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Ninth Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee
Rome, Italy, 17-18 January 2005

REPORT BY THE SECRETARIAT FOR THE NINTH MEETING OF THE MCSD STEERING COMMITTEE

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Report by the Secretariat for the 9th meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee
Rome, Italy, 17-18 January 2005

I. Introduction

In conformity with its mandate to meet and review the progress of work between two MCSD meetings and also in line with the decision of the Contracting Parties "to entrust the Steering Committee of the MCSD with the task of supervising the preparation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD)", the Steering Committee will meet on 17 and 18 of January 2005, in Rome, at the kind invitation, and in the premises of the Ministry of Environment and Territory of Italy.

Following the discussions and decisions of both the 13th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Catania, Italy 11-14 November 2003) and the 9th MCSD meeting (Genoa, Italy, 17-19 June 2004), the major activity to be carried out in the framework of the MCSD, during the biennium 2004-2005, concerns the preparation of the MSSD. In this regard a review and discussion on the progress and first draft of the MSSD will constitute the main item on the agenda of this meeting. However, other items, mainly for information purposes but on which an exchange of views could provide guidance for further steps, will be briefly reviewed. These concern: the progress on MCSD related activities carried out by MAP components, the review and finalization of the "Strategic Thematic Notes", the support provided to the preparation of the National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSDs) and there assessment in the Mediterranean Region, the structure and implementation of the MCSD programme of work and finally issues raised by MCSD members.

Considering the role entrusted to the Blue Plan by the Coordinator of UNEP/MAP for the technical preparation of the draft MSSD report, under the overall supervision of the Coordinating Unit, the Director of BP/RAC will be invited to present the draft of the MSSD and participate in the discussions in view of the preparation of a revised version in both French and English by the 28th of January 2005.

The meeting is expected to last for one day and a half, and as appropriate and possible, a summary of the conclusions would be presented at the end of the meeting for review and adoption. This depends a lot on the nature of, and the time necessary to review/discuss the draft report for the MSSD. The report of the meeting will then be prepared and sent to the participants within two weeks after the meeting. As usual, there will be English/French interpretation throughout the meeting thanks to the support offered by the Ministry of Environment and Territory of Italy.

II. Progress Report

In addition to the items on the agenda of this meeting and on which a brief presentation of related progress will be found in relevant sections of the report, the Secretariat would like to inform the members of the MCSD Steering Committee about the following issues:

1. Sustainable Development Officer

Following the decision of the Contracting Parties to create a professional post to assist in the implementation of the MCSD programme of work, a job description for a Sustainable Development Officer was prepared and classified by UNEP/UNON at P3 level. As it was agreed that this post will be for two years, it was finally decided to appoint a qualified person on a temporary basis at the equivalent of P3 level for an initial period of 11 months, renewable once.

The Vacancy Announcement was published in July 2004 and many applications were received. The selection process was finalized internally in October 2004.

In addition to assisting in the preparation and follow up of the MSSD, the Sustainable Development Officer will contribute to the launching of the new programme of work, re-activating some of the working groups to assess the follow-up actions, working out a reporting system and its feasibility for MCSD recommendations, and promoting MCSD/MSSD visibility through the web and scientific publications and communications.
It is expected that the SD Officer would join the Secretariat in January/February 2005.

2. Progress on other MCSD related activities

a. BP/RAC

- Financing and Cooperation for Sustainable Development: a workshop was organized on 3-4 June 04 and a synthesis report was presented to the MCSD meeting in Genoa;

- The Report on Environment and Development: being a major systemic and prospective report, and an important source of information for the MSSD, the draft RED was completed in November 2004, and sent for comments to the Focal Points of BP/RAC;

- Free Trade and Environment: the Centre has participated actively in the group of experts and the public consultation meeting on the Sustainability Impact Assessment launched by the EC;

- Rural Development: Building on related work undertaken in the framework of the Report on Environment and Development and the partnership with FAO for the revival of Silva Mediterranea, a forum will be organized in the last quarter of 2005 with the objective to analyze the contribution of forestry to sustainable development of rural areas, adequate methods for rural integrated development, prospects for and impacts of new techniques;

- Water: Morocco, Tunisia and France have decided to elaborate, with the support of BP/RAC, a strategy and efficiency plans for water management. These will contribute to improve knowledge and awareness about water demand management, so as to extend a similar approach to other countries.

b. PAP/RAC

- Management of Coastal Zones: PAP/RAC has launched the preparation of the text of the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Area Management in the Mediterranean. The Working Group has been established and the first draft of the text will be delivered by the end of December 2004. During 2005, the text will be discussed on a number of occasions, especially during the PAP and MAP Focal Point Meetings before it is submitted to the Contracting Parties in November 2005. Major stakeholders have been widely consulted. In May 2004, in Cagliari, Italy a regional meeting was organized endorsing the initiative and providing valuable proposals for its preparation. In January 2005, an expert meeting will be held with the aim of discussing the first draft of the text;

- Urban Management: Follow up action was taken related to Local Management and Sustainable Development. The urban areas are the context where local management and governance have achieved the best results. The issue of urban regeneration in coastal cities has been developed further. After the appropriate guidelines were developed in 2003, a seminar was held in Split in early November, showing that there is plenty of room for the application in the Mediterranean of successful experiences from other countries, particularly with regard to urban waterfronts and urban historical heritage, two distinctive Mediterranean characteristics;

- Local Management and Sustainable Development: The initial activities were carried out. After the respective ToR were prepared, a consultant (CEDARE) was hired to prepare the position paper on the issue. The paper was discussed at an experts meeting organized in Rome on 21 December 2004. After this meeting a final draft of the position paper will be prepared together with a proposed work plan, organization of work, assessment of the financial means, partners and timetable for the eventual MCSD working group.

c. REMPEC

The most important activity related to the work of MCSD, but not in the framework of the MCSD, carried out by REMPEC during the period under review was the organization of the First Meeting of National Experts on the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships, between 8 and 10 July 2004, in Italy.

Contributions to the MSSD and the Strategic Thematic Notes concerning the sustainable maritime transport in the Mediterranean, were prepared bearing in mind the ongoing process of development of the Regional Strategy on prevention of and response to marine pollution from ships.

Two other important workshops/seminars were organized, one with the aim of addressing the issue of persecution for illegal discharges from ships in the Mediterranean Sea and the other to propose the way towards fulfilling the obligations of the Mediterranean coastal States regarding the provision of port reception facilities, two of the main objectives of both the MSSD and of the Regional Strategy on prevention of and response to marine pollution from ships.

d. CP/RAC

As a follow up to MCSD recommendations on Industry, the Centre has prepared and published, in several languages, a practical brochure on Best Environmental Techniques (BETs) and Best Available Practices (BAPs) for the promotion of cleaner technologies.

III. MSSD Draft Report

Following the conclusions and decisions of the 9th Meeting of the MCSD (Genoa, 17-19 June 2004), mainly concerning the preparation of the MSSD and in particular the flexibility given to the Coordinating Unit "to set up working groups or hire consultants as it sees fit", as well as using the expertise and information available at the Regional Activity Centres "in order to avoid duplication of efforts and save human and financial resources", a working session between MAP components was organized in early July 2004 to discuss and decide about the MSSD preparatory process and respective responsibilities. As a result, the Coordinator has requested the Director of BP/RAC to ensure the technical preparation of the draft report with the cooperation of all MAP components and under his supervision. To that end, a substantial financial amount was allocated to BP/RAC from MAP/MCSD budget so as to allow the Centre to get additional technical support to assist in the preparation of the draft MSSD.

A structure for the MSSD report, together with a road map were agreed upon and it was decided to prepare a MSSD report that should be short and would comprise four parts. A senior consultant was hired by BP/RAC together with a junior professional for a short-term period. A working session was organized on "Tourism" by BP/RAC at the end of September, a subject that had not been dealt with at a technical level in the framework of the Report on Environment and Development. A preliminary draft MSSD report was prepared and submitted to MAP components for a first internal consultation. A revised draft was then prepared and submitted to a Peer Review meeting that took place on 6 December 2004 at BP/RAC premises.

Consequently to the interesting, interactive and useful Peer Review, the draft report went through substantial changes and improvements. A copy is attached as **annex I** to his report. It constitutes the main working document of the meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee, the members of which are expected to thoroughly discuss its structure and contents, and propose practical steps for improving it and enhancing its quality and relevance.

Through the provision of specific inputs and proposals, as well as thorough comments on the draft version, MAP components have been closely associated with the preparation of the MSSD draft report that has used as main reference information documents the "Vision" and "Framework Orientations" for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean, as well as the Report on Environment and Development together with other MAP relevant information documents (SAP Med, SAP-Bio, "REMPEC Strategy", etc).

Soon after the meeting of the Steering Committee, a revised version of the MSSD draft report will be prepared and forwarded to MCSD members and partners for comments between the 1st of February and 10th of March 2005. Submitted comments will be synthesized in view of the MSSD workshop that is expected to review the structure and contents of the draft Strategy, by mainly focusing on the implementation means, the

governance at national and regional levels, and the commitments that countries and regional organizations are willing to make so as to implement the MSSD.

This workshop would be held around the end of March or beginning of April 2005 and is expected to be attended by representatives of MCSD members, of other concerned and relevant ministries/national institutions, and regional/international organizations that could contribute to the preparation and implementation of the MSSD.

Meanwhile, "bilateral" consultations will be held by MEDU and BP/RAC with major institutions that would be directly concerned by some of the MSSD objectives and their implementation; these could include: FAO, World Tourism Organization, UN Regional Commissions, League of Arab States, funding institutions (such as EIB, bilateral cooperation agencies), EC (various DGs), etc.

A Peer Review meeting might be organized a few weeks after the workshop, before preparing a revised MSSD draft report in view of the 10th meeting of the MCSD to be organized in the second half of June 2005.

Finally, it is important to note the active role of the NGOs in the preparatory process of the MSSD; considering their great interest in the MSSD, Friends of the Earth/MedNet has submitted a request and obtained a substantial financial support from Italy for the organization of a Regional Workshop of the Civil Society to discuss the MSSD draft; Moreover, this Regional Workshop will be preceded by at least 8 national workshops organized by national NGOs to discuss the draft Strategy report before submitting their comments and proposals to the Regional meeting. UNEP/MAP will be providing financial support to these national workshops.

IV. Strategic Thematic Notes

Following the decision of the 9th meeting of the MCSD "requesting the participants to send their comments and inputs on the thematic notes", the Secretariat has been communicating with MCSD members to induce them in organizing national consultation processes so as to be able to review and comment on the eight thematic notes. Several MCSD members and MAP components submitted comments and inputs, and in at least 2 cases there has been a wide consultation process, involving all concerned ministries and national commissions for sustainable development.

Giving due consideration to all comments and inputs received, the thematic notes were thoroughly revised, edited, improved and presented all in, as far as possible, a similar form. These notes could of course be improved.
They attempt to present in a concise manner diagnosis, stakes and challenges, objectives, means and actors. As such, they constitute a synthetic information source for related issues in a sustainable development framework and could be reviewed and updated on a regular basis, and at a later stage, published and widely disseminated.

This set of 8 thematic notes is attached mainly for information purposes in document **WG.263/Inf.1**; together with the Report of Environment and Development, the SAP-Med and SAP-Bio, the "REMPEC Strategy" and the ICAM Strategy (under preparation), they constitute an important source of information for the preparation of the MSSD to which the "Vision" and "Orientations" provide a coherent framework. These thematic notes are not intended to be approved but the Secretariat would appreciate receiving any comment and input that could lead their improvement.

V. National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSDs)

1. Support to the preparation of NSSDs

Following the decision of the 12th meeting of the Contracting Parties requesting countries to prepare National Strategies for Sustainable Development, and in order to ensure a high level of synergy between the MSSD and National Strategies, as decided at the 9th meeting of the MCSD, the Secretariat is providing technical and financial support to several Mediterranean countries for the preparation of their NSSDs.

To that end, and considering the limited funds available in UNEP/MAP budget, the Secretariat has received the kind financial assistance of Italy and Monaco that complements MTF funds to support the preparation of NSSDs in Egypt, Montenegro, Morocco and Syria. The preparation of these National Strategies is expected to be done over one year; additional support is being looked for from other regional and international actors such as UNDP, GTZ, and Arab Funds.

In this context, the MAP-MCSD is cooperating with UN-DESA/CSD in the organization and facilitation of a Regional Workshop on NSSDs in the Arab countries. Considering our comparative advantage of working in the framework of UNEP/MAP and its MCSD, the Secretariat has been able to collect and assess relevant information from a majority of Mediterranean countries.

