



THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN  
PARTNERSHIP  
AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

---

BRUSSELS, 1997



EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION



MINISTÈRE DE  
L'ENVIRONNEMENT



**THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN  
PARTNERSHIP AND  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**BRUSSELS, 1997**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword .....	3
Introduction .....	4
<b>Part 1: Background</b> .....	7
The Euro-Mediterranean Area .....	8
Sustainable Development at stake .....	17
<b>Part 2: The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership</b> .....	25
<b>Part 3: Opinions and Proposals</b> .....	33
<b>Part 4: Instruments, Contacts</b> .....	41
1. Financial instruments .....	42
2. The United Nations institutions in the Mediterranean Area .....	50
3. NGO Networks .....	53
<b>Suggestions for further readings</b> .....	61
<b>Notes</b> .....	62
<b>Acronyms</b> .....	63

## CREDITS

Editor and coordinator: Paloma Agrasot  
 Assistant editor: Eugene M. Clancy  
 Secretariat: Annette Maes  
 Translation: Annette Maes, Bénédicte Hindes  
 Graphists: Olivier van Helden, Marie-France Froës  
 Oli's Magic (Brussels)  
 Printers: Produprint (Brussels)  
 Cover pictures: Paloma Agrasot

The EEB would like to express its thanks to the many people who collaborated in drafting this document, particularly

Mr. Serge Antoine, Committee 21 Chairman  
 Mr. Armando Montanari, Italia Nostra, EEB President  
 Mrs. Domitille Vallée, Blue Plan  
 Mr. Ted Van Hees, Eurodad

The production and distribution of this brochure were made possible by the financial support of the French Ministry for the Environment, the European Commission DG VIII.

Neither donors nor the EEB cannot be liable for the opinions expressed in this brochure which are strictly those of its authors.

*Brussels, June 1997*

European Environmental Bureau, EEB  
 34, Bd. de Waterloo,  
 B-1000 Brussels

## FOREWORD

---

**A**s with any human work, the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EUMP) has its limits and its weaknesses. The reproach levelled at it is that it is more oriented towards the economic field than the social field and that it is too much directed by (and for) the Union and too prone to impose new lifestyle and consumption patterns in the South as well as being too little participative and transparent. It can actually be interpreted as a reaction of European society in the face of instability in the Mediterranean region and illegal immigration.

But the EUMP also opens the way towards better understanding between religions and cultures, towards peaceful coexistence in this new area called the "Euro-Mediterranean" area. It offers an unprecedented opportunity to rebalance lifestyles and bridge the gap (economic, social,...) which has separated so far both sides of the Mediterranean, the Union Member States and its southern neighbours.

It is essential to establish a strong Partnership which can guarantee peace and stability in the Mediterranean area on the eve of the 21st century. This is a huge task which governments alone cannot fulfil. Civil society, economic and social actors and NGOs will all have to commit themselves wholeheartedly to it. This is also quite a difficult task, since contributing to sustainable development on the southern bank of the Mediterranean is not done in any old way... The future must be preserved.

Like all - or almost all - domains, integrated environmental management and sustainable development are dealt with in the Barcelona Declaration. It is hoped that ongoing negotiations will make it possible to adopt an action programme in 1997 laying down a series of priorities which will ensure a better management of water, coastal areas and soils as well as a fairer, more healthy and balanced lifestyle...

It must be stressed that the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership is not the first or the only initiative aiming at tackling these problems. For the past twenty years, the environment and sustainable development of the Mediterranean area have been at the core of concerns developed by the countries bordering on the Mediterranean. States got together and adopted the Barcelona Convention and an Action Programme for the Mediterranean (APM), which was adapted in 1995 to Rio criteria (see Annex 2). Civil society on both sides of the Mediterranean also got busy, a great number of NGO networks were set up (see Annex 3) and took many initiatives. Since December 1996, a Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development gathers together civil society and the States concerned on an equal footing.

Unfortunately, outside the countries bordering on the Mediterranean (and even among them!), little is known about all these initiatives. Making them known, facilitating contacts, encouraging European NGOs to get involved in the construction of a Euro-Mediterranean Partnership with a human and sustainable dimension, such are the objectives of the brochure which we are presenting to you.

*Armando Montanari*  
*EEB President*

---

# INTRODUCTION

---

## EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP (EUMP): A NEW FRAMEWORK

**W**hen speaking about the Mediterranean, the framework for reflection, intervention and evaluation used to be different from what it now is today.

In the Seventies, for reasons of geographical coherence, there actually was a tendency to delineate the Mediterranean region according to natural criteria such as climate or flora, thus reducing it to a more or less narrow coastal band. The boundaries of the Mediterranean were determined by geographers according to the cultivation of olive trees...

This very restricted delimitation has evolved with time, as it has become difficult to only take an interest in economic activities and their impact on the environment in the narrow context of the coastal zone. One has had to call on the national background of the countries bordering on the Mediterranean : the initiatives of the UNEP Action Plan for the Mediterranean are set within this framework.

