

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND WATER

RECOMMENDATION

On the following topics:

- 1. Renewable Energy Sources**
- 2. Eco-Towns**
- 3. Maritime Underwater Parks**
- 4. The 'Let's do it' campaign**

Presented by the Committee Chair
Stefan Schennach (Austria)

Having regard to the meetings of the Committee on Energy, Environment and Water of 24 /25 September 2012 in Rabat, 10/11 December 2012 in Berlin and 11 April 2013 in Brussels, the Committee proposes the following recommendations:

Re: Renewable Energy Sources

The Committee on Energy, Environment and Water proposes

1. Reaffirming that the preservation of the environment must be a permanent concern of all in the process of sustainable development in the region, notably as regards the protection of air and water, coastal protection, waste disposal, biodiversity and environmental education;
2. Taking advantage of the opportunities offered by the Third Industrial Revolution by promoting clean renewable energy sources and thereby achieving independence from energy imports;
3. Promoting renewable energy sources, especially wind and solar power and energy derived from the oceans and from waste and also developing North-South energy interconnections through projects of common interest of the European Union and the South-South;
4. Taking more advantage of market opportunities by more actively promoting North-South and South-South cooperation, for example through the removal of barriers, such as customs tariffs and a lack of pipeline and cable systems;
5. Enhancing the importance of renewable energy sources as a motor for employment (keyword: the Limassol Declaration) through green technologies, in particular by promoting and financing the training of specialists and study courses in this field, for example, at the Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI);
6. Particular support for the three out of six UfM key initiatives directly linked to the preservation of the Mediterranean environment (De-Pollution of the Mediterranean; Maritime and Land Highways; RES) that will be carried within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean University;
7. Recognising the importance of renewable energy sources as a factor for overcoming the crisis in a period of upheaval, such as the Arab Spring. They may contribute to economic growth and hence, possibly, also to sustainable development and political stability and peace in the southern Mediterranean countries;
8. Highlighting green technology as a measure to combat the effects of climate change and environmental pollution, especially in the Mediterranean countries and the Mediterranean Sea and coastline;
9. Inviting the Committee Bureau to the meetings of the Working Group in preparation for the meeting of energy ministers of the Union for the Mediterranean so as to ensure that the projects and initiatives decided on there are influenced and informed by the Committee's objectives;

Re: Eco-Towns

The Committees on Energy, Environment and Water recommends

10. Promoting the development and networking of cities in order jointly to address challenges in the energy, environment and water sectors through the establishment of an ‘Eco-Towns’ network, drawing in particular on the experience of the EUROMED Cities Network, and a Working Group coordinated by Rima Tarabay from Lebanon, Vice President of Bahr Loubnan, and Moez Kamoun from Tunisia, in cooperation with the head of the project and Committee chair, Stefan Schennach, and in synergy with the Sustainable Mediterranean Cities and Regions Agency based in Marseille; and calling upon the Commission and member States of the Union for the Mediterranean to contribute financially to this pilot project;
11. Presenting the programme through the participating mayors (the network currently comprises some 12 towns) at the next General Assembly and requesting that the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean validate this project;

Re: Maritime Underwater Parks

The Committee on Energy, Environment and Water requests

12. Supporting the creation of protected marine areas (underwater national parks) in collaboration with MedPan, as a practical step towards a common environmental strategy for the Mediterranean;

Re: the ‘Let's do it’ campaign

The Committee on Energy, Environment and Water points to

13. The decision to implement the ‘Let’s do it’ campaign, based on the practice of the countries of the Eastern and Central Europe, which was adopted in March 2012 in Rabat and also considered worth implementing by the General Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean;
14. The recommendation contained in the decision to stage a common annual ‘Let’s do it’ day in the member countries of the Union for the Mediterranean in order to promote proper waste management, for example by environmental awareness-raising at various levels;
15. The initial discussions conducted with NGOs (Horizon 2020 and EnDangered (M.E.D)) as potential cooperation partners with the aim of establishing a collective maritime environmental policy between Mediterranean countries, coastal towns and communities, the economy (especially tourism), NGOs and civil society;

Finally, the Committee for Energy, Environment and Water proposes

16. Addressing the following priority issues next year, in 2013/2014:
 - (a) food security against a backdrop of climate change and the greening of agriculture and sustainable and renewable technologies;
 - (b) the problem of drinking water (especially in the Occupied Palestinian Territories) and traditional water sources, such as the River Jordan and the River Nile;
 - (c) the creation of a Mediterranean Forum of NGOs and civil society in order to improve cooperation and regular exchanges of information, to encourage sharing of good practices as well as promotion and coordination of initiatives such as 'Let's do it' day, in areas within the Committee's remit;
 - (d) the need for development of transmediterranean electricity transmission network in order to enhance the cooperation in the energy sector;
17. Measures to strengthen, promote and develop existing cooperation, in particular with other organisations (such as FISP MED - International Federation for Sustainable Development and Fight Against Poverty in the Mediterranean-Black Sea), NGOs and civil society and their role in order to create more far-reaching and enduring networking and partnerships in the Mediterranean in the fields of the environment, energy and water;
18. Adapting and implementing existing programmes and decisions jointly with all the Mediterranean partner countries.