Terms of reference for these NSSDs have been prepared and proposed to the countries requesting them to secure country ownership and strong political commitment, as well as broad participation with a focus on strategic realistic objectives and means of implementation. The preparatory process of these NSSDs would include the following tasks:

- Stocktaking: Undertake a survey and prepare an assessment of activities/programmes/policies/institutions related to environment and development that are relevant to sustainable development, including the analysis of achievements, constraints and needs towards promoting a National Strategy for Sustainable Development;

- Political Support: Secure high level political support for the preparation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development together with national ownership (not just a report to be prepared by a group of experts) by contacting and briefing all relevant National Institutions, some of them to be then partner in the Steering Committee;

- Partners: Identify major stakeholders, define and establish a consultation mechanism promoting participatory approach involving public, private and civil society sectors, as well as a representative of active Regional and International Organizations;

- Consultation Mechanism: Designate and establish a national multidisciplinary team of experts from public, private and civil society, corresponding to the national sustainable development stakes, challenges and priorities. Constituted as a Steering Committee that would meet regularly (frequency to be defined) to review progress, it could be composed of 8 to 10 members from major ministries, private sector/chambers of commerce, NGOs, Universities and research institutes. These members could also be considered as experts that would also be requested to

prepare certain reports as per their qualifications in addition to their active participation in the discussions;

- Preparation of the NSSD: Design the preparatory process with inputs, consultations, outputs and timetable that should encompass at least the following:

    a. Preparation of National Vision for Sustainable Development (4-6 pages);
    b. Preparation of a Framework Orientation document (8-10 pages);
    c. Identification and preparation of specific contributions as inputs to the NSSD;
    d. Preparation of a NSSD document (20-25 pages);
    e. Regular consultations between stakeholders and members of the Steering Committee to review progress;
    f. Definition of implementation and follow-up measures and indicators;
    g. Organization of national workshops to launch the preparation (with concepts, methodology "assessment" and "vision") and to review the NSSD report.

Considering that the launching of the process for consultation and preparation at national level would take a few months, it is expected that when the national "Vision" and "Orientations" are prepared, the MSSD draft report, with its set of proposed objectives will be ready for reference after the MSSD workshop, by the end of March 2005 and the MCSD meeting in June 2005. This would allow concerned countries to immediately take over and adapt the MSSD proposals in their national strategies; if necessary, the preparation period for the NSSDs could be extended to the first quarter of 2006 so as to further consider the final text and objectives approved by the Contracting Parties in Slovenia in November 2005.

2. Assessment of the NSSDs in the Mediterranean Region

Following the request by several Contracting Parties and MCSD members to assess the status of activities in the Region in relation to sustainable development, in particular the establishment of National Commissions for Sustainable Development and the preparation of National Strategies, a Regional Assessment has been launched since July 2004; a draft report has been prepared and sent to representatives of MCSD country members and Contracting Parties for comments in December 2004.

This review was based on information available, accessible through the web or made available by countries in response to a questionnaire and draft country profiles. Most of the countries have responded positively, actively contributing to this Regional Assessment by providing comments and documents.

This Regional Assessment, a draft of which is attached for information and eventual comments in **document WG.263/Inf.1,** still presents gaps that need to be filled in as soon as appropriate information is made available; as such, it already shows that there are only a few coordinated sustainable development activities in the countries and a limited number of National Commissions for Sustainable Development are in place. However, there is evidence that awareness is progressing quickly and that major steps are expected in many countries.

In addition to this Regional Assessment, presently under review by the countries, Guidelines for Strategic Frameworks for Sustainable Development were prepared, using existing methodologies (OECD/UNDP and UN-DESA/CSD) and drawing lessons from

Mediterranean and other experiences. These Guidelines will be used for the preparation of the NSSDs, keeping in mind that they would be adapted, as appropriate, to each national context.

Moreover, draft "Country Profiles" are being prepared with the intention of regularly updating them so as to keep on having an accurate image, as much as possible, of the sustainable development processes, institutions and actions in a given Mediterranean Country and in the overall region.

VI. MCSD Programme of Work

As presented in section II on progress, several MCSD activities are on going, such as "Free Trade and Environment" and "Financing and Cooperation for Sustainable Development", "Local Governance" and "Rural Development". For other issues for which recommendations and proposals for action were already prepared and adopted, there are series of follow up activities, as for issues related to the "Management of Water Demand", "Sustainable Development Indicators", "Industry and Sustainable Development", "Integrated Coastal Zone Management" and "Information, Awareness and Public Participation". These are being undertaken by concerned Support Centres and/or previous Task Managers.

At the 9th MCSD meeting, a medium term programme of work was proposed and endorsed, keeping in mind that it "would be re-assessed once the MSSD had been adopted".

Considering the importance of the MSSD, a lot of attention was given to the preparation of the draft report since July 2004 by all concerned MAP components. However, considering that the priority issues defined in the MSSD, and for which Strategic Objectives will be proposed, do correspond to the issues already proposed in the two clusters of the MCSD medium term programme of work, MAP concerned components, as Support Centres, together with other relevant Partners, would initiate related activities, if possible during 2005 and certainly in the 2006-2007 biennium. Consequently, MAP components will give due consideration to respective requirements for relevant issues in the preparation of the next programme of work for the biennium, to be presented to the MAP Focal Points in September 2005 and to the 14th Contracting Parties meeting in November 2005.

In this context, the following cluster of issues would be dealt with during the 2006-2007 biennium, if possible with already some preparatory work during the second semester of 2005, with the support of most concerned MAP components and relevant partners (suggested hereunder between the parentheses, the first one being the proposed leading Support Centre):

a. "Energy/Climate Change" (BP/RAC, MedPol, CP/RAC with OME, MedWet, MedRep, NGO);
b. "Transport" (BP/RAC, REMPEC, PAP/RAC);
c. "Urban Management and Local Management" (PAP/RAC, BP/RAC, with MedCities, CEDARE, NGO);
d. "Sustainable Management of Marine and Coastal Areas" (PAP/RAC, SPA/RAC, BP/RAC, ERS/RAC, MedPol, with NGO);
e. "Water" (BP/RAC, with GWP, NGO).

For the 2008-2009 biennium, the cluster of issues could concern the following:

f. “Tourism” (BP/RAC and PAP/RAC, with WTO, NGO);
g. “Rural and Agricultural Development” (BP/RAC, with CIHAEM, FAO, NGO);
h. “Risk Management” (PAP/RAC, REMPEC, MedPol, with MedSafe).

For all these issues, the results of the intensive work undertaken for the preparation of the MSSD, the Report on Environment and Development, the ICAM Protocol and Strategy and the “REMPEC” Strategy, will be extensively used so as to shorten as much as possible the analytical part and devote more attention to the Strategic and Policy aspects, focussing more on the implementation means and governance issues with more practical proposals for action.

Regional and/or sub-regional fora will be organised so as to ensure a larger participation of concerned experts and better communication of the results.

In most cases, the issues in the respective above biennia will be dealt with during the same period as the UN-CSD; and as in the case with the CSD, we would have the first year for review and the second for policy issues, unless the whole issue could be covered in one year, when enough analytical information is already available (such as through the Report on Environment and Development or ICAM issues). For most of these issues, small experts’ groups from MCSD members and other Partners will be constituted with the support of concerned MAP components.

In any case, the objectives for, expectations from and partnership/responsibilities for each issue will be discussed at the 10th MCSD meeting in line with the contents of the draft MSSD and more precisely defined once the MSSD is adopted.

VIII. Miscellaneous

Depending on availability of time, other issues could be discussed if members of the Steering Committee so decide.

ANNEX I

Mediterranean Commission
for Sustainable Development

THE
MEDITERRANEAN STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Draft
(original French)

By the Plan Bleu - Regional Activities Centre

Under the direction of the Coordinator of MAP
With contributions from all MAP Components

MAP/ Plan Bleu
December, 2004

1. TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

The Mediterranean-rim countries and the European Community, Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, at their 12th meeting, held in Monaco in November 2001, decided to prepare a "Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development". They requested the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD) of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) to elaborate a draft. The 2nd Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on the Environment (Athens, July, 2002) provided its support to this initiative that was announced at the Johannesburg Earth Summit, acknowledging that the MCSD was the proper framework in which to do it.

Sustainable development is a planet-wide goal and aims to make it possible to "respond to the present needs without compromising the abilities of future generations to meet their own needs" (the "Brundtland Commission", 1987). The Millennium Goals approved by 189 countries in September 2000 and the Implementation Plan of the World Summit for Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, 2002, stress the urgency of accrued commitment to reducing inequalities and helping in the development of poor countries, to change our non-viable production and consumption patterns, protect and sustainably manage natural resources for economic and social development, safeguard health and better insert the goal of sustainable development into globalisation. The Summit also called for the development of regional partnerships.

The Mediterranean Strategy calls for action to correct the unsustainable nature of development so as to strengthen peace, stability and prosperity. It accounts for the weaknesses and threats weighing on the Mediterranean Region but also its advantages and opportunities. It is also aware of the gaps between the developed and developing countries, and it highlights the need to go along with the transitions of the eastern Adriatic countries and those of the Mediterranean South and East. So as to engage the whole region in collective progress, it calls for awareness of the dangers of and reasons for development's non-sustainability, for a shared vision of the future and for the implementation of action policies and programmes for accelerating transitions towards a dual win-win scenario (North and South, the environment and development). The stake for all Mediterranean-rim countries is to collectively benefit from this scenario in terms of social, economic growth and environment.

The strategy relies on the prospective and strategic documents prepared by the MAP's Components and other Mediterranean co-operation frameworks and networks. It also considers the Millennium Development Goals, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the evolutions of regional co-operation (in particular the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership begun in 1995 in Barcelona and the Mediterranean Action Plan), and the Sustainable Development Strategy of the European Union (EU), adopted in Gothenburg in 2001. The latter saw the main threats as follows: climate change, the risks to human health, poverty, the aging population, the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of natural resources, transport-based congestion and regional imbalances. It directly concerns the Mediterranean EU Members or countries likely to become members (a total of 12 rim countries) and indirectly the "Mediterranean neighbours" of the EU since it requires that <u>all</u> community policies (including external trade and co-operation) have sustainable development as their priority.

2. STAKES AND RISKS

2.1. A precious eco-region and an ill-treated environment

A unique eco-region

The development of the Mediterranean as an ”eco-region” is in large part based on the exploitation of its natural resources and the quality of the environment.

The Mediterranean “eco-region”

The 22 rim countries and territories contain 428 million people in all (7% of the world's population) and account for 13% of the world's GDP. The “eco-region” that surrounds and encompasses the Mediterranean Sea covers only a part of this whole even while overflowing onto non-rim countries.

The Mediterranean is one of the world's richest regions in history, diversity and fragility. It is one of the main critical places of worldwide bio-diversity. The Mediterranean landscapes, its 46,000 km of coastline, the historical and cultural heritage, its unique products, its eating and culinary regimes and its know-how are also of great value but under threat.

The geographic specificities are marked and often restricting, e.g. irregular rain, water stress (summer water shortages), the contrast between not very extensive fertile plains and vast inland mountainous and desert areas, constant natural threat (floods, mudslides, droughts, forest fires, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions). Its natural resources are badly apportioned. The southern and eastern shores are the most deprived of water although they have the greatest needs. Only four countries are producers and exporters of hydrocarbons, two of which (Libya and Algeria) have important resources.

Yet the sea serves as a link and facilitates trade and exchanges between the three continents that surround it. It has strengthened the millennia-old blending of different cultures and civilisations and has been a contributing factor in giving the rim populations a shared feeling of belong to the Mediterranean world. Numerous Mediterranean networks (intergovernmental, specialists, NGOs, professional, etc.) have been formed and enable the eco-region to progressively build a shared vision of sustainable development.

The solidarity of families and groups, the small size of companies, the relative importance of tourism (30% of the international tourists visits the rim countries), the semi-natural spaces (grazing land, woodlands) and irrigated agriculture should also be mentioned.

The Mediterranean is not only a regional sea but also a world sea, handling 30% of the international cargo maritime traffic.

Internal fractures and an ill-treated environment

The Mediterranean environment has been degrading for many decades now. But it is becoming ever more apparent today that the accumulation of imbalances and the irreversibility of an increasing number of degradations are pointing to a coming crisis because they are engaging the entire eco-region in a non-sustainable future.

Internal gaps are getting stronger everywhere, thus increasing risks. Over-populated and over-exploited coasts contrast with marginalized inland areas which in the developed countries are sparsely populated or, as in the developing countries, subject to excessive human pressures. Agricultural and rural space suffers from uneven competition from urban growth. Increased tourism, urbanisation and transport clash with the saturation of accommodation capacity, and irrigated agriculture with limited water resources. Patterns of production and consumption that are often poorly adapted to Mediterranean specifics and rather unsustainable are developing. The Mediterranean does little to preserve its natural resources although its economy is strongly dependent on them.

An ill-treated environment

The urban living environment is degraded by automobile congestion (the cost of which is put at 14 billion dollars in France, 1.6 billion in Turkey and 0.4 billion in Egypt), noise, poor air quality and the fast growth of waste generation.

Over 20% of water (over-exploited in numerous countries) and energy resources are wasted through poor management. The Mediterranean's relative contribution to global warming has risen while the region is particularly affected by it, e.g. CO_2 emissions per capita rose from about 4.8 tonnes in 1990 to 5.4 tonnes in 2000 while the world average dropped from 4.3 to 4.