With the Euro-Mediterranean process, the framework has broadened once more, extending to the northern borders of the European Union. Isn't raising the awareness of ALL Europeans about the economic, social, environmental and political problems faced by our southern friends one of the most important stakes of the Euro-Mediterranean Conference? Aren't the northern EU Member States also responsible for the situation, whether it be because of their economic and political links or because of their tourist activities or consumption patterns?

When speaking about the Euro-Mediterranean region, one will now have to refer to the whole new set of countries constituted by the 27 signatories to the Barcelona Declaration: EU Member States and partner countries. It is within this framework that the Union will take action in the next few years and that socio-economic, political and environmental interrelations will come into play.

## JUSTIFICATION AND STAKES OF THE EUMP

The Barcelona Conference, which took place on 27 & 28 November 1995, is a milestone in a process of partnership between EU and non-EU members which started in the Sixties and accelerated in the Nineties. The Commission's proposals about the creation of an area of free trade, stability and security as well as the agreement on increased financial aid and reinforced cooperation in a whole series of sectors were ratified in Barcelona.

The reasons for establishing the Partnership were expressed by Vice-President Marin on the occasion of his hearing before the European Parliament Committee for Foreign Affairs when he was designated as responsible for the Mediterranean region. He stressed the strategic importance for the EU of a reinforcement in the relationships with Mediterranean third countries and was of the opinion that the EU should now propose association agreements to the countries in the Mediterranean Basin. These agreements would be based on free trade but without any accession clause, and would be similar to those offered to Central and Eastern European countries. "Similar" but not "identical", since Europe has to adapt its response to the specificities of these countries: demographic explosion, slow economic growth, political instability inherited from the (Arab-Israeli) conflict and rising fundamentalism. Vice-President Marin maintained that political instability in the Mediterranean could only have negative consequences for all the countries in the Union and thought that bringing the EU closer to the Mediterranean region in order to create a Euro-Mediterranean area would contribute in particular to helping partner countries in their efforts for peace.

It is clear that the Barcelona Conference did not signal the end of a process, although it represented a decisive step in it. The implementation process of the Barcelona Declaration and of its annexed Action Programme will be a long one. On the one

hand because the preliminary conditions - that is to say peace and stability - seem very much jeopardised for the time being in several strategic areas (Middle East, Albania, Algeria). On the other hand because the Euro-Mediterranean policy of the Union, and in particular the establishment of a free trade area, will require the adaptation and restructuring of the Union internal policy (common agricultural policy, fisheries policy, monetary policy, etc.) in order to tackle the numerous contradictions which exist at the moment.

## EUMP : TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE AND BALANCED DEVELOPMENT

As one of the objectives of the Partnership, the Barcelona Declaration identifies the setting-up of a area of dialogue, exchange and co-operation which would guarantee an economically and socially balanced sustainable development:

- **Balanced** : because, as figures demonstrate, disparities between partner countries and EU Member States are huge in the economic sector, with regard to population, quality of life, etc. Such unbalances cause migratory flows which "disrupt" many Member States. So as to be really associated "partners", considerable efforts will be needed to level up the economies<sup>1</sup>, which will require much more than the means made available by the Union within the framework of the Partnership. Private investments, bilateral donors, NGOs and citizens will all have to be called upon.
- **Sustainable**: because such levelling-up and the establishment of a free trade area, which is probably the primary economic objective of the Partnership, will have a strong impact on natural resources (water, soil, energy ...) and bring about an even more important environmental degradation. In this respect, experts have stressed the poor state of the Mediterranean environment and even the irreversibility of some problems such as land degradation. If no preventive approach or efficient measures are introduced, the future of the EUMP will be compromised. 1997 will be a crucial year in this respect: a programme of priority actions for the environment should be adopted by the Euro-Mediterranean ministers in November.

## THE EUMP AND THE CITIZEN

It is quite obvious that environmental protection and the implementation of sustainable development require the participation of all. The human being, the citizen, must be the main beneficiary of the Partnership. The EP stated in this respect that it was "convinced that civil society could make significant contributions to the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership process, and therefore, its full participation should be ensured with equal rights within an institutionalised framework"<sup>2</sup>.

And yet...

Even if the Barcelona Declaration states (on the subject of the Partnership in the social, cultural and human fields) that: (the participants) "*recognize the essential contribution that civil society can make in the development process of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership as a key factor for a better understanding and for bringing the peoples together;*

*"As a consequence, they agree to reinforce and/or establish the instruments required for decentralised cooperation, so as to foster exchanges between the development actors within the framework of national legislation: representatives from political and civil society, cultural and religious circles, universities, research institutions, the media, associations, trade unions and private and public enterprises.*

*"They encourage actions in support of democratic institutions, and to reinforce the State of law and civil society".*

... the achievements so far are hardly significant.

