



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

RECOMMENDATIONS

of the Committee on Energy, Environment and Water

On the following topics:

- A. Energy Efficiency**
- B. Renewable Energy Sources**
- C. Environmental and Water Initiatives**

Presented by the Committee Chair

Stefan Schennach (Austria)

Having regard to the meetings of the Committee on Energy, Environment and Water on 27/28 May 2013 in Stockholm and 8 February 2014 in Amman and furthermore the SOM-Preparatory Meeting on Energy on 5 November 2013 in Barcelona, the 13th FEMIP Conference on "Energy Efficiency in the Mediterranean region" on 10 December 2013 in Brussels and the UfM-Ministerial Meeting on Energy on 11 December 2013 in Brussels as well as the follow-up meeting of the Eco-Towns project in July in Piran the Committee proposes the following recommendations:

A. Energy Efficiency

The Committee on Energy, Environment and Water recommends

1. Establishing a system for the careful usage of available energy in the sense of optimization of consumption, and creating a national energy efficiency action plan for each member state and, at the same time, facilitating regional cooperation;
2. Establishing a system of measurement and automatic adjustment of the consumption of energy in public buildings, e.g. federal government buildings, municipal buildings, schools, city halls;
3. Establishing a system of automatic control and adjustment of utilities like water, heating and cooling;
4. Replacing public lighting systems with a new generation of lamps such as LEDs;
5. Substituting public lighting systems in municipal sphere with completely solar-powered light systems, with accumulator systems for strategic and security reasons– following also the UNEP-Environment programme;
6. Elaborating energy consumption savings with thermal insulation of public buildings;
7. Drawing up PPP-models for financing medium-term investment demand for the aforesaid measures;
8. Setting up a UfM-database on the best practices of UfM countries regarding the implementation of energy efficiency policies, for example through the UfM-Secretariat in Barcelona and exchanging experience on cogeneration projects, smart networks and smart meters;
9. Establishing a common system of auditing in order to evaluate the impact of the aforesaid measures;
10. Improving the social situation, increasing investment in education and creating sustainable employment opportunities and social policies in the green and blue technology, renewable and clean energy sectors;
11. Developing projects and using special funds to efficiently combat the phenomenon of energy poverty, and contributing to the improvement of the energy efficiency of public and private buildings;

B. Renewable Energy Sources

The Committee on Energy, Environment and Water recommends

12. Urgently adopting the Mediterranean Solar Plan (MSP) and developing new employment-generating industrial sectors until 2020;
13. Supporting research and development activities and projects in the field of marine and bio-marine renewable energy sources;
14. Evaluating the opportunities for the wider and efficient use of various available technologies to produce renewable energy in the respective countries in the fields of wind power, photovoltaic power, solar-thermal technology, hydro power, biomass and waste to energy while, at the same time, stressing the need to develop energy storage technologies;
15. Adapting a strategy for the replacement of fossil fuels with the aid of ambitious national targets and through intensified regional cooperation;
16. Compiling a macroeconomic comparison including social costs and benefits, employment and health indicators;
17. Setting up an action plan for priority projects in the respective areas with the use of aforesaid technologies;
18. Building south-south and south-north electricity interconnections;
19. Making use of natural resources to increase the energy capacity of the region in accordance with international law;
20. Large-scale renewable energy plants should first meet the primary needs of local populations and then directed for export purposes
21. Setting up a legal framework to enhance green investments and the use of clean energy technologies in new building projects and transforming existing buildings, especially in the tourism sector;
22. Drawing up a plan for the implementation of solar-pumps in the agricultural sector;
23. Setting up a plan for the implementation of solar-thermal cooling and process heat cooling systems especially in the production industry, hospitals, airports, universities and government buildings;
24. Establishing permanent relations and projects with regard to financial institutions and initiatives, like the FEMIP trust fund, private investors, PPP-solutions and other international financial institutions;