High-quality agricultural soils have been lost to artificialisation (urban sprawl and infrastructures). Over 80% of the arid and dry zones have been degraded by desertification (erosion, salination and the degradation of pastureland and woodlands), which only adds its impact to the threats posed by global warming.

The coast is victimised by pollution, artificialisation, coastal erosion and biological invasions.

Everywhere Mediterranean landscapes are being hammered, and exceptional continental and coastal bio-diversity is being reduced.

The Mediterranean is increasingly vulnerable to flooding, mudslides, earthquakes, droughts, fires and ecological imbalances.

The possible increase of pressures over the coming 25 years on the limited space of the coastal regions is considerable whether from tourism (175 million more people), transport (will more than double) or urban sprawl. It is forecasted that there will be nearly 33 million more urban dwellers, 20 million of whom will be on the coast, essentially in the South and East, and unless new policies are instituted, the strong urban sprawl that typifies the developed countries will tend to spread throughout the whole region.

Half of the Mediterranean's coastline may be irreversibly concreted over by 2025. With this strong increase of coastal pressures and maritime traffic (which may grow by over 250% in 25 years), the risks of sea and coastal pollution are also going to rise steeply if preventive steps are not taken in time.

An unacceptable future trend

Environmental degradation is affecting numerous sectors of the Mediterranean economy (agriculture, tourism, fisheries, the residential, industrial and services economies, etc.), the development of which depends directly on natural resources or the quality of the living environment. The costs of the degradation just in monetary terms, whether for repairs of environmental damage or the loss of natural or economic capital, already amounts to several points of the GDP and are only getting worse. Dangerous threats of social and political instability are being created by local crises that may increasingly result from this, not to mention the effects of worsening impoverishment in the most affected regions and the potential conflicts that may arise for controlling strategic natural resources.

This evolution is not sustainable. Without correcting the trend scenario, the Mediterranean will enter a spiral of decline. It will lose the advantages that are its wealth and abandon its people to a poor quality of life that will become harder and harder to bear.

2.2 The developmental challenge in the South and East and the risk of greater gaps between the two shores

On-going imbalances and a loss of economic weight in the world

The EU's integration of Greece, Spain and Portugal has been a major contributor to their political and economic modernisation. The three rim countries that joined the Union in 2004 (Cyprus, Malta and Slovenia) and Israel have also drawn closer to the average of the EU Mediterranean countries in terms of per capita income.

Nonetheless growth in the Mediterranean region has generally been weaker than that of the rest of the world; thus its relative weight in GDP terms has been diminished.

Growth in the Mediterranean's southern and eastern countries, stronger than in the major Mediterranean countries of the EU, has nonetheless been insufficient for reducing the disparities in GDP terms per capita because of the magnitude of demographic growth. Despite a noticeable fall in fertility rates, macro-economic stabilisation and progress in social matters (primary education and health), the Mediterranean's southern and eastern countries have not managed to "take off" economically in contrast to other comparable regions of the world.

On-going imbalances in development, the magnitude of unemployment

Disparities between the EU Mediterranean countries and the other rim countries (per capita income in purchasing power parity) are high and are not being reduced. For several countries (Morocco, Egypt, Syria and Albania) they surpass a ratio of 1 to 5.

Although extreme poverty is very limited, the rates are high as soon as the $2 per-day per-capita threshold is passed (44% of the Egyptians are concerned), and poverty is not on average falling (a fall in Turkey and Tunisia but a rise in Egypt and Morocco).

Unemployment among the young is high on both shores and a subject of concern, especially in North Africa where it reaches 29%.

Despite some progress, illiteracy is still rife in the southern and eastern Mediterranean (only 70 out of 100 young adults in Morocco and Egypt are literate) as gender inequalities (the percentage of women in non-farming salaried jobs varies from 15 to 30% compared to 40 to 50% in Latin America).

The debt service (in percentage of the exportation of goods and services) is a very heavy burden in several countries, especially Lebanon (51%) and Turkey (47%) and in several countries of the eastern Adriatic.

Imbalances between the two shores and within the developing countrysides are especially strong in the agricultural and rural areas with disparities of agricultural productivity, low economic diversification, on-going illiteracy, lagging behind cities in accessing potable water (access rates are about 55% in Morocco, Tunisia and Syria compared to 92 to 98% in cities), sanitation (44% of rural dwellers in Morocco and 70% in Turkey), roads, electricity, education and health. Rural poverty makes mobility and emigration mandatory.

Developmental challenges in the South and East: a major stake for both shores

On-going imbalances between the two shores and the insufficient competitiveness of the Mediterranean's southern and eastern countries are extremely worrying, for these countries are undergoing very strong growth in their work force. They will have to create over 30 million new jobs in 20 years just to maintain the current employment rates. Their economies, protected for long time, are fragile in the face of globalisation. Sizeable job losses are possible in several sectors.

The Mediterranean must therefore meet the challenge of its demographic, economics and social development. It must progressively fill the gaps that separate the rich areas from those that have remained poor and over-populated, take on the problems posed by illiteracy and education deficits and engage in new policies that will enable it to assume a stronger place in globalisation and respond to the respective demographic and economic challenges on both shores.

Without converging with Europe, the southern and eastern Mediterranean will only grow poorer and suffer even more from instability. Ageing Europe will only see its economic place in the world erode if there is no strategic renewal. In a scenario of insufficient growth and on-going imbalances, all of Europe and its "neighbours" will see their economic weight in the world inevitably diminish and may amount by 2050 to only a fifth of the world's GDP instead of the present third.

The danger of a larger fracture and instability

Despite the common interest on both shores to engage in solidarity and development, the trend risk is one of increased political, social, economic and environmental fracture, thus growing instability.

The progressive integration of the northern-rim countries into the EU will be accompanied by a freedom of movement, the adoption of community advantages and financial solidarity. It will make a certain political, economic and environmental convergence possible (guaranteeing peace and democracy). The community funds contributing to the modernisation of agriculture, the upgrading of environmental infrastructures and transport and the strengthening of capacities and the application of directives will make it possible to partially limit the negative effects in terms of sustaining the rapid change that globalisation and joining the single market will create (the reduced number of farmers, motorisation, waste generation, energy consumption and polluting emissions, etc.).

Also forced to confront globalisation, the southern- and eastern-rim countries do not yet benefit from such a regional co-operation dynamic despite the 1995 implementation of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. Up till now focusing on the implementation of a Euro-Mediterranean free-trade zone, the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership has paid little attention so far to the goal of sustainable development, and it lacks the necessary means and commitments. Without considerable domestic reforms and the implementation of powerful structural support, these developing countries will not have the means to upgrade the infrastructures required to fulfil their environmental liabilities and commit to sustainable development. There is also a danger in the on-going conflicts and insufficient South-South co-operation, factors which put major brakes on development.

2.3. The reasons for the unsustainability of development

There are four major reasons contributing to why development is unsustainable in the Mediterranean:

A lack of mobilisation and liability of local and professional actors

The overly “renting” and “mining” nature of the Mediterranean economy is the major reason. The maximum use of the rent resources at the expenses of productive activities, exporting manpower and an excessive concentration of the economy on exploiting natural resources limits development while having severe consequences on the environment and natural resources.

Entrepreneurial shortcomings and the lack of innovation are also explained by banking systems, research and education that are still insufficiently adapted to the needs of economies and the environment. The lack of interaction between the public and private sectors is especially worrying.

The whittling away of savoir-faire and the lack of value attributed to the links between societies and the Mediterranean environment also have significant consequences, e.g. construction that is not adapted to risks and climate, poor spatial management and the loss of the Mediterranean dietary regime even as it is being promoted throughout the world, especially in the English-speaking part, as an example of healthy cooking.

The poor adaptation of certain policies

Recent UNDP reports (reports on human development, *The Arab Human Development Report*, 2002 and 2003) have especially highlighted the remaining initiative to be taken for flexing political systems, reforming States and making civil society more active. In numerous countries local authorities, rural communities and enterprises do not have the capacity or the public support systems for allowing them to act effectively for sustainable development.

In most of the Mediterranean-rim countries sectoral policies (tourism, agriculture, energy, water, transport, etc.) have remained very traditional, vertical and “technicist”. They have preferred supply-side approaches that are harsh on and costly for the environment (big

dams, tourist resorts, coastal roads, etc), have contributed to increasing littoralisation and have not made it possible to sufficiently enhance Mediterranean diversity and quality. Policies of demand-management and integrated territorial development, which would reduce inequalities, render actors in participatory approaches more responsible and create sustainable added value have been overlooked for too long.

As far as environmental policies are concerned, they have been lacking in power and have basically remained of the top-down type and corrective rather than integrational and anticipatory.

Mechanisms of incentives, training and developmental activity, taxation, pricing and regulation have remained underdeveloped and have therefore not promoted the emergence of new generations of innovative enterprises and technologies or corrected market failures in sustainability terms. Public funds have remained insufficient in research and development, eco-efficient infrastructures, incentives for change towards sustainable consumer- and production-behaviour and the promotion of integrated local development.

The poor integration of sustainable development into international and regional co-operation and financing practices

The economic reforms undertaken upon the advice of international bodies and the EU have focused on reducing the role of the State, free trade, suppressing subsidies and privatisation rather than on improving the performance and competitiveness of local and professional actors or on cleaning up their relations with the State in a view of successful sustainable development process.

Insufficient official development assistance in volume, equity and effectiveness is also at fault. Donors prefer “project” approaches which often have high environmental costs (e.g. coastal roads and dams) rather than “programme” approaches that would make it possible to mobilise local and professional actors and make them accountable in win-win sustainable development scenarios.

a short box will be included on development public aid and relative importance of EU funds for East Europe and South-eastern Mediterranean

“Sustainability” has not been much included in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and not enough into the framework of the EU's enlargement policy towards the Mediterranean countries of the northern shore. For example, the Euro-Mediterranean free-trade zone was engaged without a preliminary impact study.

The MCSD has produced excellent innovative work in several fields, but the socio-economic organisations have participated only slightly; little feedback or follow-up have been given to this work.

The lack of awareness

Decision-makers and society in general are not sufficiently aware of the risks of the trend developments, the possible gains (environmental and economic) of sustainable development policies and the conditions for implementing them. The systems of observation, evaluation and forecasting, the dissemination of information, training and public debates on sustainable development are still way too limited.

The few examples of remarkable progress seen over the past few years in various countries, e.g. clean industry, policies of renewable energy or water saving, the enhancement of unique local products, the evolution of certain cities, rural regions, islands and protected spaces (natural regional parks) have not been widely known or been insufficiently advertised and generalised, yet they are substantial examples of action towards win-win scenarios.

Non-Mediterranean Europe is also insufficiently conscious of the interdependencies, risks and possible benefits for itself with developments in the Mediterranean.

The overview diagnosis carried out shows that the economic and social costs of unsustainability of Mediterranean development are already huge. If added to that the possible costs forecasted in trend scenarios, the price of not changing towards sustainable development will become unbearable. In contrast, engaging in a more sustainable development will make it possible not just to reduce these costs but for the Mediterranean to assume a favourable position in globalisation and create new wealth.

In the light of this observation, it is urgent to adopt a collective strategy that will catalyse lasting change.

3. ADOPTING A COLLECTIVE STRATEGY, CATALYSER OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

3.1 A "framework strategy", a role of catalyser

The regional strategy plays a catalytic role for bringing decision-makers and public opinion to decide and act as fast as possible on implementing national and sectoral strategies, action plans, country-to-country partnerships, communities and companies for strengthening co-operation intensifying technology transfers and strengthening capacities in developing countries. It starts with the presupposition that it is supported by a long-term commitment by all Mediterranean and EU governments and that it constitutes a strong expression of their determination.

For the goals proposed by the vision to be reached, there has to be a strong political act of appropriation and approval. Therefore a vision must be shared and desired by all actors; it has to become their common goal, and the strategy has to be converted into commitment and regular meetings to monitor its implementation have to be organised.

3.2 A strategy based on a long-term vision of sustainable development

Guiding principles

The goal of the strategy for sustainable development in the Mediterranean is to promote sustained economic growth as well as improving peoples' well being while ensuring conservation and sustainable resilience of the environment. It recognises that sustainability is based on the interdependence in the action of its three pillars, i.e. economic growth, social equity and environmental protection. It stresses the fact that in this region of the world the environment and development are indissociably linked and that acceleration of transitions towards more sustainable development is of capital importance. Sustainable development is one based on knowledge. The Strategy is centred around innovation considered as the driving force of progress. It also marries the principle of respect for cultural diversity and the rejection of all paradigms of a single developmental model.

The strategy also adopts the principle of common and differentiated responsibility.