Apart from the economic and social sectors, other representatives of civil society, including NGOs, have hardly participated - or not at all - in the follow-up to the Partnership. Access to the MEDA funds is difficult for them and they are not involved in the follow-up structures... The instruments promised in the Declaration have not yet come into being (such is the case for the MED-Associations programme). All this is probably related to political will and the conventional "business as usual" approach, which is hardly participative. It has also something to do with the lack of information: special efforts will be needed to motivate NGOs and involve them more in the Partnership. The present brochure is a modest contribution to such an effort.

## EUMR: TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE AND BALANCED DEVELOPMENT

The EUMR is a key instrument in the EU's environmental policy. It aims to ensure that the environment is protected and improved, and that the quality of life is enhanced. The EUMR is based on the principle of sustainable development, which is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The EUMR is a comprehensive framework that covers a wide range of environmental issues, including air quality, water quality, noise, and the environment in the workplace. The EUMR is a dynamic instrument that is constantly evolving to meet the challenges of the 21st century. The EUMR is a key instrument in the EU's environmental policy, and it is essential for achieving a sustainable and balanced development.

## THE EUMR AND THE CITIZEN

The EUMR is a key instrument in the EU's environmental policy, and it is essential for achieving a sustainable and balanced development. The EUMR is a comprehensive framework that covers a wide range of environmental issues, including air quality, water quality, noise, and the environment in the workplace. The EUMR is a dynamic instrument that is constantly evolving to meet the challenges of the 21st century. The EUMR is a key instrument in the EU's environmental policy, and it is essential for achieving a sustainable and balanced development. The EUMR is a comprehensive framework that covers a wide range of environmental issues, including air quality, water quality, noise, and the environment in the workplace. The EUMR is a dynamic instrument that is constantly evolving to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

The EUMR is a key instrument in the EU's environmental policy, and it is essential for achieving a sustainable and balanced development. The EUMR is a comprehensive framework that covers a wide range of environmental issues, including air quality, water quality, noise, and the environment in the workplace. The EUMR is a dynamic instrument that is constantly evolving to meet the challenges of the 21st century. The EUMR is a key instrument in the EU's environmental policy, and it is essential for achieving a sustainable and balanced development. The EUMR is a comprehensive framework that covers a wide range of environmental issues, including air quality, water quality, noise, and the environment in the workplace. The EUMR is a dynamic instrument that is constantly evolving to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

---

# PART I: BACKGROUND

---



# 1.1. THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN AREA

## ECONOMIC SITUATION

The Euro-Mediterranean Area brings together countries with very different development levels. The tables below show the extent of disparities between the Mediterranean Member States and partner countries as regards, for example, the per capita GDP, the share of agricultural production in the GDP, or the growth rate. In the latter respect, the gap between Jordan, -6.3 or Algeria, -2.4 on the one hand, and Portugal, 4.0 or Spain, 2.7 on the other hand, is particularly noteworthy.

### Mediterranean countries: the economy (1994 data)

#### European Union

Country	GDP(M US\$)	per capita GDP	Growth rate (%)	(%)of GDP agric. production	% of GDP Exports	% of GDP Investments
Spain	525,334	13,280	2.7	3	19	20
France	1,355,039	23,470	1.7	2	23	18
Greece	80,194	7,710	1.3	16	22	18
Italy	1,101,258	19,270	1.8	3	23	17
Portugal	92,124	9,370	4.0	-	26	26

#### Southern and eastern Mediterranean countries

Country	GDP(M US\$)	per capita GDP	Growth rate (%)	(%)of GDP agric. production	% of GDP Exports	% of GDP Investments
Algeria	46,115	1,690	-2.4	12	2333	
Egypt	40,950	710	1.6	20	22	18
Israel	78,113	14,414	2.5	-	31	23
Jordan	5,849	1,390	-6.3	8	49	26
Lebanon	-	-	-	-	10	28
Morocco	30,330	1,150	1.1	21	21	21
Syria	-	-	-2.4	-	-	-
Tunisia	15,873	1,800	1.8	15	45	24
Turkey	149,002	2,450	1.5	16	21	22

#### Future Member States

Country	GDP(M US\$)	per capita GDP	Growth rate (%)	(%)of GDP agric. production	% of GDP Exports	% of GDP Investments
Cyprus	-	-	-	6	47	24
Malta	-	-	5.3	3	94	29

Source: World Bank, 1996

Differences are even more marked if one compares the parameters related to Mediterranean States, members and partners, with those of "non-Mediterranean" Member States indicated in the following table.

