

**Statement by the Comité de Suivi (CdS)¹,
to the
12th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD),
Istanbul, May 30-31, 2007.**

Energy, the Barcelona Convention and MSSD

- Under the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (adopted by the Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties in November 2005 and endorsed by the Euro-Mediterranean Barcelona summit) Mediterranean nations have committed to promoting RE and EE. (Priority Action area 2).
- While the Clean Development Mechanism is identified in MSSD as an important source of finance for RE/EE projects, not all MAP partners have ratified the Kyoto Protocol, and thus do not qualify for CDM assistance. Moreover, so far only 14 of 750 Clean Development Projects are in south Mediterranean countries.
- The Blue Plan leads MAP work on Energy and Climate change and organised a seminar in Monaco in March 2007. However, given the significance of EuroMed initiatives in the field of energy and the global processes ongoing in this field, the Blue Plan must engage the relevant EuroMed instances to share its vision of a sustainable energy scenario for the Mediterranean region.

- While the 2007 Spring European Council committed EU to achieving 20% targets for RE and EE by 2020, on present trends, the share of REs in energy supplies of South Mediterranean Partner states is forecast to decline from 6% to 3%, by 2020.
- EIB energy loans have been overwhelmingly focused on other (non RE/EE) sectors. However, according to the Blue Plan, implementation of ambitious RE and EE policies in these countries could result in avoiding the construction of 154 new 500 Mw power plants by 2020.

- Specifically the Blue Plan should react to the EU's energy and climate change package adopted by the 2007 Spring Council, open Dialogue with DG Energy so as to propose a similar approach for the Mediterranean region for consideration of the next conference of the Contracting Parties in Almeria. This and future COPs should be assisted by MAP/BP to monitor developments on these issues both within the Euro-Med. Partnership and within the climate change negotiating processes with a view to making recommendations to their representatives as regards overall Mediterranean aspects and concerns. Prior to COP 14, MAP/BP should brief governments on these aspects and concerns with a view to informing representatives attending the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change,

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COP 13 in Bali, Indonesia, December 2007 which, it is hoped, will launch negotiations on the 'post-2012' commitments.

- The Blue Plan needs to articulate what the key energy and climate change issues are for the Mediterranean region. It should make specific proposals to mainstream climate change considerations into the design/implementation of NSSDs and in terms of a meaningful dialogue, and exchange of best practices between contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention.

The Comité de Suivi, representing hundreds of environmental NGOs in the Mediterranean, and in support of the recent resolution of the EuroMediterranean Parliamentary Assembly urging sustainable energy policies in the Mediterranean calls on

- the EU to support a minimum target of 20% by 2020 for REs and EEs in EuroMed partner states by offering sufficient long-term financial support as well as participation in related EU projects and programmes via both the ENPI and bilateral assistance

- the EuroMed Energy Ministers to adopt at their forthcoming conference in November 2007 organised by the Portuguese presidency a detailed and proactive regional programme to ensure the maximum feasible development of REs and EEs in the region, to be the subject of an annual progress report to the Conference of EuroMed Foreign Ministers and to the EuroMed Parliamentary Assembly.

The Comité de Suivi (CdS) is greatly concerned about ongoing efforts to promote nuclear power in the region and reiterates its call for a nuclear free Mediterranean area. The CdS calls upon the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development to invite:

- the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to prioritise RE and EE development in their national energy planning.

- the MAP/Blue Plan to submit an annual report on RE/EE and climate change developments within the region, and specifically monitor activities undertaken within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, with a view to maximising synergies between activities undertaken within the MAP/MSSD and within the EMP process

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