A long-term vision based on the "common destiny" concept…

The Strategy's long-term vision is one where the Mediterranean will become a space of prosperity and peace and where it maintains and enhances the exceptional quality of its heritage, its natural resources, its network of small enterprises and its know-how. It rejects the scenario of unequal development between North and South, one that is unbalanced, standardising and wasteful. On the contrary, it opts for the sustainable management of resources and territories, an enhancement of diversity and a dynamic of complementarity and synergies between Europe and its Mediterranean neighbours around a strong notion of "common destiny".

In this vision economic and social fractures will have been progressively reduced thanks to the progress, with European Union contributions, of the Euro-Mediterranean region as a whole, wherein the driving forces centres of economic, exchange and North-South complementarities are naturally and historically organised. The collateral effects of growth and sustainable development come together to make of it a politically stable and economically dynamic space.

This other Mediterranean will have been made possible through the evolution of the regional political environment and a dynamic co-development of the northern-rim countries and the southern- and eastern-rim countries as part of a renovated Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, by then mature and politically efficient.

After focusing all its efforts for several years on upgrading its new members, in a more determined way the EU will have to face up to the socio-economic, environmental and political problems posed by its position in the future configuration of the world's economy and its role in developing a Euro-Mediterranean regional economic power.

The EU will in consequence have engaged vigorous aid policies for promoting co-development in the North and South. Its first, most decisive effort will have been to promote policies for giving value to human resources in the South and East by helping to train a new generation of labour force in these countries with a high educational level and well prepared in the advanced technologies of the 21st century. At the same time it will have mobilised significant resources in research and development and implemented a strategy of devolving this research to the southern-rim countries. In so doing, it will, by developing an ambitious "knowledge economy" posed the problem of jobs in new terms along with competitiveness and labour force productivity. The new qualifications of the southern and eastern labour force will have stimulated another migration policy towards the EU.

The EU and its Mediterranean partners will also have worked together for encouraging democratic processes, strengthening capacities and improving governance as well as consolidating a peace process in the conflict regions. This progress will have progressively created conditions favourable for attracting foreign direct investment in the southern- and eastern-rim countries, thus encouraging the emergence of new activities and new business opportunities for the EU and its Mediterranean partners. Adding up the income from emigration and the jobs created in the southern- and eastern-rim countries will have started reducing the disparities between the two Mediterranean shores. By filling its labour force dearth and by developing its economy of knowledge, the EU will have regained the wellsprings for advancing its competitiveness. The entire Euro-Mediterranean region will thus remain one of the three greatest regional powers in a multi-centred worldwide economy. Its trade will develop in particular as part of a vast Euro-Mediterranean free-trade zone. This "win-win" scenario for Europe and its neighbouring countries will be built on a Euro-Mediterranean regional space, of which the focal point will be the Mediterranean.

…Recognising diversity and adopting common and differentiated approaches

The Strategy will show the way for overall progress by implementing common and differentiated approaches.

The strategic value of diversity, environment and anticipation, the attractiveness of accelerating transitions towards more sustainable development by taking situational differences into account and the need to avoid the paradigm of a single developmental model will be clearly perceived.

Thus, the Mediterranean developing countries will take full advantage of the effective implementation of the Kyoto Protocol thanks to joint application mechanisms. They will also receive strengthened support for reducing their environmental liabilities and for protecting common Mediterranean assets, especially the sea and biodiversity.

A shared and differentiated vision of the future for agriculture and rural territories and the multiple roles to be considered will also be developed so as to avoid increasing poverty, environmental degradation and instability; on the contrary, a win-win approach for the two shores will be engaged.

Countries will re-orient their developmental policies and methods to successfully anticipate the future by integrating the environment and development upstream.

This will especially help the developing countries to avoid, to a certain extent, the irreversible costs related to the impact of non-sustainable production and consumption patterns observed in the developed Mediterranean countries (urban sprawl, the on-going tourist urbanisation of coasts, transport congestion, agriculture and rural abandonment, pollution, etc.) and that have begun to spread in their countries. The developed countries on the other hand will approve considerable corrective and wherever possible, requalification expenses for restoring lost quality.

3.3 Long-term goals

The Strategy is built around four major goals and seven essential fields of action. These goals and fields are closely inter-linked.

Goal 1: Enhancing the potential value of the Mediterranean's economic development

The Mediterranean has at its disposal solid assets for its development.

Among others, it has incomparable heritage diversity and quality (natural, historical, cultural and landscape heritage, products, territories, food and know how) that it can valorise much better.

There is also the geographical and cultural proximity between its two shores, not to mention with non-Mediterranean Europe and the other Middle Eastern countries.

It also has a wealth of small enterprises that may well become an engine for innovation and diversified development.

The Strategy's prime goal is to meet the challenge of economic development by enhancing the value of these different assets .

In particular the Strategy acknowledges the need for promoting the SMEs-SMIs as an activity- and job-creating vector, for favouring innovation, skills and culture, for creating sustainable added value and jobs through new enterprise policies, making it possible to highlight the Mediterranean's specific assets and products, to create synergies between tourism, agriculture and industry and to enhance the relations of proximity and

neighbourhood as part of the future common Euro-Mediterranean market by developing new production sectors.

The Strategy also wants to end the brain-drain by developing research and development through promoting industrial and agricultural innovation and interactions between the public and private sectors (training and research).

Goal 2: Remedying social backwardness by carrying out the goals of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG)

The MDG has set 2015 (compared to 1990) as the date for improving the populations' living standards.

The Strategy endorses the goals already adopted on the international level, in particular the following: reducing poverty and the percentage of the population without access to potable water or sanitation by half, reducing the maternal mortality rate by ¾ and the infant mortality rate by 2/3, primary education for all children and a 100% ratio of the number of girls and boys enrolled in primary and secondary education.

It emphasises that there will be no sustainable progress as long as such a large portion of the population does not have access to essential services. It consequently recognises the need for strengthened action programmes for the too-often forgotten rural area and the importance of anticipating urban development.

Goal 3: Enhancing natural resources and lowering the costs due to degradation by decoupling economic growth from the pressures on the environment

The Mediterranean cannot avoid the necessity of better managing and enhancing its limited natural resources and of reducing the impact of the economy on its fragile environment. "Decoupling" economic development from pressures on the environment and natural resources is the major challenge in the Strategy of Sustainable Development.

It aims at reversing the trend that sees economic growth dependent on a parallel, if not stronger, exploitation of the environment and the ever-more irreversible degradation of natural resources and ecosystems. In fact it calls for the enhancement of these resources through improved consumption and production methods and by developing clean technologies and adapted infrastructures (public transport, certain new renewable energies, etc.).

Decoupling will make it possible to engage the region on a "win-win" scenario on both the environmental and developmental levels. It will, among other things, aim at better management and enhancement of water, energy, soil and coastal resources as well as slowing the rise in waste generation and polluting emissions. The possible economic benefits are very high.

Thanks to proactive policies over the long-term, its implementation will lead to more sustainable balances between satisfying the needs of populations, the demand of economic activities and protecting the environment. It will also enable the region to develop new technologies and many jobs in prospect sectors (water and energy savings, renewable energies, sustainable transport, clean production, etc.).

Goal 4: Sustainably stopping the degradation of global and regional public assets

There can be no “sustainable” development without bringing the irreversible changes that affect the basic common goods to a halt.

The region's priority stakes are protecting the sea and the coast, the climate, soils and biodiversity, cultural and countryside heritage as well as reducing exposure to natural disasters.

And more particularly there is an urgent need to halt the on-going degradation of soils, landscapes and coastal areas and to meet the goals of the Earth Summit by protecting and enhancing marine, coastal and continental biological wealth.

It is also important for the region to reduce its increasing vulnerability to certain dangers likely to affect it such as global warming, natural disasters (floods, fires, droughts, etc.), and the risks of degrading health, all of which can have serious social consequences.

Focusing on the 7 basic action fields

To help in fulfilling these four major goals, the Strategy wants to see substantial progress in seven essential action fields that are closely interdependent and for which strengthened or different policies and practices are vital.

This encompasses the following:

- protecting the sea, urgently stopping the degradation of coastal areas and promoting the sustainable management of the coast;
- promoting sustainable cities, controlling urban sprawl and preventing degraded air quality;
- promoting quality agricultural and sustainable rural development;
- managing better water resources and demands to manage future needs;
- the alternative management of energy demands and reducing the long-term effects of climate change;
- ensuring sustainable mobility through alternative transport management;
- making tourism a preferred vector for sustainable Mediterranean development.

The goals and orientations for action proposed in each of these seven fields, considered as realistic by Mediterranean experts, are generally defined for the entire region and are of an indicational value. They are also very interdependent and will be reached all the easier by the fact that concomitant and convergent actions will be developed in all seven fields.

The differences of situation and stakes in the countries or groups of countries are important and may justify differentiated approaches and goals. The goals will have to be defined country by country in each national strategy insofar as possible as part of concerted approaches on the regional and sub-regional (groups of countries) levels.

There are a limited number of orientations and “pilot actions” being proposed with attention being paid to a leverage effect so as to accelerate change.

4. MAKING PROGRESS IN SEVEN ESSENTIAL FIELDS

4.1 Protecting the sea, urgently stopping the degradation of coastal areas and promoting sustainable management of the coast

Context

There is a very strong increase in coastal pressures and maritime traffic with the main impact or risks being the rapid spread of concreting coasts, coastal erosion, over-fishing, landscape degradation, cultural and natural heritage and biodiversity and the loss of jobs in several industries (fisheries and tourism). Pollution is essentially land-based (80% of the total). The number of coastal cities with treatment plants is still extremely small in the developing countries. Pollution from ships is mostly of an “operational” nature (illegal). Yet the dangers of accidental pollution are high given the percentage of ships carrying dangerous substances, the present state of the fleet, the number of accidents observed and the density and expected increase of traffic.

With the renewal of the Barcelona Convention (extended in 1995 to include the protection of coastal regions and entered into force in 2004) and the MAP and the progressive implementation of action plans and strategies for reducing or preventing pollution and protecting biodiversity, regional co-operation for protecting the Mediterranean Sea and its coast has made much progress. Stimulated on the regional level (by the MedWet network), the application of the Ramsar Convention has also made it possible to protect a number of wetlands. NGO and professional networks are also quite active.

There is a risk however of a divergence in protecting the marine and coastal environment between the present or future European members, who are held to stringent goals in terms of environmental management (the framework directive on water, Erica packages 1 and 2) but benefit from considerable programmes and community funds for controlling and upgrading environmental infrastructures and the other Mediterranean-rim countries. The latter do not have such a framework although they are going to have to regulate much stronger urban, industrial and tourist growth on the coasts, which are important for their development.

Progress in ensuring coastal area sustainable development has been very unsatisfactory despite the implementation of “coastal management plans”. The Mediterranean does not yet have protocols or strategies in this field, and only a limited number of countries have managed to implement sets of tools (laws, agencies and economic tools) in addition to the creation of protected areas so as to effectively protect the coast or begin integrated management processes.

Goals

- Eliminate by2025 operational pollution from ships and prevent accidental dangers and their impact;
- Reduce significantly by2025 industrial and urban pollution that contribute to degrading the Mediterranean Sea;
- Ensure sustainable management of fisheries and regulate the development of aquaculture;
- Preserve habitats, species and sensitive marine and coastal sites;
- Better reconciliate development with the environment, promote balanced land use planning and the sustainable management of the coast;

- Ensure sustainable conservation/management for at least 4,000 km more of coastline, by2025.

Orientations and actions

Reducing pollution from ships and preventing risks of accidents

The "Regional Strategy for Preventing and Combating Marine-Based Pollution by Ships" is being finalised and should be adopted by the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention by the end of 2005. It sets substantial goals for the period from 2006 to 2015 in terms of ratifying conventions and protocols, strengthening capacities and equipment, harmonising sanctions, researching the delimitation of vulnerable areas, identifying procedures to be followed for dealing with ships in distress, strengthening traffic control and proposing safety rails, and so forth.

This strategy is one component of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development. For supporting its implementation and to attain the suggested goal in the longer term (doing away with operational pollution and establishing maritime safety that is fully harmonised between the EU and the other Mediterranean-rim countries), the Mediterranean Strategy suggests the following:

- To increase EU aid for strengthening the capacities of national administrations of developing countries and countries in transition with a view to ensuring an equivalent level of ship inspection before 2015 (at least 25% of the units, i.e. the conditions of the port or the flag) and to contribute to the upgrading of equipment and infrastructures that help fight maritime pollution.
- To ask the EU and the Black Sea-rim countries to engage in a comparable process.
- To submit all new initiatives for developing maritime transport planned on the international or national levels to an environmental impact assessment (including coastal shipping, the sea motorways and new oil terminals) in such a way as to ensure the factoring in of sustainability.
- To include before the costs for the amortising and functioning of waste- and waste-water treatment equipment from ships in port taxes.
- To ask a committee of independent experts to study the possible interest (added value) for rim countries and the European Union to provide the MAP (REMPEC) with operational capacities for rapidly intervening in areas should a major accident occur and as a monitoring centre for maritime navigation (pilot action).