## Non-Mediterranean EU Member States

Country	GDP(M US\$)	per capita GDP	Growth rate (%)1985-94	(%)of GDP agric. prod.	% of GDP Exports	% of GDP Investments
Germany	2,075,452	25,580	1.9	1	22	22
Belgium	231,051	22,920	2.3	2	69	18
Denmark	145,384	28,110	1.3	4	34	14
Finland	95,817	18,850	-0.3	5	33	14
Ireland	48,275	13,630	5.2	8	68	14
Luxembourg	15,973	39,850	1.3	1	86	26
Norway	114,328	26,480	1.4	-	43	20
Netherlands	338,144	21,970	1.9	3	51	19
UK	1,069,457	18,410	1.4	2	25	15
Sweden	206,419	23,630	0.0	2	33	13

Source: World Bank, 1996.

Taking the Euro-Mediterranean as a whole, disparities are even stronger when comparing the southern and eastern partner countries with the whole of the EU Member States: the sum of the GDPs of the former equals 4% of the total GDP of the latter. If the situation worsens, the ratio will be 1 to 20 in 2010 (Bistolfi, 1995). Likewise, there are quite huge gaps, for instance in the per capita income between the 39,850 US\$/cap. of Luxembourg and the 1,150 US\$ of Morocco. In this case, an enormous effort to "level up" will be required!

## EXCHANGES

As is shown in the table below, the share of partner countries in the external trade of the EU remains low (6.9% of exports in 1992), much lower than what trade relations with other regions like EFTA, ALENA, South-East Asia or Japan represent. This share should grow with the Partnership.

### External exchanges of the EU in 1992: major EU partners

Area/country	% imports	% exports
EFTA	23.7	24.3
NAFTA	19.1	19.3
DOA*	9.7	9.1
<b>Medit. partner countries</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>6.9</b>
Gulf	5.1	6.4
Black Africa	4.5	5.0
CEEC	4.1	4.9
Japan	10.6	4.8
Ex-USSR	3.6	3.1
South America	3.8	2.7
Australia-New Zealand	1.2	1.8
China	2.9	1.5
India	1.0	1.2
TOTAL	94.6%	91%

\*Dynamic and Open Asia: Brunei, South Korea, Hongkong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand.

Source: Bistolfi, 1995, p. 242

These rates are an average for the whole of the EU, and as will be shown later, marked differences appear in bilateral relations, for instance between those who favour relations with the South of Europe and Latin America, and those who turn preferably to the North (Baltic countries) and Eastern Europe.

## EU commercial flows with Mediterranean partner countries

### Per EU Member State:

State	1994 exports (share in %)	1994 exports (billion ECU)	1994 imports (share in %)	1994 imports (billion ECU)
France	21.8	10.01	18.9	6.91
BLEU*	9.5	4.36	6.2	2.28
Netherlands	5.2	2.37	6.2	2.28
Germany	22.5	10.33	23.6	8.64
Italy	20.5	9.41	23.4	8.55
United Kingdom	9.7	4.44	8.2	2.99
Ireland	0.9	0.43	0.3	0.11
Denmark	1.2	0.55	0.7	0.26
Greece	2.2	0.99	2.7	1.00
Portugal	0.6	0.27	1.5	0.56
Spain	6.00	2.73	8.1	2.97
TOTAL	100.0	45.90	100.0	36.55

\* Belgium/Luxembourg Economic Union

Source: Eurostat

The table above shows:

- 1) a gap between exports and imports from Mediterranean countries: imports are lower.
- 2) the leading role of a small number of countries which are, by decreasing order: Germany, France, Italy for exports, and Germany, Italy and France for imports.
- 3) the limited part played by other southern Member States in trading, particularly Greece and Portugal.

There are also dissymmetries among partner countries and, as is shown in the table below, a small number of countries control the major part of trading, i.e: Turkey, Israel, Algeria (for hydrocarbons). They are followed by Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia.

### Trade flows between the EU and Mediterranean partner countries

#### Per partner country:

State	1994 exports (share in %)	1994 exports (billion ECU)	1994 imports (share in %)	1994 imports (billion ECU)
Malta	4.1	1.87	2.8	1.01
Turkey	19.3	8.87	20.8	7.61
Morocco	9.5	4.38	10.1	3.71
Algeria	10.1	4.62	16.0	5.86
Tunisia	8.2	3.77	8.3	3.04
Libya	4.4	2.04	16.3	5.96
Egypt	9.9	4.57	7.7	2.80
Cyprus	4.4	2.00	1.7	0.62
Lebanon	4.8	2.20	0.2	0.09
Syria	3.5	1.61	4.3	1.57
Israël	19.5	8.96	11.3	4.14
Jordan	2.3	1.04	0.4	0.15
Mediterraneans partner countries	100.0	45.90	100.0	36.55

Source: Eurostat/Turkey

## DEBT

Although it was left out of the Barcelona Declaration, the debt problem is crucial to economic and social development and an important issue to think about within the Euro-Mediterranean framework. The debt problem of partner countries prevents the poorest among them to catch up economically and it is one of the contradictions of the "Partnership": the economic and fiscal policies must guarantee economic growth, whereas debt reimbursement requires greater monetary and budgetary stringency.

