

CAIRO DECLARATION OF THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

The Euro-Mediterranean Ministers of Environment and other heads of delegation participating in the 3rd Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on the Environment held in Cairo on 20 November 2006:

1. Recall the overall objectives of the 1995 Barcelona Declaration establishing a comprehensive partnership among the participants – the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership - through strengthened political dialogue on a regular basis, the development of economic and financial cooperation and greater emphasis on the social, cultural and human dimension.
2. Recognise the negative effects of conflicts on the environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean Region.
3. Acknowledge the achievements of the Short and Medium-term Priority Environmental Action Programme (SMAP) adopted at the 1st Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on the Environment held in Helsinki in 1997 and pay tribute to the promotion of regional environmental cooperation issues that occurred under its ten-year period of operation.
4. Re-iterate their continued commitment to those principles and objectives of the declaration from the 2nd Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on the Environment held in Athens in 2002.
5. Re-affirm the necessity of achieving sustainable development at regional, national and local levels in line with the Millennium Development Goals and the targets agreed at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) including the complementary Johannesburg Partnerships (the Type II Outcomes) for sustainable development.
6. Take note of the Arab initiative for sustainable development and its plan of implementation adopted by the Council of Environment Ministers (CAMRE) and submitted to the WSSD in Johannesburg.
7. Recognize the preparation by United Nation Environment Programme/the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) which was endorsed by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and supported at the 10th Anniversary of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (Barcelona Summit) and commit to implement the MSSD in conjunction with national strategies for sustainable development.
8. Recall the entry into force in 2004 of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (the amended Barcelona Convention) and note that the MAP is a key regional mechanism for environmental cooperation and sustainable development in the Mediterranean region.

9. Welcome United Nations General Assembly resolution 58/211 that followed the proposal by Algeria to declare 2006 as International Year of deserts and desertification.
10. Recall the agreement at the 13th Ordinary Meeting of the contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution that cooperation with the European Community in its efforts to develop and implement the European Marine Strategy should be strengthened, both as individual sovereign States bordering a regional sea and as Parties to the Convention.
11. Welcome the results of the Euro-Mediterranean Water Directors Meeting held in Athens on 6-7 November 2006, in particular, concerning their readiness to contribute to the Horizon 2020 initiative and other cooperation activities concerning water issues.
12. Emphasise that the environmental needs of the region are beyond the means of any one country or organisation to deal with and require a regional approach and increased cooperation as well as all sources of finance to be fully mobilised and exploited.
13. Take into account the common responsibilities and differentiated capabilities between Euro-Mediterranean Partners towards achieving sustainable development in the region also considering the specificity of each partner country.
14. Emphasise that the METAP 'cost of environmental degradation' studies demonstrate that environmental inaction is not an option.
15. Welcome the enhanced cooperation between the EU and the Mediterranean Partners and commit to work together through the implementing of the Association Agreements and the European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plans to promote sustainable development in the Mediterranean Region.
16. Welcome the European Commission's initiative to come forward with a Communication establishing an environment strategy for the Mediterranean that outlines the approach of the European Commission regarding its environmental cooperation in the region for the coming years across a range of sectors such as climate change, desertification and biodiversity.
17. Recall the outcome of the Barcelona Summit of 28 November 2005 including the agreed Five Year Work Programme for the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and positively welcome the development of the Horizon 2020 as a concrete next step from the Summit.
18. To this end, the Euro-Mediterranean Ministers of Environment and other heads of delegation at the Cairo Ministerial Conference hereby:
 - a. Endorse the timetable for the Horizon 2020 initiative for de-pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by 2020 attached to this declaration.
 - b. Invite the European Commission to coordinate the partnership of the Horizon 2020 initiative through the establishment of an efficient institutional steering mechanism with key representatives from the Euro-Mediterranean governments and other partners to provide overall guidance, review, monitoring and effectively coordinate with other related initiatives in particular

the MAP's Strategic Action Programme (SAP) to address pollution from land-based activities (SAP MED).

- c. Agree to work to:
 - i. Ensure the provision of appropriate financial resources and technical support to implement the timetable for de-pollution as called for at the Barcelona Summit.
 - ii. Achieve the implementation of the timetable for de-pollution through, inter-alia, the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its related Protocols and the MSSD in close coordination with the UNEP/MAP as well as through strengthened synergies with other strategic regional initiatives and programmes such as the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI), the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Strategic Partnership etc.
 - d. Undertake to:
 - i. Review periodically the implementation of all relevant regional agreements and action plans.
 - ii. Seek to ensure appropriate involvement of other governmental bodies, local and regional authorities, intergovernmental organisations, non-governmental organisations, international financial institutions, bilateral donors, business sector and other relevant actors to meet the commitments of the initiative.
 - iii. Take steps to develop national integrated environmental information systems to produce reliable, comparable and timely statistical data and information to support Horizon 2020 aims.
19. Call for the mobilisation on a predictable and sustainable basis of the necessary financial resources to support environmental protection and urge all actors on the national, regional, and international level to work together to maximise assistance and its impact as well as exploiting opportunities for technology transfer contributing to the achievement of Horizon 2020 and other components of the environmental strategy for the Mediterranean.
 20. Recognise that the continuing cooperation between the World Bank and the European Investment Bank and within the context of the METAP will provide support to the Horizon 2020 initiative.
 21. Welcome 'Environment 2007' the 5th International Conference & Exhibition organized by the Egyptian Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs to be hosted in Cairo from 21-23 May 2007, and urge all Euro-Med countries and their businesses to maximize their participation in this endeavour as a major public-private-partnership contribution to Horizon 2020.
 22. Welcome the Conference on the Private Investor's contribution to Horizon 2020 to be hosted in Athens by October 2007 and urge banks, other financial institutions and CleanTech Venture Capital Funds to participate in this endeavour.
 23. Welcome the major contribution to environmental protection of the Mediterranean Sea through the application of the environmental laws and policies of the European Union

and the other Mediterranean countries and encourage initiatives by other actors such as the “European Principles for the Environment (EPE)”, as appropriate.

- 24. Encourage the exchange of experience and best practices between the environmental conventions and sustainable development programmes dealing with the Mediterranean, the Baltic Sea and the Black Sea.
- 25. Underline that implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) is a suitable approach for sustainable resource management in marine and coastal areas.
- 26. Recommend that the Euro-Mediterranean Foreign Ministers at their forthcoming meeting in Tampere on 27-28 November 2006 underline the importance of integration of environmental concerns into other relevant sectors under the Barcelona Process in order to contribute to the development of sustainable production and consumption across the region.
- 27. The Euro-Mediterranean Ministers of Environment wish to express their appreciation to the government of the Arab Republic of Egypt for hosting the Third Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Environment co-chaired with the Finnish Presidency of the EU and the European Commission and agree to meet again in 2009 to review progress.

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