Reducing land-based pollution

An "action plan" (SAP land-based pollution) was adopted in 1997 by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention by applying the MAP LBS Protocol (measures against land-based pollution).This plan defines goals with different time-frames for reducing dangerous industrial waste, nutrient and suspended-matter emissions, dangerous waste and urban pollution. Some of the goals were readjusted in 2003.

This action plan is one component of the Mediterranean Strategy. Its implementation is organised as part of the national action plans presently being formulated and which are based on the polluter-pays principle, the development of clean technologies and the implementation of national economic tools. This plan will however only work with structural support to the developing countries for treating urban pollution.

To accelerate progress in reducing pollution and reach long-term objectives (outfitting systems for managing waste-water and waste in all the coastal cities of developing countries with over [50,000 inhabitants] by2015, the Mediterranean Strategy suggests the following:

- Strengthening and mobilising Euro-Mediterranean, bilateral and international funds and setting up a structural support system for the national action plans (with action synergy between MEDA and EIB/FEMIP) to help equip the coastal cities of developing countries by highlighting technologies selected on criteria of cost efficiency (a choice of simple and inexpensive technologies for a faster gain in effectiveness).
- Continuing and increasing building for developing countries', cities' and enterprises' capacity-re-enforcement programmes by mobilising international environment funds for this purpose (GEF, FGEF, etc.) and by maximising the synergies with the MAP and the various network actorsof actors (cities, industrialists, chambers of commerce and industry).

Promoting sustainable fisheries and aquaculture

Scientific follow-up and regular dialogue between all countries are carried out in the framework of the General Fisheries Commission of the Mediterranean (FAO). A non-binding code of conduct for reasonable fishing has been drawn up by the FAO, and a community regulation applicable to the EU member countries is being formulated.

The objectives proposed by the Strategy are to reach by 2025 a fishing based on sustainable management in agreement with ecosystems and to promote a more sustainable fishing

To achieve the set goal, the Strategy suggests the following orientations and actions:

- Acknowledging the cultural and social value of the Mediterranean fishing model;
- Strengthening dialogue between scientists, professionals and decision-makers on the various relevant geographic scales (local, sub-regional and Mediterranean) for the sustainable management of fishing;
- Promoting the participatory and regionalised management of local marine resources as part of local developmental planning and, if appropriate, sub-regionalising fishing zones and entrusting their management to fishermen communities. Developing man-made reefs (provided there be impact studies) with a ban on fishing as well as protected coastal areas that might serve as "laboratories" for the sustainable management of local fishing centred on the ecosystem;
- Developing inter-governmental and professional initiatives at Mediterranean sub regional level for ensuring a sustainable management of shared stocks;
- Protecting by ,,,,,,20% of the coastline as sea-fishing reserves;
- Formulating (FAO/GFCM) before 2008 a Mediterranean agreement for the sustainable management of fishing, committing all rim countries and a strategy for the sustainable development of aquaculture by[???] that will be presented for advice to the MCSD (pilot action).

Protecting marine and coastal biodiversity

A strategic action plan for conserving biodiversity (BIO-SAP) was adopted in 2003 within the framework of the MAP and is a component of the Mediterranean Strategy. It relies on national action plans and includes actions of a regional nature. Its implementation assumes appropriate means with a constant evaluation of the impact of funds allocated to conservation actions, to data gathering and to research on biodiversity, to information programmes and public awareness-raising.

To ensure conservation and sustainable use of the biodiversity, the Strategy suggests the following:

- Harmonising, upgrading and implementing legislation and policies in countries for conserving biodiversity.
- Developing actions for conserving threatened and endangered Mediterranean species (coastal and marine) thanks to inventorying, developing cartography, strengthening training, information and awareness-raising.
- Promoting the creation of new generations of protected area (public/private/local community partnerships, partnerships with major land-owners, mobilising local NGOs); increasing by 50% the marine protected areas by 2012 and strengthening existing protected areas for making them genuine tools of sustainable development.
- Strengthening capacities to consolidate the management of existing protected marine areas and preparing detailed management plans for protecting new identified sites with description and GIS maps of the spatial distribution of sensitive habitats.
- Monitoring the efficiency of protected areas using standard mechanisms.

Promoting balanced land use planning and sustainable management of the coast

Promoting balanced land use planning and sustainable management of the coast is a priority for the Strategy. If the goal is to better reconcile development with protection everywhere, it will be expressed differently depending on the coast, e.g. requalifications on cemented-over and degraded coasts, foresight with integration into the planning choices of the fragility of the natural environment on less cemented coasts.

It is especially important to build new roads away from coasts (preferring access by secondary roads), to regulate and design buildings to protect the coast and to maintain green belts (farms and woodlands) so as to avoid the linear and continuous artificialisation of the coast. The stake is also to promote balanced economic development, to avoid an evolution towards “all tourism” and to benefit from the coast’s heritage quality (natural and cultural heritage, including productive activities contributing to its identity : fishing, agriculture, aquaculture, salt production, …) to maintain and develop economic activities that contribute to its conservation.

This orientation assumes a better integration of sustainability in the economic sectors (particularly tourism and transport, see §§4.6 and 4.7) as well as the implementation of coastal policies on the regional level and within countries.

To progress in this direction, the Strategy suggests the following:

- (MAP) formulating by 2007 a Mediterranean protocol for the sustainable management of the coast (with a goal of ratification before 2010) (pilot action). This protocol and the strategy that goes with it will commit countries to the sustainable management of the coast, recognised as a regional public good, will set the principles of delimiting the coast and its sustainable management, will serve as frameworks for formulating strategies, policies and action plans on national, regional (sub-national) and local levels and will impose the follow-up of coastal developments by quantified indicators (environmental and socio-economic).
- Adopting coastal laws before 2012 in countries which still do not have any (or developing already existing laws where applicable), promoting specialised, legally binding jurisdictions, creating mechanisms and tools for managing the coast before 2012 in those countries that do not have any (specialised committees on the coast, agencies, cadastral surveys, observatories, specific mechanisms and compensation for land easements) to apply and monitor coastal policies, to strengthen institutional co-ordination and capacities, to favour the dialogue with decision-makers, professionals and associations and improve basic knowledge.

- Promoting integrated management processes and projects in all countries, linking local authorities, enterprises and NGOs in the aim of greater efficiency (focusing on a few substantial issues, upstream mobilisation of funding agencies, etc.).
- Promoting the laboratory role of islands in coastal management (subsidiarity and innovation).
- Provide support at the Euro-Mediterranean level to the strengthening of capacities in countries for coastal management; mobilising public opinion and envisaging the establishment of a fund open for private financing and local communities for sustainable conservation and management of the Mediterranean coast.

4.2 Controlling urbanisation and promoting sustainable cities

Context

In the Northern countries where urban demographic growth is almost completed, urban development has a high environmental and social cost. The explosion of motorised mobility and the scattering of habitats and activities encourage random urbanisation and space wasting and lead to high levels of energy consumption, polluting emissions and often to greater vulnerability to natural disasters and to a retreat in social intermixing. The volumes of waste generation are considerable (566 kg per head in 2000) and may still rise by over 50%.

The Southern and Eastern countries are faced with a considerable challenge since there will have nearly 100 million more city-dwellers in 25 years' time, a large third of which will live in urban areas in the Mediterranean coastal regions. Urbanisation is manifested by the multiplication of small and medium-sized towns but also by the hugeness and sprawling of metropolises and conurbations. This strong urban growth raises considerable problems with the proliferation of informal habitat areas (at present 30 to 60% of the urban dwellers), the absence of basic infrastructures and insufficient economic development. Environmental costs are also high (air and water pollution, vulnerability to risks, health problems), and the management problems may get worse with the current changes in consumption patterns. The volume of waste generated per capita (282 kg per cap. in 2000) could double by2025.

Despite contrasts between the two shores, common goals for shifting the heavy trends are controlling urban sprawl, promoting sustainable cities, handling local development by the people, a change in consumption patterns and rendering urban economy dynamic. The cities of the most decentralised countries (Spain and Italy, for example) possess considerable capacities, and several have undertaken action programmes (urban requalification, Agenda 21s, the development of public transport) with important means. On the other hand the capacities of cities in developing countries (technical and financial means) are very limited. Decentralised co-operation and the networks between cities on both shores (e.g. MedCities or twinnings, which get involved in national committees "21") would gain by being strengthened.

Objectives :

- Improving social equity by integrating informal neighbourhoods into cities, by reducing by three-fourths, by2025, the present proportion of urban dwellers without access to potable water, sanitation and electricity and by improving health and educational coverage.
- Renewing with the Mediterranean model of mixed and compact cities with only low pressures on the environment and with life quality.
- Reducing the growing vulnerability of urban areas to major hazards and strengthening solidarity between cities.

- Better enhancing the cultural and landscape qualities of Mediterranean cities for development.
- Preserving public health with an effective rollback, by2025, of the chronic diseases and mortality caused by air quality degradation.

Orientations and actions:

- Reducing the trend urban sprawl with more restrictive master plans in a national or regional (sub-national) framework, linked to transport planning, with improved public transport (non-polluting patterns, microbuses, shared taxis) and a diversification of the land and real estate supply in the central urban areas and suburbs. Assessing vulnerability in terms of natural or technological hazards, banning construction in high-risk zones and including risk prevention in town planning documents.
- Promoting professional and academic networks concerned by the future of Mediterranean cities and sustainable urban development. Elaborating, before 2010, guidelines for a Mediterranean town planning and building (with national adaptations) so as to cope with the challenges of sustainable development in the Mediterranean (pilot action).
- Generalising measures and incentives for sustainable construction in conformity with requirements relating to the objectives to attain for preventing natural risks, energy savings (training, eco-efficiency standards of housing and other construction) and respecting the Mediterranean landscapes.
- Implementing Agenda 21s, strategic plans and concerted projects of urban rehabilitation, regeneration and renewal by involving inhabitants, associations and enterprises, and relying on the heritage identity of Mediterranean cities for creating new urban dynamics and renewing with the compact and mixed Mediterranean city model.
- Limiting urban waste at the source and recycling by promoting practices and investments for recycling and treatment equipment as well as improving waste collection so as to reduce the trend waste volume by 40% by 2025.
- Strengthening air-quality controls (by covering with monitoring networks all Mediterranean cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants before 2015). Encouraging the use of non-polluting vehicles and fuels (to reach a 30% proportion of clean fuels, i.e. LPG, CNG and bio fuels by2015), and promoting epidemiological surveys on “air quality and health”.
- Developing decentralised co-operation between Mediterranean cities and local authorities, progressively extending the URBAN type programmes to hardship SEMC urban areas
- Initiate a regional mechanism of co-operation and sharing out risks to the financing of which Mediterranean cities will contribute (pilot action).
- Strengthening the capacities of local authorities by increasing the relative share of local taxation in all fiscal resources. Developing training programmes in sustainable urban management for the staff of local authorities in particular with a view to better integrating sustainable development issues into the “public/private” partnership contract specifications.

4.3 Promoting a quality agriculture and sustainable rural development

Context

Mediterranean rural space is characterised by the relatively large extent of mountains, semi-natural milieus (pastureland and woodlands) and rain-based agriculture (annual crops and arboriculture), by the wealth of biodiversity (10% of the world's vegetal species on 1.6% of its surface area), by the cultural value of Mediterranean agriculture, rural landscapes and diet, and by massive ecological and socio-economic fragility. Given its specificities, the Mediterranean has for long developed co-operation frameworks and skilled networks such as: the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (ICAMAS), the Silva Mediterranea network, the new Mediterranean centre of the IUCN, and NGOs active in

the fields of forestry and the protection of nature (in particular the IAMF and the WWF). Specialised observatories and centres for arid lands (OSS, ICARDA) are also active in the region.

The biodiversity and landscapes are degraded and threatened either by the over-exploitation of resources or by the abandonment of traditional practices, which places this eco-region among the world's most critical areas. In the Northern developed countries inland areas have been largely deserted in the twentieth century; the abandonment of agriculture has resulted in milieus being closed, a retreat in traditional activities and weak public facilities. Yet this retreat is now beginning to be slowed by a strong diversification in the rural economy (tourism, a residential economy, agro-business, etc.). In the developing countries agriculture maintains fundamental social and economic importance. Their mountainous inland areas over the last decades have been an important source for emigration towards cities and Europe. Yet they haven't been depopulated. People who live there exercise considerable pressure; effects can be seen in the increased erosion, the silting up of dams and the deregulation of run-off.

The large disparities in agricultural productivity between the North and the South and East, and between modern and subsistence agriculture continue to grow; numerous rural areas in the South and East are very fragile in the globalisation context. Modern agriculture and irrigation are developing on both shores with negative environmental effects (over-consumption of water resources, pollution, erosion and soil salination). Yet this development is encountering physical limits, and the possibilities of exporting towards the EU for most of the Southern and Eastern countries are limited while production is ever more insufficient for satisfying the expanding domestic markets.