Debt in the Mediterranean partner countries reaches alarming levels according to a report prepared by Algeria for the 1996 Euro-Mediterranean Summit of Economic and Social Committees in Paris.

### Debt of partner countries

Country	total debt in billion US\$ (1993)	in % of GNP (1993)	Debt servicing in 1980*	Debt servicing in 1993*
Algeria	25.8	54	27	77
Egypt	40.6	109	15	15
Lebanon	-	-	-	-
Libya	-	-	-	-
Morocco	21.4	81	14	30
Jordan	7.0	132	8	14
Syria	-	-	-	-
Tunisia	8.7	58	15	21
Turkey	67.9	38	28	28

\* in % of exports of goods and services

Source: UNDP Report on Human Development, 1996.

Although there are no data for certain countries, one should note the debt level, both as regards the percentage of debt compared to the GNP (it exceeds 100% in Egypt and Jordan!) and as regards debt servicing, in % of exports of goods and services (77% in Algeria in 1993!). Concerning the evolution over time, a comparison of the last two columns of the table above shows a relative status quo in Egypt<sup>3</sup> and in Turkey, a slight increase in Tunisia and Jordan and a steep increase in Algeria.

Such a situation cannot last forever. In its October 1995 resolution, the European Parliament already insisted that the debt issue be reexamined (and settled!) and the Euro-Mediterranean Economic and Social Committees have asked, among other things, that:

- special measures be taken in favour of partner countries concerning debt relief;
- systems be established that would allow partial reconversion of debt into investments and, as far as possible, investments in favour of the environment.

### Debt of partner countries: main creditors

A few indebted partner countries	Bilateral creditors
Egypt	<b>Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom</b>
Morocco	<b>Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States</b>
Tunisie	<b>Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, United States</b>

(In bold: EU Member States)

Source: PNUD/UNSO

Considering the number of Member States among the creditor countries of Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia, a solution can hopefully be found concerning bilateral debt. Besides, several Member States have already taken steps: on 8 March, Portugal and Algeria signed an agreement on debt rescheduling (capital and interest) for a global amount of 9 million US\$. Algeria's medium and long-term official debt vis-à-vis Portugal was 88 million US\$ on 31 December 1995 (Portugal ECO-

SOC, 1996). Other Member States have taken initiatives in the same direction. France, Germany and the UK have resold part of the Egyptian debt, mostly for debt-equity swaps, and Sweden seems interested in this type of exchange. Regarding Moroccan debt, Spain, France and the United Kingdom may consider selling.

The most interesting operations (within the framework of this report) are debt-for-nature swaps. In this respect, one should stress the conversion of debt into official development aid in local currency for environmental projects, granted to Tunisia by the Netherlands and Sweden. The Dutch government started a debt-for-nature swaps programme in 1992; in 1994, 4.9 million US\$ had been converted and in 1995, the amount was 6.6 million dollars. As for Sweden, it remitted a total of 1.62 million dollars in 1992-93 (UNDP/UNSO, 1996).

## POPULATION

The table below compares data related to population in all the countries of the Euro-Mediterranean area. It shows that the gap noted at economic level also appears as regards population (growth rate) and quality of life (life expectancy, infant mortality, literacy rate, percentage of working women).

What does this table show?

### 1. IN TERMS OF FIGURES:

In 1994 the Euro-Mediterranean area had a population of 589,207,000 inhabitants, distributed as follows:

Member States: 366,624,000, i.e. 62.2%

Partner states: 155,207,000, i.e. 26.3%

Non-EU northern Mediterranean states, some of which are in the process of joining the Union: 67,376,000, that is 11.4% (including Turkey).

What about such a distribution in 2010? It is difficult to find a direct answer under a Euro-Mediterranean framework, as most assessments and prospective studies have been worked out so far within the Mediterranean framework *stricto sensu*. According to the Blue Plan (1988), the southern part of the Mediterranean, which only accounted for 32% of the population in the Basin in 1950, will represent some 60% of the population in 2025.

### 2. IN TERMS OF POPULATION GROWTH:

As a whole, the group of partner countries, except for Israel, have relatively high growth and infant mortality rates, life expectancy being some 10 years shorter than in EU member states. In contrast, EU Member States show particularly low population growth rates, with only Luxembourg reaching 1%. But things should not be oversimplified: a poor standard of living and high population growth rate do not always go hand-in-hand, as with Portugal.

### 3. IN TERMS OF LITERACY AND WOMEN'S WORK,

two parameters giving a better insight into culture and lifestyles, one can note the following:

- illiteracy rates are much higher as a whole in partner countries, with the exception of Israel;
- concerning the share of women at work, there is a difference among partner countries between those whose rate approaches 10% and is in any case lower than 20% (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Jordan and Syria) and those with a rate higher than 20%, more similar to the situation prevailing in some EU Member States such as Spain or Greece. This is for example the case of Turkey (34%), Tunisia (25%), and Israel (34%). The highest rates of female activity are to be found in northern European countries: Sweden (45%), Finland (47%) and Norway (42%), followed by France with 40% of women at work.

