

2.12.2021

## RECOMMENDATION

on **Fight against global warming**  
**A global challenge in the Mediterranean region**

Committee on Political Affairs, Security and Human Rights

DR\_Assemblies

## CONTENTS

RECOMMENDATION

Page 3

## RECOMMENDATION

### *The Committee on Political Affairs, Security and Human Rights:*

1. Welcomes the fact that the fight against global warming in the Mediterranean region is a fundamental goal of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), especially considering that the Mediterranean region is warming 20 % faster than the rest of the planet, which requires urgent, coordinated decision-making;
2. Recognises that the impact of climate change is transboundary in nature with repercussions for economic sectors such as trade, tourism **and agriculture** as well as other areas in the fields of migration, **food and water security**, human rights and security; notes that climate change is a multiplier of risks which is inextricably linked to the region's geopolitical dimensions, including natural disasters, water and food shortages, energy transformation; human migration, conflict and cooperation;
3. Emphasises that climate change and its impacts can be substantially reduced through an ambitious global mitigation policy compatible with the mitigation goal of the Paris Agreement and with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals; believes that in view of the global nature of climate change, no country can face this challenge by itself and only a coordinated effort by the members of the northern and southern shores of the Mediterranean can bring tangible results and improvements;
4. Deplores the fact that the current emission reduction commitments are not sufficient to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement and will result in global warming of more than 3°C above pre-industrial levels; **Advocates the need for more ambitious climate goals on the international arena;**
5. Stresses the importance of all UfM member states and other partners firmly committing to the goals defined in the Paris Agreement and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals;
6. Emphasises that in order to minimise the adverse and irreversible effects of climate change, all UfM partners will need to adapt by implementing mitigation **and adaptation** measures to contain global warming below 1.5°C compared to pre-industrial levels, making full use of the opportunities for climate-resilient **post pandemic** growth and sustainable development, and maximising associated benefits with other environmental policies and legislation;
7. Calls on all UfM partners to work towards a significant transformation of energy policies and economic models in order to mitigate climate change and phase out greenhouse gas emissions through an accelerated energy transition; is convinced that accomplishing these objectives requires a progressive phasing down of fossil fuels, accompanied by the development of renewable energies, especially solar, wind, hydro and geothermal; stresses, in this respect, the importance of making affordable energy readily available to all citizens; **supports that energy projects should aim at**

*strengthening inter-connectivity in the region, and at contributing to de carbonization of our economies, peace and geopolitical stability in accordance with international law and notes, in this regard, that the East Mediterranean Gas Forum (EMGF) serves as a platform of positive regional cooperation;*

8. Believes that culture and education shall play a fundamental role in raising awareness of the current climate change emergency among future generations and the urgency to develop innovative solutions to fight global warming; deems appropriate to include compulsory classes on environment and climate change in the basic education curricula of the UfM countries;
9. Highlights the important role of sustainable development in contributing to the fight against global warming and proposes to take into consideration the most efficient models of sustainable and resilient cities, based on green and low carbon parameters, in view of future urban planning taking place around the Mediterranean basin;
10. Stresses the need to improve cross-border cooperation and coordination *in the fight against climate change and* on climate adaptation, as well as on rapid response to climate disasters; recognises that a number of countries, mostly those located along the southern shore of the Mediterranean, are in need of funding, technology transfer and capacity-building in order to face up to climate change; calls on the UfM's most developed countries to put forward their assets in order to support the less advanced partners in their endeavours;
11. Underlines the need to enhance regional cooperation on energy and to gradually integrate regional energy markets by expanding knowledge and best practices, thereby reinforcing energy, *trade* exchange and interconnections;
12. *Welcomes the Athens Declaration on Climate Change signed on 17 September 2021 at the Summit of the EUMED Group, which underlines the urgency of strengthening and deepening cooperation among Mediterranean partners and the need for ambitious actions to tackle the escalating climate and environmental crisis and create a safe, secure, prosperous, fair and sustainable future.; Notes the declaration's pledge to work closely together to build synergies promoting the necessary transition from fossil fuels to Renewable Energy Sources and low-carbon energy technologies, as well as its special references to the positive significance of biodiversity, forests and the marine environment; Believes that such initiatives can be the basis for further and extended cooperation amongst Member States of the UfM;*
13. Calls on the European Commission and UfM to support all UfM partners in sharing knowledge and best practices on the different climate *mitigation and* adaption efforts at regional and local levels; welcomes the Commission's joint communication on a 'Renewed partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood: a new Agenda for the Mediterranean', and looks forward to implementing the ambitious plan to develop renewable energy projects in the countries of the southern shore of the Mediterranean

by mobilising public and private investments through the recently adopted Global Europe Instrument;