The major risk highlighted in the trend scenario is the accentuation of instability in all realms, i.e. impoverishment and destabilisation of the marginalised agricultural communities in the developing countries (with impact in terms of the degradation of natural resources, mobility and emigration), increased pressures on water resources and their impact, the loss of high-grade agricultural land (through urbanisation), expanding vulnerability to fire and flooding hazards, the irreversible degradation of landscapes and biodiversity, the loss of a certain Mediterranean identity and of models of low energy consumption and great worth in terms of health.

To counter this risk, the Mediterranean people, along with Europe, should work together for enhancing the region’s assets, accelerating transitions towards a rural and agricultural sustainable development so as to rationally manage the rural space resources, diversify and enhance productions, and promote the Mediterranean food model. Nevertheless, Euro-Mediterranean negotiations have to date remained stuck in short-term mercantile approaches preventing any orientation towards a double win-win scenario (North and South, environment and development). The EU and its neighbours remain divided before the WTO and cannot manage to structure long-term co-operation even though the Mediterranean’s fragilities call out for a common vision and for appropriate support.

Objectives:

- Reducing pressures on the environment from agriculture and increasing its amenities for halting the degradation of rural space, reducing vulnerability to hazards (forest fires, floods, etc.) and limiting by half the growing trend of suburban farmland loss.
- Making a significant reduction by2010 in the irreversible loss of continental biodiversity and the degradation of landscapes;
- Enhancing the Mediterranean uniqueness, diversity and quality (food, products, territories) and creating synergies between activities to bring out added value.

- Avoiding the destabilisation of rural societies and favouring the revitalisation of countrysides as well as the transition towards rural renewal. By 2025 reducing most of the disparities observed with cities (poverty, illiteracy, access to basic services, i.e. potable water, sanitation, energy, roads, education, health, etc.). Diversifying the economy and the jobs in depressed rural areas so as to substantially increase multi-activities and the percentage of non-agricultural income to rural GDP.

Orientations and actions

- Producing before 2007 a joint and differentiated vision of the desirable long-term futures for Mediterranean agriculture and rural spaces, and their roles in a modern economy of sustainable development. Bring respective points of view together within the Euro-Mediterranean frame and before the WTO, integrate non-commercial considerations into Euro-Mediterranean negotiations and adopt a special and differentiated treatment for the rural countries in ecologically and socio-economically fragile situations (progressiveness, exemptions, unbalanced opening of markets) (pilot action).
- Generalising legally binding set-ups and plans for the sustainable management of agricultural lands. Before 2025 reduce the forecasted loss of suburban agricultural lands by half and, on at least 20% of the rural surface area by 2025, implement management plans of mountain areas, pastureland, woodlands and protected areas of the natural regional park type or biosphere reserves so as to better control the effects of erosion and desertification, improve the regulation of water regimes, conserve and enhance biodiversity and cultural heritage, maintain a profitable pastoral and woodland economy and diversify the economy.
- Within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, support the transitions to sustainable agricultural and rural development of the developing countries and the emergence of integrated programmes of the Leader type and natural regional parks. Strengthen the research and development system by adapting it to the context and the Mediterranean stakes of sustainable development.
- Re-orienting policies by initiating or developing regional and sustainable rural development policies in order to attenuate the imbalances between the coast and inland areas, and between the rural areas and cities, to re-equilibrate urban skeletons (developing inland cities and rural towns), to intensify the coverage of road, water supply, sanitation and electricity facilities, to develop rural communities as part of integrated territorial projects aiming at creating activity poles, enhancing resources and local heritage, economic diversification (tourism, industry, serves, etc.), support for local projects and enterprise creation, welcoming new rural dwellers, promoting decentralised energy production (solar, wind, hydro-electricity) and to ensure the sustainable management of natural resources.
- Create differentiated taxation and incentive tools for flexible and deconcentrated use by regions in difficulty.
- Promoting reasoned agriculture so as to reduce water and fertiliser consumption and to slow the degradation of soils and their fertility. Assessing the risks for the eco-region linked to the use of GMOs. Generalise the eco-conditionality of aid to agriculture.
- Enhance Mediterranean diets and develop the quality signs (organic agriculture, labels and policies of authenticity) for promoting a diet of health, quality and local products and for strengthening competitiveness by enhancing Mediterranean assets.
- Recognising the role of farmers as actors in sustainable development by maintaining and attracting young farmers for keeping a living rural civilisation, by preparing a new generation of farmers, by introducing new training programmes in agricultural schools and by directing aid to agriculture's non-commercial functions.

4.4 Managing water resources and demand better in response to future needs

Context

Water is a rare, fragile and very unequally apportioned resource (2/3 of the resources on 1/5 of the Basin). The irregularity of rain and aridity–especially acute in the South and East–as well as recurrent droughts create a major constraint for agriculture. Successive generations have tried to counter this constraint through developing irrigation, making irrigation the biggest demander of water today (65% of the total demand, 82% in the South and East). The water-poor populations in these countries (less than 1,000 cu. m per cap. per year) amount to 108 million and may reach 165 million by 2025, 63 million of whom under the shortage level (less than 500 cu. m per cap. per year).

National strategies have favoured supply-side policies by multiplying dams and boreholes (500 dams in the Mediterranean that hold over 230 cu. km). And the policy is continuing with nearly 250 dams being planned in 9 countries for holding about 90 cu km of water. The trend is not sustainable, i.e. the aquifers, many of which with non-renewable fossil water, are over-exploited or irreversibly degraded by saline invasion; a very large number of dams are going to lose most of their retention capacity through silting up, while there are fewer and fewer sites for building them; and water regimes are deteriorating through the degradation and artificialisation of catchment areas and the disappearance of wetlands. Climate change means greater irregularity with greater deficits of rain.

The major challenge for reducing water consumption is to promote demand policies and create more added value, particularly through greater efficiency in irrigation and urban water use. The trend demand (loss and use) by 2025 could reach about 210 cu. km. Rational demand-management could make it possible to save some 54 cu. km of water by the same date (or 24% of the trend demand), by, among other things, not building nearly 100 dams. Unconventional ways of supply (re-using agricultural drainage water, re-using waste water, desalinating sea-water and using brackish water for industrial purposes) could lead to recuperating about 25 cu. km by 2025. Some Southern and Eastern countries have successfully engaged demand management policies that show the possibility and strategic advantage of this re-orientation, and the Johannesburg Summit asked for drawing up efficiency plans in 2005. The integrated management of resources and demand could also be the occasion for making progress in reconciling actors with integrated management (catchment areas and ground water).

Improving access to potable water and sanitation are the other water-related challenges (see §§4.1, 4.2 and 4.3) along with protecting ecosystems and the quality of resources with the already mentioned risks of growing disparities between the EU countries (subject to the framework directive but possessing considerable infrastructures and means) and the other rim countries.

A large number of water-related networks and NGOs exist in the Mediterranean (the main ones are grouped together within the GWP Med); the MCSD/MAP/Blue Plan has organised two forums for water directors; several donors are active in this field (the World Bank, the EIB and AFD), and a Euro-Mediterranean programme and a European initiative have been undertaken. However, the overall consistency of the means implemented in terms of necessary initiatives and investments is insufficient.

Objectives

- Reducing loss and poor usage by at least 20 to 25% by 2025 and appreciably increasing the added economic and social value per cubic meter of water mobilised.
- Protecting resources (quality and quantity) and ecosystems.
- Reducing the risks of flooding and drought in the context of global warming.
- (Reminder:) reaching set goals for accessing potable water and sanitation and for reducing land-based pollution.

Orientations and actions

- Re-orienting water policies by shifting from a supply-based approach to an approach based on the integrated supply and demand management for improving the efficiency of water usage in technical terms (reducing useless loss) but also in economic, social and environmental terms. Define demand-management policies in the various sectors and policies, i.e. agriculture (by a wider spread of technologies and practices of optimising and saving irrigation and drainage water), industry, tourism, urban water and so forth. Implementing an incentive-tax and pricing framework for needed investment in demand management, setting up financial mechanisms for internalising through anticipation the profits from water saving and for transferring them in the form of credit and subsidies to the actorsinvolved in the investments required for water savings and increasing the exploitable potential; raise awareness among professionals and users about the potential gains from this management.
- Conserving and increasing resources through water and soil conservation approaches (agricultural and woodland practices) and replenishing underground water.
- Encourage and develop unconventional water production and use (re-using waste water, desalination) through credit policies and public and private investment.
- Strengthen regulations for limiting the over-exploitation of underground water and non-renewable resources, promote the artificial replenishing of water tables, protect wetlands by strengthening regulations and by evaluating the demand required by ecosystems for its inclusion into planning.
- Set up an institutional co-operation project with the water directors of countries for helping to re-orient public policies and to strengthen capacities (pilot action).
- Fund (donors) pilot operations, even through subsidies for demonstrating the solid basis for these new approaches.
- Create a Euro-Mediterranean facility for supporting investment and attaining the MDG and Barcelona Convention goals (access to potable water, outfitting coastal cities with treatment plants).

4.5. Managing of energy demand and reducing the long-term effects of climate change

Context

Energy consumption in the Mediterranean countries reached 820 Mtep in 2000, more than doubling in 30 years. Without a change in the trend, by 2025 the demand will be about 1,365 Mtep, 87% of which will come from fossil energies with a growing share of natural gas (the fossil energy dependence index of all Mediterranean countries will rise from 21% to 38% between 1970 and 2025). The energy, habitat, industry and transport sectors are the main greenhouse gas emitters. Without a change in the trend, emissions for the Mediterranean will rise from 7% of the world's total to 9% by 2025 despite a predictable energy deficit in numerous countries (+1% to 2% per year by2025).

Moderation in fossil energy consumption is all the more vital in that all the region's countries have signed onto the Kyoto parameters, in that the Mediterranean is especially threatened by climate change (increasing water stress, desertification, droughts and flooding, the

submerging of low-lying delta areas, etc.) and that the Kyoto Protocol represents an opportunity for funding development. The northern-rim developed countries spewed nearly 70% of the total CO_2 emissions relating to energy activities into the Mediterranean in 2000.

The rational use of energy and increasing use of clean and renewable energies (solar, wind, biomass, etc.) are the most decisive energy stakes for the region.

Mediterranean networks exist (OME, MEDENER), and co-operation projects have been opened (along lines of Italy's Mediterranean Renewable Energy Project). Yet the Mediterranean has a lot to gain by implementing the joint clean development application mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol that would enable the countries concerned by annex 1 to commit their enterprises to invest in the developing countries. . The Mediterranean must also prepare for post-Kyoto.

Objectives:

- Use energy in a more efficient manner (REU) and reduce energy intensity to realise savings of 20% to 25% compared to the trend demand in 2025.
- Develop renewable energies (RE) to satisfy 14% of the energy demands by 2025.
- Limit from 20% to 25% of the CO_2 emissions that would have been produced in a trend manner by 2025 and accelerate the transition of the developing and transitioning Mediterranean countries towards sustainable development through joint application mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol.

Orientations and actions

- Make Rational Energy Use a priority, especially in lighting, construction and the habitat, industrial production, transport and the Renewable Energies. In each country set overall and sectoral goals up to 2025.
- Encourage producers, builders, users and all actors to change their behaviour sustainably and equitably, more particularly by signals incentive-price for energy savings, discouraging waste and polluting energies and by awareness-raising campaigns.
- Strengthen financial means (taxation, subsidies, tax credits, operator pricing policies) allocated to collective and individual equipment leading to energy savings or using renewable energies.
- Integrate sustainability into the Mediterranean interconnection of networks by arbitrating favourably for renewable energies and resources.
- Calling on the annex-1 Mediterranean countries to create a carbon fund (combination of clean development mechanism proposed by the Kyoto Protocol) with the goal of buying emission reduction bonds from investors operating in the other Mediterranean countries (pilot action).
- Place the topics of energy, climate change and preparation for the post-Kyoto phase on the MCSD agenda to strengthen a dynamic of Mediterranean brainstorming; refine and share the observation, the prospective assessment and proposals in a more sustainable way, so as to develop win-win actions.

4.6 Ensure sustainable mobility by appropriate transport management

Context

Mobility demand by people and goods is growing at a speed that is appreciably higher than that of the economy and demography. Yet the transport chains between the Mediterranean's two shores are generally speaking not very competitive.

Land transport is dominated by road transport (88% of passenger transport and 82% of goods) with very serious consequences on polluting gas emissions, landscape degradation and the time wasted by people. In the northern-rim developed countries motorisation rate is

540 vehicles per 1,000 inhabitants. It is still only from 30 to 100 per 1,000 in the Southern and Eastern countries, but the predicted growth is very strong.

Air traffic is increasing while rail traffic occupies only a small place and is regressing in most countries. Maritime transport too is expanding (30% of the world's cargo traffic passes in transit through the Mediterranean Sea). The trend still favours road traffic. In 2000 transport accounted for 32% of the end energy consumption in the northern-rim countries. The trend evolution of transport in the Mediterranean countries is not sustainable.