Country	total popul. (1.000) (1994)	growth rate (1985-94): %	life expectancy (1993)	infant mortality/1.000 (1993)	literacy rate (1990): %	% of working women (1994)
<i>Albania</i>	3,414	2.9	44	161	71	9
<b>Algeria</b>	<b>27,325</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>10</b>
Germany	81,141	0.5	76	6	*	39
Belgium	10,080	0.2	76	6	*	33
<i>Bosnia Herz.</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Croatia</i>	4,780	0.7	71	9	-	-
<i>Cyprus</i>	734	1.1	77	9	-	36
Denmark	5,173	0.1	75	7	*	45
<b>Egypt</b>	<b>57,556</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>11</b>
Spain	39,551	0.3	78	7	5	25
Finland	5,083	0.4	76	5	*	47
France	57,726	0.5	77	7	*	40
Greece	10,408	0.5	78	10	7	27
Ireland	3,543	0.0	75	7	*	30
<b>Israël</b>	<b>5,420</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>34</b>
Italy	57,154	0.1	77	8	3	32
<b>Jordan</b>	<b>4,217</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Lebanon</b>	<b>3,930</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Libya</b>	<b>5,222</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>10</b>
Luxembourg	401	1.0	76	7	*	31
<i>Macedonia</i>	2,093	1.1	72	26	-	-
<i>Malta</i>	364	0.6	76	9	16	24
<b>Morocco</b>	<b>26,488</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>22</b>
Norway	4,318	0.4	77	8	*	42
Netherlands	15,391	0.7	77	7	*	30
Portugal	9,832	-0.1	75	10	15	37
United Kingdom	58,088	0.3	76	7	*	39
Sweden	8,735	0.5	78	5	*	45
<b>Syria</b>	<b>14,171</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Tunisia</b>	<b>8,815</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Turkey</b>	<b>60,771</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>West Bank &amp; Gaza</b>	<b>2,063</b>	-	-	41	-	-

In bold: partner countries - In italics: non-EU northern Mediterranean countries.

\* unavailable data, but less than 5% according to UNESCO.

Source: World Bank, Atlas 1996.

## QUALITY OF LIFE

The UNDP human development index (HDI) takes the literacy rate and life expectancy into account in addition to the per capita GDP, which makes for a sharper analysis and gives clearer indications as to quality of life in the countries concerned.

The last UNDP World Report on human development (1996) includes data which highlight again the gaps existing between countries in the Euro-Mediterranean area, but under a different angle.

Country	rank according to HDI
Netherlands	4
Norway	5
Finland	6
France	7
Sweden	9
Spain	10
Belgium	12
Austria	13
United Kingdom	16
Denmark	17
Germany	18
Ireland	19
Italy	20
Greece	21
Cyprus	23
Israel	24
Malta	28
Portugal	35
<b>Libya</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Algeria</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>Jordan</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>Tunisia</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>Turkey</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>Syria</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>Lebanon</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>Albania</b>	<b>104</b>
<b>Egypt</b>	<b>106</b>

*In bold: partner countries*

*Source: UNDP, 1996.*

In this case, as is shown in the table above, disparities are obvious between a European Union which lives well and partner countries, whose population clearly meets more difficulties in their daily lives. This tells a lot about the causes of migratory flows which we shall deal with later. Shall we hold it against them if people wish to share the privileges related to a better quality of life with the rich countries and urbanized areas?

## MIGRATORY FLOWS TOWARDS THE NORTH: AN INEVITABLE PHENOMENON

Even if the exact figures concerning the population that will inhabit the Euro-Mediterranean area in the next century are unknown, one can forecast, given the very different growth rates in the North and in the South between partner countries and Member States or acceding states, that the ratio between them all is going to change: northern population will be ageing while that in the South will be continuing to grow, although maybe not at the same rate.

It can also be expected that the growth which will occur in future years will mostly concern the urban population, which will account, according to various sources, for 50% to 80% of the total population. Such urban growth will be different in the North and in the South of the Mediterranean, where it is estimated it will be 12 times faster... This is no wonder if we compare the share of agricultural production in the GDP, which was much higher in the South. This is no wonder either if we take into account the living conditions of the rural population in southern countries, particularly the lack of basic services (running water, electricity, education) in several rural regions.

Drift from the land will continue in the coming years, leading to urban concentration and related environmental problems (water management, waste management, waste treatment and disposal at sea, protection of the cultural heritage), social and political problems (conflicts; lack of security in cities, respect for minority groups, for democratic principles, etc.). In spite of the efforts expended by various local, regional and international networks and authorities towards sustainable urban development and participatory elaboration of local Agendas 21, the situation is not likely to be easily reversed.