C. Environmental and Water Initiatives

The Committee on Energy, Environment and Water recommends

25. Implementing desalination units powered by RES-technologies;
26. Setting up sustainable water distribution networks;
27. Expanding protection against water loss;
28. Setting up a fund for the national protected marine areas together with Med-Pan to protect and restore the marine eco-systems and fishery resources, while fighting against the sources of pollution and addressing the issue of poor fishery management, in accordance with the relevant provisions of law, and coordinating the means available with all economic and financial institutions concerned, in particular with the European Investment Bank, with a view to efficient action to clean up polluted bodies of water;
29. Implementing the committee's proposal adopted in 2011 to establish marine based areas (underwater marine parks);
30. Following up the procedure of the destruction of Syria's stocks of chemical weapons in the Mediterranean basin and demanding immediate explanations from those responsible for the operation and the Mediterranean countries concerned
31. Implementing a master plan for waste-water treatment in municipal areas and promoting the exchange of best practices;
32. Setting up standards for waste-water treatment in the industrial and production sector;
33. Setting up common minimal standards for waste water dilution into the Mediterranean sea;
34. Following the EU-initiative to reduce the use of plastic bags, which cover more than one third of the Mediterranean sea bottom by developing alternative packing systems;
35. Stresses the need to further assess and evaluate the efficiency of and potential loopholes in waste treatment and recycling processes, including sewage treatment, in all Mediterranean countries in order to further reduce direct land-based pollution such as marine litter and in particular plastic debris;
36. Setting up nationwide programmes together with EMUNI education programmes aimed at encouraging cooperation in areas such as for sustainable development, starting in primary schools and including education on food security and rural development in higher schools (CIHEAM's post graduate programmes) officially adopting the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development at the next Ministerial Meeting of the UfM on the environment and climate change, based on the "Horizon 2020 – Capacity Building/Mediterranean Environment Programme";
37. Providing political and financial support for the different fields of work of the Committee's Network of Eco-Towns and the cleaning up campaign of "Let's do it Mediterranean!" – starting on 31 May 2014.

38. Recalls that the protection of the Mediterranean marine environment and the reduction of negative impacts from human activities contributes to the improvement of the overall environment and health of local populations, and should be promoted as a social and societal benefit;
39. Calls for a greater coordination of all institutions and organizations involved in fishery management in the Mediterranean region, in order to promote a comprehensive and integrated fishery strategy focusing on the recovery of the Mediterranean fish stock, the conservation of the different Mediterranean marine ecosystems and the promotion of biodiversity;
40. Improving knowledge on the Mediterranean forest eco-systems and implementing the Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests (SFMF).

Committee Activities 2013-2014

The Committee on Energy, Environment and Water held meetings in Stockholm on 27/28 May 2013 and in Amman on 8 February 2014 dealing in particular with the challenge of coastal zone management in the Mediterranean, waste recovery and reports on the Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas Network - implementation of "marine parks" & Barcelona Convention as well as on Eco-Towns Project.

In addition to the meetings of the Committee its network of "eco-towns" established in Brussels in April 2013 has already launched first cooperation projects. A special focus was put on the elaboration of the Mediterranean Solar Plan by the Chair who participated both in the SOM meeting in Barcelona on 5 November and the Ministerial Meeting on Energy – the first in 6 years - on 11 December 2013 in Brussels together with UfM energy ministers. The Chair also took part in the 13th FEMIP Conference on "Energy Efficiency in the Mediterranean region" on 10 December 2013 in Brussels.

The intensive work of the Committee over the last few years has led to a major political success: the launch of the Mediterranean Solar Plan, which can initiate a lasting paradigm change in energy policies. It is crucial that the Committee stress the importance of quickly establishing national action plans and implementing measures to ensure short and medium term results. The recommendations focus therefore on the implementation and the potential of the MSP and they will also function as guidelines for the work of the Committee in the coming year.

Public authorities will have to play two important roles, both in creating the policy environment and incentives for energy efficiency and RES improvements through the economy as well as in providing a positive example by increasing energy efficiency in public facilities. For businesses energy often constitutes a significant portion of operating costs and it is important for companies and governments to understand that efficient equipment and employee education in energy efficiency measures are investments which can, often rapidly, result in cost savings and improved competitiveness. For that reason the recommendations begin with a chapter on energy efficiency.

The Committee promotes an integrated and sustainable growth across the Mediterranean as a top priority. The official launch of the "Let's Do It Mediterranean!" campaign on 31 May 2014 will highlight the Committee's efforts.