The EU, certain countries and a growing number of local authorities are now aware of the dead-ends resulting from these trend developments and have begun implementing policies aimed at a modal transfer and reducing mobility demands. Strict standards are being implemented within the EU, which should accelerate the implementation of considerable technological progress with the risk of widening the gap with the southern- and eastern-rim countries.

The stake for the Mediterranean is to build a system and transport modes that factor in and anticipate these evolutions. A Euro-Mediterranean transport forum has been instituted; interconnections are being planned. But expertise on sustainable transport in the Mediterranean is still limited, and sustainability is not yet sufficiently integrated into strategies and policies.

Objectives:

- Disposing of Euro-Mediterranean transport liaisons that ensure better economic competitiveness while integrating the sustainability stakes.
- Reducing by 2025 the trend percentage of road transport by modal transfers and articulations by 20% for rail and from 5% to 10% for shipping.
- Better controlling mobility and reducing present and predicted future traffic congestion through better regional development planning, the widespread use of collective transport and incentives for reducing individual motorised mobility.
- Reducing the nuisances of transport by generalising available technologies for more performing vehicles.

Orientations and actions

- Develop before 2010 a Euro-Mediterranean scheme of sustainable transport inspired by the goals of the Gothenburg European strategy and by the Mediterranean strategy (pilot action). This scheme will aim at rounding out and optimising the Mediterranean transport chains (reducing administrative constraints and bulk breaking) by integrating the sustainability stakes. With this in mind, create a brainstorming synergy between the various relevant Euro-Mediterranean tools (the Euro Med Transport Forum and planned Euro-Mediterranean multi-modal corridors) and the MCSD.
- Extend the benefits of the Marco Polo Programme for developing the road-sea modal transfer to the non-EU member Mediterranean countries.
- Re-equilibrate donors interventions so as to develop alternatives to the all-road mode.
- Promote on the local level new partnerships between the local authorities, enterprises and chambers of commerce to intensify the public transport networks and progressively generalise non-polluting urban transport; promote plans for reducing company mobility.
- Implement a gamut of tools in countries (subsidies, taxation, funding for public transport, removing financial aid to polluting fuels, master transport plans, and so forth) to pass on the relative real transport costs in the user price before 2025.
- Give due consideration, over the coming decades, to the possibilities for reducing transport which will be offered by developing the immaterial economy (teleworking and teleconferences) as well as by the other

applications of new information and communication technologies. To this end, encourage the process promoted by the UNEP (the *Multi-Stakeholder Process*) for developing the "digital" economy (*Global Sustainability Initiative*).]

4.7 Make tourism a prime vector for sustainable Mediterranean development

Context

The Mediterranean is the world's leading tourist region. The size of tourist flows (366 million international and domestic tourists in 2000), the amount of international tourist revenues, the sector's contribution to the GDP and the number of jobs created make tourism today a vital economic sector for all Mediterranean countries.

Growth projections (by 2025 637 million tourists, or 270 million more than at present, about half of whom will visit the Mediterranean coastal regions) need to be anticipated for enhancing the positive aspects and preventing the negative effects (tourism is simultaneously a source of wealth, a creator of heritage, a cause for increasing public expenses, a factor in irreversibly degrading the environment and an agent of cultural destruction).

Mediterranean tourism is essentially based on the seaside resort model. Seasonality is a major factor and explains over-sized infrastructures. It is developed in a very competitive system dominated by a few major tour operators. Exacerbated competition between destinations and countries leads to a certain standardisation and a certain levelling of the offer with possible risks of crisis. This competitiveness has sometimes been encouraged by proactive public policies emphasising goals of flows and construction rather than added value and development.

The environmental and socio-cultural impact of this development is considerable and risks becoming greater than the generated benefits. Local benefits may be limited, and the other economic sectors frequently remain outside of development. In certain destinations holiday homes are multiplying which contributes to fragmenting the space and to dispossessing locals of the land. Tourism's real costs and benefits are very insufficiently assessed.

Yet the international and domestic demands evolve, and some countries have succeeded in diversifying considerably and creating added value (rural tourism, cultural tourism and eco-tourism). In the developing countries, growth in domestic demand represents an opportunity but usually remains poorly satisfied.

To correct market failures and better serve Mediterranean development, re-orienting policies, a concerted institutional strategy and regulatory tools are needed. The challenge is to better control this sector's growth, particularly by influencing its spatial distribution and diversifying the offer for the benefit of sustainable urban and rural development and for satisfying the international and domestic demand better (the latter is growing strongly in the South and East but remains poorly satisfied). However, the region has not yet succeeded in setting up an appropriate regional co-operation mechanism.

Objectives:

- Decoupling the tourist economy from its impact on the environment.
- Promoting sustainable tourism, purveyor of territorial and social cohesion and of cultural and economic development.
- Regulating flows and tourist-sector activities by an institutional strategy.
- Jettisoning a third of the expected tourist growth on the coast by2025 to the benefit of the urban and rural development of the inland areas.

Orientations and actions

- Implement tourism regulating tools for controlling impact, e.g. negotiated definition of accommodation capacities, adopting rules and economic and land property tools for having them respected; developing "tourism pay-back" formulas to make tourists contribute to the sustainable development of destinations (in particular the islands with taxing systems based on transports); regulating leisure activities contributing to the degradation of locations, especially on the coast; progressive pricing for consuming natural resources.
- Promoting a diversification of the offer towards sustainable tourism, e.g. encouraging the development of a tourism more of an enterprise than residential nature, encouraging rental policies, a better satisfaction of the domestic tourism demand, promoting urban, cultural, rural tourism and eco-tourism for a better enhancement of Mediterranean specificities and heritage, and the creation of synergies and added value with other economic activities.
- Re-orienting tourism policies and integrating them better into urban and rural policies. Ensuring a better distribution in space and time of tourist flows. Re-think tourism spatialisation as part of master plans, particularly to remove tourist infrastructures from the coastline, slow the coastal densification of holiday homes and improve inland communications and facilities.
- Creating a mechanism of networked regional co-operation for promoting the Mediterranean destinations, creating a permanent forum for exchange on good practices, strengthen capacities through training and technical support programmes, and raising awareness of tourists and operators in destinations and generating countries.
- Organising a meeting of Euro-Mediterranean tourism and environment ministers (WTO with the UNEP/MAP and the EU) so as to re-orient tourist development, create a co-operation mechanism and organise the follow-up of tourism satellite accounts. (*Pilot action*).

5. MOBILIZING ACTORS AND MONITORING THE STRATEGY

Implementing a strategy for engaging the Mediterranean in a process of sustainable development implies profound changes in governance practices. For it to become the field of application for needed common and differentiated approaches, it must both be founded on renovated frameworks of international, regional and sub-regional co-operation and on national policies likely to favour convergences and synergies in the decisions and actions of governments, local authorities, enterprises and civil society actors.

5.1. A new regional space of solidarity and commitment

A political revival of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership

Strengthening commitments and solidarity is underway on the northern shore. The challenge in sustainable development terms for the present and future EU member countries is reviewing partnership and enlargement policies for better assimilating the philosophy and goals of the European and Mediterranean strategies for sustainable development.

On the other hand the space of regional solidarity and engagement for development on the southern and eastern shore still remains to be built. The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership established in Barcelona in 1995 (the creation of a Euro-Mediterranean space of prosperity and stability), has not to date lived up to expectations. Renovated and strengthened in its means of action and political orientation, it appears, by the very fact of existing and of the joining up of countries, as the privileged framework for building this solidarity space.

Its political revival should guarantee enlarged North-South co-operation and the implementation of genuine co-development, the only option open to the economic and social development of a regional space, the complementarities and future issues of which are necessarily part of a “common destiny” perspective.

A political revival of the Partnership should be based on sustainable development, the only option for a viable future and the only chance to prevent the risk of a greater rift between the two shores which would be as costly for the North as for the South. This revival should rely on a common will by all Mediterranean countries, from the North and from the South, to re-negotiate the Partnership and give due consideration to the Mediterranean strategy of sustainable development as an essential component of the Euro-Mediterranean project.

It should lead to the recognition that the implementation of the Euro-Mediterranean free-trade zone cannot suffice to get the region evolve towards sustainable development and that much more important reciprocal commitments (national strategies, domestic reforms, intensify the EU solidarity effort with the Mediterranean Region, etc.) will be necessary from all partners while respecting their diversities. The stake is to engage the region in a grand, mobilising regional project making it possible to attain the goals adopted or proposed in the mid- and long-term on the international (the Millennium Development Goals and the Johannesburg Plan) and regional levels.

This integration of sustainable development should be substantiated in the Partnership’s implementation tools, in particular the various Euro-Mediterranean conferences, association or partnership agreements (that can set the respective commitments in the long-term), regional and national programmes and the EIB/FEMIP mandate and rules of intervention.

Increasing and better targeting official development assistance

The Strategy’s implementation should make it possible to steer clear of the very high costs and risks of unsustainable development. It will in certain sectors make it possible to avoid heavy infrastructure expenses, thereby realise considerable savings. It will also lead to the better enhancement of natural resources, the creation of added value and a more advantageous position for the region in globalisation.

Yet its implementation assumes not-insignificant public funding for the region's countries, i.e. reversing environmental liabilities (water and waste treatment), access to basic services (water, energy, education, etc.), research and development, sustainable transport infrastructures, incentives for effecting changes in consumption and production patterns (with possibly deferred benefits), capacity-building, support for sustainable agricultural and rural development.

But the developing Mediterranean countries are faced with the burden of their external debt, the weakness of their public financial resources, diminished customs income, low savings levels and domestic investment, the lack of attractiveness to FDI. Although domestic reforms are required and have even partially been engaged to renovate taxation and rationalise public expenses, they cannot on their own face up to such needs.

It is necessary to increase official development assistance and Euro-Mediterranean solidarity, which is especially justified by the challenge of preserving regional and global public goods (protecting the sea, the climate, biodiversity, health, peace, etc.).

The Millennium commitment is to increase public aid from the OECD member countries to 0.7% of their GDP, which would lead to tripling present aid for contributing to the development of Southern and Eastern countries, the goal should be to increase both bilateral aid (which is by far the largest in the region) and especially multilateral aid.

Establishing a new regional space of solidarity and commitments would imply to progressively increase, but in a significant way during the "upgrading" period, European support to the Southern and Eastern countries in order to accelerate progress in the essential fields relating to the regional scale (research/development/training, the environment, transport interconnection, sustainable rural development, etc.). A Euro-Mediterranean facility for water could be instituted to help the Southern and Eastern developing countries reach the Millennium goals, as well as those of the Johannesburg Summit and the Barcelona Convention (access to water, fitting out the coastal cities with waste water treatment plants, support for country efficiency plans, etc.). At the same time better synergy between MEDA and the EIB could be sought. Existing regional programmes could be reviewed and re-oriented in the light of the Strategy and with the ambition of playing a leverage role in strengthening capacities. A specific regional programme for sustainable development could be initiated for monitoring progress and for implementing pilot operations in the Strategy.

The EU member countries and their southern and eastern partners could also use the Partnership framework for innovating in debt workout by introducing converting mechanisms into research and development actions and programmes as well as twinnings that mobilise local and professional actors from the two shores.

There should also be the goal of mobilising other bilateral and multilateral donors, especially the World Bank and the Arab funds which play a very considerable role in the region and which could review their strategies and commitments in the light of the Mediterranean Strategy.

The stake also lies in evolving co-operation and financing methods in order to bolster the mobilisation of local and economic actors together with students. The Partnership and donors could try to encourage decentralised co-operation and "programme"-type approaches. Extending European programmes of the Interreg-, Urban-, Leader- and Campus-type to the southern- and eastern-rim countries would also be positive.

Strengthening synergies with the MAP system

The Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) has the commitment of all Mediterranean-rim countries and the EU, legal tools (the Barcelona Convention and its protocols) and facilities (regional activity centres and MedPol) that provide standing initiatives of regional co-operation in environmental matters and capitalisation over time of information and expertise. MAP has established sustained working relationships with countries, Mediterranean experts, other eco-regional co-operation frameworks (Silva Mediterranea, ICAMAS, the Mediterranean IUCN and the GFCM, among others), Mediterranean NGOs, the European Commission institutions in charge of environmental statistics and information (the European Environment Agency, EUROSTAT) and numerous other partners active in the Mediterranean. It deserves credit for establishing the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD) in 1995, which is a think-tank composed of all Mediterranean countries, the European Commission and representatives of local authorities, the socio-economic sector and environmental NGOs.

Integrating the Strategy into the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and MAP concerns assumes that the appropriate apparatuses be implemented for monitoring the application and assessing impact. The most relevant option would be to boost and widen the skills of existing bodies by recognising the essential role played by the institutions created within the MAP framework in prospective analysis and the production of information for sustainable development, in monitoring the strategy's execution, in the implementation of action plans planned and adopted for protecting the sea and the sustainable development of coastal regions and in strengthening countries' capacities in these fields.

