in working towards a green economy, sustainable development and a clean Mediterranean;

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19. Recalls the Committee's proposals on marine protected areas (MPAs) adopted in 2011;
20. Keenly supports the endeavours of MedPAN and recommends taking measures in order to support the sustainability of the existing MPAs with regard to efficient management systems, financial resources and scientific studies and to establish a regionally and sectorally integrated governance of MPAs;
21. Supports the establishment of around 170 designated MPAs and 55 in-project MPAs around the Mediterranean;
22. Encourages the development of an ecological strategy at national and regional level in order to meet the targets of MPAs and eco-tourism in a coordinated manner;
23. Recommends the development of a water network to ensure the availability of water for household use and a water treatment network in order to conserve and protect the environment;
24. Demands reinforced cooperation with, and support to, civil organisations operating in the fields of marine protection;
25. Recommends taking measures to strengthen, promote and develop existing cooperation among Eco-towns, MedPAN, Horizon2020 and LDIM, and within the UfM;
26. Recommends the *restitutio in integrum* to the EU Commission as regards the budget of Horizon2020.