14. Recognises that investment in renewable energy and other measures needed to fight global warming can increase workforce opportunities by creating jobs in green industries, therefore boosting the economy of the Mediterranean region and reducing forced human migration across the basin;
15. Notes the further need to map the impacts of climate change and welcomes and expresses appreciation for the work undertaken by members of the network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (MedECC) in preparing its first Mediterranean assessment report; encourages the Commission and the UfM to further develop projects in this field;
16. Invites the UfM to strengthen inter-ministerial *cooperation* in fighting *climate change* in the Mediterranean;

### *Climate change and human rights*

17. Welcomes the fact that the Paris Agreement is the first international treaty to explicitly recognise the link between climate action and human rights, thereby allowing the use of existing human rights-related legal instruments to urge states and private corporations to reduce emissions;
18. Acknowledges that climate change is a common concern of humankind, in this regard all countries should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous people, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity;
19. Calls on the UfM partners to fully integrate human rights standards and principles into the rules for implementing the Paris Agreement and to ensure that all actions taken to address climate change are in full accordance with international human rights obligations;
20. Urges the Commission and all UfM partners to continue to monitor the situation of human rights and climate change and to assess the progress in integrating and mainstreaming human rights into all aspects of climate action at domestic and international level, in close cooperation with the UN Human Rights Council and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights;
21. Calls on the Commission and the UfM to promote and develop projects in the fields of respect for human rights and the implications of climate change;
22. Calls on the Commission and the UfM to promote and develop awareness raising

companies and the fight against racism and xenophobia and a better integration of climate change refugees;

### *Climate change and security*

23. Recognises that the risks linked to climate change are not just of a humanitarian nature, but also encompass **broader** political and security risks;
24. Calls on the European Commission and the UfM for a European solution that includes appropriate mechanisms for acute emergencies, for example for the redistribution of climatic Refugees after a rescue in the Mediterranean Sea or for Refugees relocation programs for Greece;
25. Underlines the fact that climate change poses escalating risks to stability and security, with potentially far-reaching consequences, including the risks to fragile states from **increasing** weather **extremes** and the combined effects of **more frequent and intense forest fires**, rising sea levels and storm surges on island nations and coastal populations; emphasises that climate change is a threat multiplier which exacerbates existing trends, tensions and instability; **recognises that forced human migration, both within countries as well as between the Southern and Northern shores of the Mediterranean, is partially caused by global warming;**
26. Notes how water **scarcity** in particular has the potential to cause civil unrest and lead to significant economic losses, even in robust economies, the consequences of which will be even more dire in areas under considerable demographic pressure; considers that the overall effect is that climate change risks fuelling existing conflicts over depleting resources, especially where access to these is politicised; **calls on all the UfM partners to develop integrated approaches with regard to water saving technologies, such as storages and sea water desalinization;**
27. Notes that dry spells and other weather shocks caused by climate change reduce agricultural production and therefore exacerbate civil conflicts, particularly in agricultural dependent regions and in areas with politically excluded groups; highlights that rising food prices resulting from climate change can cause social unrest in countries with fragile economies; considers it essential, in this context, to explore innovative irrigation methods based on water saving technologies;
28. Is concerned by the fact that several UNESCO World Heritage Sites are threatened by sea-level rise and by other side effects of global warming; urgently calls for the exploration of adequate engineering solutions with the aim of preserving the Mediterranean cultural heritage and the related sites;
29. Calls on the EU to enhance international cooperation with all UfM partners on the detection and monitoring of the security threats related to climate change, and on prevention, preparedness, mitigation and response capacities **in the framework of adapting to the impact of climate change; urges the UfM partners to work jointly on**

*the development and implementation of early warning systems;*

30. Taking into consideration that climate changes have vastly increased the likelihood that fires will start more often and burn more intensely and widely than they have in the past as we have already witnessed this summer in the Mediterranean, believes that enhancing partnerships and funding with social protection partners with Mediterranean countries through an increasing focus on programmes in this region within the framework of the EU civil protection mechanism will be beneficial for all the region;
31. Calls on the Commission and the UfM to promote and develop projects ***and cooperation to fight against climate change and its possible implications;***
32. ***Calls on the European Commission to promote new legislation for the preservation of secular trees and insists on taking action against illegal deforestation in order to maintain a balance of CO2 emissions, prevent soil erosion and desertification, ensure biodiversity and avoid natural disasters such as floods and landslides.***

*[\*With Reservation from Turkish and Algerian delegations]*