Therefore, the poorer people in the cities will keep on moving to... richer regions, and hence to the European Union. The problem of migration, although not explicitly mentioned in the Barcelona Declaration, is one of the reasons for the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership: the economic development measures proposed to southern countries are aimed at putting a curb on migration to the European Union. Will they have the expected effect? This remains to be seen, all the more so since, under the right conditions, migrations are a development factor and can be a very positive element as well as a means of promoting mutual knowledge and cultural exchanges.

At the moment, migration between partner countries and the EU is a much debated issue. The Euro-Mediterranean Economic and Social Committees (ECOSOC) which met at the Paris Summit in November 96 remarked "that the measures to be taken must not be limited to merely opening or closing borders (...) and that common economic and social measures should be provided for to accompany the process", such as training actions, respect for a "social clause", proper information of immigrants and other measures.

In the meantime, what is the situation today?

The fact is that since 1989, the increase in immigration to the EU has exceeded the European birth rate and, as a consequence, immigration has now become the major population growth factor in the Union.

Of course, given the share of clandestine migrant workers, accurate data on migrations are difficult to obtain, but there are some estimates which speak for themselves. For example, in 1993, there was an estimated 17 million immigrants in the EU, of which 70% came from countries outside the Union. The main immigrant communities in the EU come from:

- Turkey: 2,573,000 people
- Ex-Yugoslavia, 1,410,000 people
- Italy: 1,556,000 people
- Morocco: 1,126,000 people
- Portugal : 830,000 people
- Algeria: 654,000 people

Immigrants thus constitute a population equal to that of Belgium and Austria put together and may be regarded as the 16th country of the Union. Among immigrants, those from Mediterranean countries have different cultural habits which are easily identifiable and maintain a close relationship with their countries of origin, through travels, family bonds and visits of friends and acquaintances. The integration of migrant workers from southern Mediterranean countries raises problems in some countries, especially in the north of the Union (Germany, Austria ...); it may be easier in the southern regions of the Union, owing to greater cultural proximity (for example in Andalucia).

## SEASONAL MOVES TOWARDS THE SOUTH: TOURISM AND ITS IMPACTS

There is a direct link between tourism and migrations. Although the reasons are different, there are in both cases population flows which may lead to better mutual knowledge between peoples ...if managed in the right way! Tourist flows can be - and are - a means of triggering the interest of some northern countries of the Union for the the Mediterranean region, a traditional holiday destination. This is the case, for example, for Germany or the Netherlands. So, after a purely "tourist" interest, attention will focus on other social and environmental problems. It can be hoped...

What is the present situation?

Data from MAP show the following trend in the number of international tourists in the Mediterranean area between 1960 and 1990:

- 1960: 24 millions



- 1970: 60 millions
- 1975: 86 millions
- 1985: 125 millions
- 1990: 200 millions

In 1991 the Gulf war caused a significant drop in the number of tourists, but the share of tourism in the Mediterranean area remains very high: 45% of world tourism and 28% of foreign currency income.

#### Flows of international tourism in Mediterranean countries

origin	1975 (1000)	id.(%)	1980 (1000)	id (%)	1985(1000)	id (%)
Germany	11,595	19.0	22,735	24.0	26,687	22.9
Belgium	3,297	5.4	7,913	8.3	5,012	4.3
Scandinavian countries	2,949	4.8	3,295	3.4	4,465	3.8
Spain	2,691	4.4	3,304	3.5	3,805	3.3
Netherlands	3,319	5.5	6,237	6.6	6,535	5.6
United Kingdom	6,975	11.4	11,014	11.6	15,524	13.3
Italy	2,685	4.4	3,248	3.4	6,594	5.6
Switzerland	2,150	3.5	4,543	4.8	6,450	5.5
Other Europ. countries	5,273	8.6	8,622	9.0	9,969	8.5
Canada and USA	4,898	8.0	5,775	6.0	9,643	8.3
Other Amer. countries	821	1.3	1,655	1.7	1,759	1.5
Arab countries	2,550	4.2	3,520	3.7	5,033	4.3
Other countries	4,809	7.8	4,019	4.2	5,257	4.5
TOTAL	60,936		94,774		116,484	

Source: Blue Plan

Regarding the Nineties, according to the World Tourist Organisation, three out of the four main tourist destinations in the world were Mediterranean ones in 1995: France (60,584,000 visitors), Spain (45,125,000 visitors), the United States (44,730,000 visitors) and Italy. But destinations in partner countries have been on the rise: in 1993 Africa hosted 18 million visitors, half of which were heading to Mediterranean countries, the Maghreb in particular: Morocco (4,027,000), Tunisia (3,656,000) and Algeria (1,132,000). The trends were varied among these countries: in Tunisia, 1994 saw a 5.4% increase in tourists and a 16.9% increase in income from tourism, whereas Morocco and Algeria experienced a recession of 13.9% and 22.7% respectively.

