

<p>PA-UfM</p>  <p>AP-UpM</p>	<p>PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY – UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN</p> <p>ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE – UNION POUR LA MÉDITERRANÉE</p> <p>الجمعية البرلمانية للاتحاد من أجل المتوسط</p>
---	--

Committee on Energy, Environment and Water

The Committee on Energy, Environment and Water of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean:

1. Considers that, 25 years after the Barcelona Declaration, an enhanced Euro-Mediterranean partnership remains a strategic imperative for the region, as the challenges it continues to face today require a common response;
2. Reaffirms its commitment to limiting global temperature increase to the goals of the Paris Agreement and to ensuring that the voice of the Mediterranean is heard at the international level. Recognises that only in a greater spirit of international commitment will it be possible to limit global warming below 1.5°C and to tackle the challenges the Mediterranean is facing, such as extreme heat waves, water scarcity, drought, desertification of land and food shortages due to the reduction of viable agricultural land;
3. Encourages concerted and coordinated climate action by all member states, building partnerships and alliances with states, institutions, research institutes and economic actors on both shores of the Mediterranean, as well as acting in different fora.
4. Notes the benefits of diversifying energy sources and the importance of tackling climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, of regional development as an economic opportunity and a source of new forms of employment, of the national independence of external suppliers of fossil fuels, of the alignment of trade with climate objectives.

5. Stresses the importance of the blue economy and of protecting the marine environment and biodiversity, as well as of promoting innovative solutions in low-carbon transport and environmentally friendly practices. Underlines that the temperature rise will cause irreversible damage to our planet and endanger biodiversity, which drives the common determination of action.

6. Recognises that global biodiversity loss and climate change pose a significant risk to public health and well-being and that it is, therefore, necessary to adopt circular economy models and to use natural resources in a sustainable and responsible manner. More attention should be given to water issues as a vital part of any effort to address the impacts of climate change, and priority should be given to the protection of oceans and biodiversity.

7. Calls on states to cooperate in promoting renewable energies, in particular hydrogen and solar energy, as well as infrastructure for alternatives to fossil fuels, not only as a means of reducing pollution but also as an economic gain.

8. Notes that cooperation in urban planning, the circular economy and sustainable mobility is crucial to avoid the pollution of cities, the use of waste-generating materials or the desertification of rural areas. Adopting more sustainable solutions, based on scientific evidence and implemented together with communities, creates more resilient cities and regions. Soil erosion is also a major challenge, and innovative joint programmes should, therefore, be further stepped up to avoid the expansion of the desert.

9. Considers it essential to cooperate in the more sustainable management of water and agri-food systems in the face of climate change, urbanisation and population growth. Stresses the need to help and support farmers in farming practices that make efficient use of water resources and preserve land. Recognises that desalination projects are insufficient to mitigate the effects of climate change in the fight against water needs but can be seen as an additional and complementary solution. Agricultural practices

should be reconsidered in order to use water resources efficiently, as well as to produce food in accordance with environmental standards to preserve the conservation of land.

10. Is concerned about the increase in global temperature resulting from greenhouse gas emissions and calls on states to sustainably reduce and offset carbon dioxide emissions towards decarbonisation in order to achieve a global economy with low emissions and climate neutrality through the energy transition.

11. Stresses that post-COVID-19 recovery and reconstruction strategies provide a unique opportunity to move forward with green solutions. Including climate change issues in post-COVID-19 recovery strategies leads to fairer, resilient and climate-neutral economies.

12. Recognises that economic, social and health recovery requires the transition to a new sustainable economic model in terms of climate change that embraces the circular economy, promoting renewable energy, prioritising investment in environmental services, creating new jobs and adapting to climate change.

13. Stresses the need to ensure the stability of the climate system in order to reduce the risks of natural disasters and to ensure that populations on the planet do not suffer further deterioration of the environmental conditions in which they live. There is a progressive global recognition of the benefits of a stable climate and of avoiding that the increase in the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere leads to changes in the Earth's biogeochemical cycles, leading to an intensification of negative impacts on various human activities and exacerbating biodiversity loss.

14. Stresses the importance of continuously investing in reforestation as a means of combating and barring extreme drought phenomena, but also as an effective way of sequestering greenhouse gases with benefits for land, biodiversity and the fight against climate change.

15. Highlights the importance of climate change adaptation strategies at the national, regional and local levels, acknowledging the insufficiency of mitigation strategies, investing in more resilient and indigenous vegetation, more energy-efficient construction and nature-based solutions.

16. Calls on member states to work towards recognising Stable Climate as a Common Heritage of Humanity. This goal must be taken up at the foreign policy level to inspire other countries to take similar legislative initiatives.