In this context the MCSD's vocation is to become a framework for thought and follow-up, the work of which would effectively engage the involved administrations of the rim countries and the European Commission, along with the IGOs working in the Mediterranean region. The economic actors and local authority would be invited to participate as actively as the environmental NGOs do.

Strengthening synergies with other regional co-operation frameworks

Although mainly centred around the Mediterranean Basin, the countries of the Mediterranean are also components of wider neighbouring regional structures that can extend beyond the eco-region. This is particularly the case for those countries belonging to the Arab League, the Arab Maghreb Union and the various United Nations regional organisations that overlap with the Mediterranean region.

It is necessary for the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership to take these multiple affiliations into account and ensure the complementarities and synergies of its commitments with the co-operation means that these other regional institutions can mobilise in the Mediterranean.

These co-operation frameworks and facilities such as the CEDARE have an important role to play regarding their Member States for promoting sustainable development. The same goes for sub-regional agreements (the Adriatic and Ionian Initiatives and RAMOGE) which are called upon to contribute to implementing the Strategy.

Disposing of important capacities with its four Mediterranean agronomic institutes, ICAMAS also has a major role to play, particularly in structuring a Mediterranean research and development network (with the various countries' agronomic research institutes) with EU support. It would gain by widening to all rim countries and by integrating even more sustainable development as a central theme in its training programmes.

5.2 An enabling political framework in the Mediterranean countries

Strong political orientations for guiding sustainable development

Engaging in the sustainable development process requires involvement on the highest levels (government leaders, mayors, company leaders), for it means making choices, setting long-term objectives, identifying conflicts of interest and ensuring arbitration and consistency.

Implementing the strategy requires an evolution in the role played by the States and public authorities. It is important for them to play a "strategist" role for orienting policies and giving strong incentive to the implementation of sustainable development by those actors concerned (enterprises, local authorities and rural communities, technological bodies and households). This role requires their involvement in new priorities, especially for the following:

Confirming basic rights and principles on the constitutional and legal levels: effectiveness, consistency, information, transparency, accountability and participation.

Introducing "sustainability" in all economic sectors and policies (agriculture, tourism, water, energy, transport, industry and taxation). The preferred means will particularly rely on shifting from policies focused on supply to integrated supply and demand policies with the implementation of new sets of tools (incentives, taxation, pricing, institutions and standards), as well as deconcentrated or decentralised policies and the devolution of skills to local actors.

Promoting domestic reforms that affect the success of the sustainable development processes targeted by the Strategy. These reforms particularly concern an evolution in the State's role, defining its public guiding functions for sustainable development, its relinquishing of functions that can be done more effectively by local authorities or the private sector, the implementation of mechanisms for rendering developmental and environmental policies consistent, re-orienting environmental and regional management policies for giving them the substantial means to "anticipate" and "integrate", and the implementation of partnerships and tools enabling the engagement of sustainable development processes. It is up to each country to define the various levels for rendering territorial projects consistent and arbitratable, not to mention the subsidiarity linked to each level of regional organisation.

Setting up institutional apparatuses adapted to national sustainable development stakes. Countries are called upon to examine the implementation of National Sustainable Development Commissions for influencing institutional actors and re-enforcing the strategic skills of guiding institutions for sustainable development, this to target the particular role and expertise of the environmental ministries. Moreover countries should internalise the follow-up and evaluation functions of sustainable development policies and programmes. This function should be strongly linked to restitution mechanisms to elected officials both on a national-parliament and local-authority level. And they need tools for observation, analysis and prospective for sustainable development.

New tools for implementing sustainable development

Building and promoting mechanisms for supporting territorial approaches. Proximity scales are the preferred bases for instilling consistency into the programmes for action, mobilisation and player responsibility, for protecting and enhancing heritage, creating synergies and added value between the economic sectors. To encourage them decentralisation or deconcentration may have to be strengthened. The means will often entail bolstering the capacities of cities, the implementation of participatory policies of sustainable rural development and the promotion of integrated management policies for coastal areas. **Integrated territorial projects** combined with **local development processes** are a preferred means of implementation. The territories selected for projects must be relevant and

adapted to each issue. Referral to pools of experts, whose usefulness is widely recognised, is of capital importance for helping local actors in designing and executing action programmes, for facilitating consistency and arbitration and for ensuring the follow-up of their execution and the assessment of their impact.

Building adapted and incentive pricing mechanisms. Implementing sustainable development processes implies the installation of sets of tools for stimulating positive production and consumption patterns for sustainable development and for penalising those with negative impact. These tools are mainly incentives (subsidies, tax breaks and tax credits) and pricing, charges and taxes, but also labels, charters and standards.

Strengthening research and development means and promoting innovation. Strong insertion into new worldwide dynamic technologies is one of the most promising options for diversified economic activities without added pressure on the environment (renewable energies, agricultural and industrial water savings, agricultural research in arid regions, waste re-treating and new information and communications technologies). Access to these technologies implies considerable effort in high-level training and in research and development. These strategies should especially examine the relevance of technological leaps and avoiding certain phases through which the most developed countries have passed (leap-frogging).

Promoting new approaches for mobilising and getting actors to participate. These approaches must attribute fundamental political importance to the participatory and dialogue mechanisms with actors. They must be addressed to local authorities, civil society and enterprises. The latter must receive particular attention because of the role small and medium-size companies are called upon to play in a sustainable development strategy. Preparing them for this role is an essential endeavour for changing a business culture that is presently mostly based on a “rent” economy and for orienting it towards investment in innovation (enhancing unique Mediterranean products, non-polluting cutting-edge technologies, information-technology-related activities and a highly differentiated service economy). Contracting is a preferred path for uniting actors in the development process, especially as part of plan contracts between the State and regions, between regions and local authorities and between public institutions and the private sector.

Information and communication. Governments are moreover called upon to implement new information and dialogue tools for mobilising and getting increased participation from actors in approaches to sustainable development. This mobilisation is especially decisive for having successful programmes affecting energy and water savings, re-treating waste, which basically depend on changing user behaviour. Communication policies (especially the wider spread, interactive communication between actors over the Internet) will be decisive for reaching this goal.

5.3 Applying the Strategy and monitoring progress

Rendering the regional strategy in national strategies and in cooperation and funding programmes

The Mediterranean sustainable development strategy will only have an effect if it is factored into or extended by each country’s national strategies. The rim countries should move forward by doing the following:

- Elaborating national prospective reports on the environment and development. They would contribute to adapting global and regional brainstorming to the specificities of each country.
- Formulating and preparing (or updating) national sustainable development strategies, as called for by the 12th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona

Convention and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, by taking the orientations and goals set by the Mediterranean Strategy into account.

- Elaborating or updating by 2008 national sectoral strategies of sustainable development in the seven essential action fields adopted by the Mediterranean Strategy.

These reports and strategies may perhaps cover only the Mediterranean part of the countries. The UNEP/MAP and the other United Nations organisations or co-operation frameworks will provide support to countries for the preparation of these reports and strategies.

The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, MAP, the IGOs and donors operating in the Mediterranean are also called upon to have their strategies for the region evolve in the light of the Mediterranean strategy.

Make regular checks on progress being made, adapt Strategy over time and associate actors extensively

An **overall regional assessment** of the Strategy's progress is carried out **every five years** within the MCSD with support from the MAP's secretariat. The progress made globally and in each field is measured on the basis of the adopted indicators, annexed to the present Strategy. The assessment may lead to a decision to refine, re-orient or widen the Strategy (to be elaborated on a later stage). Over time the goals can be re-considered and refined globally and country per country, the indicators improved or sharpened, and the seriousness of certain issues (or the interest of certain measures) can evolve with new, more urgent problems emerging.

To prepare this regional assessment, strengthen the exchange of experience and possibly develop proposals for improving the Strategy, **Mediterranean forums** (regional or sub-regional) will be organised as part of the MCSD on the seven priority fields with support from the MAP's entities as support centres and the participation of the relevant actors. Countries will be represented by the administrations responsible for the issues dealt with. These forums will be the occasion to analyse and debate the progress made, highlight examples of good practices, the barriers encountered and the tools employed or to be developed. They should be prepared by relying on the Mediterranean observation system of environment and development, which will ask to be strengthened by implementing partnerships (with countries and topical networks) so as to gather and make useful information continuously available. These forums could lead to making new proposals for detailing objectives, actions and instruments included in the Strategy. Proposals will then be examined by the MCSD. Sustainable development is development based on knowledge; the stake is to speed up progress.

The topical forums and the periodical overall re-examination will give the interested parties (local authorities, economic actors and civil society) the possibility of expressing their opinions on the Strategy so as to be able to adhere fully to the process.

Yet these efforts will only bear fruit if a broader phenomenon of "ownership" by the various actors occurs (enterprises, local authorities, associations and technological entities). Countries and the EU therefore commit themselves to informing public opinion extensively about the Strategy and to involving actors in the drawing up of assessments. Forums may be organised to this end either in countries or on the European and Euro-Mediterranean levels.

Summary of Conclusions and Decisions
9th Meeting of the MCSD, Genoa, Italy 17-19 June 2004

1. The Commission elected its new Steering Committee, composed as follows:

President:	Mr C. Clini	(Italy)
Vice-Presidents:	Mr A. Sahibi	(Morocco)
	Mr J. Parpal	(MEDCITIES)
	Mr E. Clancy	(Friends of the Earth/MedNet)
	Mr J-P. Fonteneau	(EDCM/ICC)
	Mr A. Lascaratos	(Greece)
Rapporteur	Mr N. Georgiades	(Cyprus)

2. As the goals of the MSSD would be implemented at the national level, it would be necessary to strengthen the capacity of actors participating in the process wherever this was necessary and feasible.

3. The MSSD should play a role as a facilitator of partnerships between countries to address common objectives and for the channelling of assistance, in terms of financial and human resources, the exchange of technologies and capacity building between countries in the region and with international agencies. The Strategy should also lead to the preparation of programmes and projects that could interest funding agencies.

4. Throughout the preparatory process and further during implementation, it is of great importance to ensure a high level of synergy between the MSSD and national strategies.

5. A process of endorsement of the MSSD would clearly be needed. Endorsement should be at the highest possible level, and should involve as broad a range of stakeholders and sectoral ministries as possible, once it is approved by the meeting of the Contracting Parties.

6. All States should establish national procedures to address sustainable development issues at the highest level in order to facilitate the process of the preparation of the MSSD, and there on be prepared for action once the MSSD is adopted by the Contracting Parties. To that end, the Secretariat will send a letter to the MAP National Focal Points to induce them to launch national consultations.

7. The MSSD should not merely remain a vision, but it should incorporate goals, measurable targets, time frames and indicators. However, these should be sufficiently flexible to secure their implementation.

8. In preparing the Strategy, it is necessary to be ambitious, aim high and to convey a strong political message, highlighting when necessary the need for political and institutional reform.

9. A substantive document in an advanced stage of preparation should be ready preferably for adoption by the next meeting of the Contracting Parties in November 2005, in Slovenia.

10. The expertise of the Regional Activity Centres and the studies and reports already available should be used in order to avoid duplication of efforts and save human and financial resources. The Coordinating Unit should have the flexibility to enable it to set up working groups or hire consultants as it sees fit. MAP components should be responsible for the finalization of the strategic objective sheets and the preparation of the MSSD. Consequently, no advisory group or further institutional structures are required. Moreover, the participants to the meeting are requested to send their comments and inputs on the thematic notes and the preparation of the MSSD before the end of September 2004, the latest.

11. Regarding the “financing and cooperation” issue, it was considered a timely and useful tool for the preparation of the MSSD, for the funding of sustainable development in the Mediterranean and lobbying for more funding, in particular from the EU.

12. Existing mechanisms need to be reformed, where appropriate, and imaginative and innovative measures should be adopted involving civil society and economic partners and including decentralized financial cooperation. The (comparative) lack of investment in the Mediterranean, the fact that debt conversion was not sufficiently tied to sustainable development and the issue of migrant remittances were all broad issues that should be considered for such treatment.

13. The work programme as proposed should be seen as a basic blueprint for action in the period ahead, allowing for all due flexibility to enable specific or new concerns to be reflected, pending review and revision in the light of the Strategy. Matters such as working modalities should be decided by the Secretariat, throughout the implementation of the programme and as appropriate depending on respective issue and existing capacities, while applying the approach of a technical session the first year and a policy one the second year. The Secretariat was requested to proceed with the proposed programme of work and method of work, bearing in mind that it would be re-assessed once the MSSD had been adopted.

14. The proposed Platform should be further pursued, in principle, with a flexible timetable so as to assess the possibility for promoting cooperation and synergy between regional actors for the benefit of the region and the beneficiary countries and partners. This issue would be re-assessed at a later stage depending on progress.

15. An indicative road map for the preparatory process of the MSSD was reviewed and endorsed.

16. The tenth meeting of the MCSD will be held in June 2005 (venue not yet defined), with the finalization of the MSSD documents as main item on its agenda.