According to the World Tourist Organization, the number of visitors to the Middle East in 1993 was 7 million lower than in previous years. This drop can probably be explained by the situation prevailing in Egypt (-28%) which used to be a major tourist area in the region with over two million foreign visitors a year. The loss of currency income was 1.7 billion US\$ in Egypt, i.e. 37% compared with previous years. Other countries having suffered from recession are Iraq, Jordan and Syria.

What about the future? According to the Blue Plan, the number of international tourists will rise from 70 millions in 1990 to 150 and maybe even 200 millions in 2025. The economic importance of tourism will increase, which will require measures to limit its considerable impact on water and energy consumption, land occupation and increased quantities of waste and effluents to treat.

## 1.2 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT STAKE: ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

---

### PROBLEMS TO BE JOINTLY TACKLED (INTERNATIONAL POLICIES)

---

The Mediterranean area suffers from global problems which should be combated with the help of cooperation if a solution is to be found. We would like to mention in particular:

#### MARINE POLLUTION

**T**he Mediterranean is an almost completely land-locked sea in which water circulation is limited. Pollutants can therefore remain there for approximately one century. Pollution in the Mediterranean has its origin in maritime traffic (15% of oil tankers in the world sail through the Mediterranean between Suez and Gibraltar), but also, most particularly, in discharges from coastal areas: urban effluents (directly discharged into the sea in 60% of cases), industrial and agricultural effluents, oil changes by ships on the open sea, solid waste discharges. Pollution is also due, to a much larger extent than was thought in the past, to atmospheric pollutants and those carried by the major rivers that flow into the Mediterranean, mainly the Ebro, the Rhône, the Pô and the Nile.

What are the main polluting substances? Tar, persistent organic chemical substances and heavy metals. The deliberate discharge of waste water from ship holds and ballast tanks represent 75% of pollution in the Mediterranean: every year, some 650,000 tonnes of hydrocarbons are disposed of in the sea (i.e. about 17 times the volume discharged by the "Exon Valdez" in Alaska).

But substances diluted in water are not the only ones incriminated: there are also plastics and other (solid) floating residues, thrown out by ships into the sea or discharged from the coast. These residues pose a serious threat to coastal areas and marine fauna.

#### FAUNA UNDER THREAT

Pollution in the Mediterranean, of various forms and origins described above, constitutes a very serious threat to marine fauna. Certain species like the great dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*), the turtle (*Caretta caretta*) or the monk seal (*Monachus monachus*) are seriously under threat. The latter disappeared from the western Mediterranean Sea in 1972 and its presence is limited to protected areas.

Migratory birds are also in danger, particularly because of the regression of humid areas which these birds go through during their seasonal migrations. It is estimated that each year, some two million birds pass in transit through humid zones in the Mediterranean Basin which are systematically drained: during the past fifty years, over one million hectares have disappeared in this way. More than 70 species of migratory birds are regarded as endangered.

The (accidental) introduction of alga *Caulerpa taxifolia*, a tropical species which develops at an alarming rate to the detriment of beds of posidonias and other marine ecosystems, is today a real threat for the environment and fish resources.

## ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

It is mostly present in urbanized coastal areas. According to the latest works on the subject, atmospheric pollution is today one of the main sources of the introduction of polluting agents in Mediterranean waters. Chromium and mercury can be found in the sea in equal (or even superior) quantities to those carried by rivers, and over 90% of lead in the western Mediterranean Sea comes from the atmosphere. In some urban areas, atmospheric pollution from industrial sources, vehicles and domestic heaters are a serious threat to people's health. This is the case in Athens, for example.

## DEGRADATION OF FISH RESOURCES

It is estimated that fish resources are 20% lower than usual in many places in the Mediterranean. Whereas the region used to export fish, it has now become a fish importer. Out of four tonnes of fish consumed by its inhabitants, only one is fished in its waters (Antoine, 1996). Overexploitation by highly equipped European trawlers (and others), the increase in demand linked to population growth and the insecurity created by war, especially in the Near East, are the main reasons for this situation. As it has been stated, particularly during diplomatic conferences on fisheries organized by the EU in 1995 and 1996, the solution lies in the adoption of political measures.

## PROBLEMS REQUIRING NATIONAL POLICIES

---

Other problems should rather be tackled within a national framework, although solutions can be transposed from one country to another. Let us mention:

### A PRIORITY: WATER MANAGEMENT

#### A RARE AND FRAGILE RESOURCE, UNEQUALLY DISTRIBUTED OVER TIME AND SPACE.

With the exception of a few major rivers such as the Nile and the Rhône, which spring up in more humid regions, water in the Mediterranean Basin is a rare commodity. Water resources are unequally distributed over time and space among Mediterranean countries and, within them, among their inhabitants (from 29,000 m<sup>3</sup>/year/capita in ex-Yugoslavia to 70 m<sup>3</sup>/year/capita in Malta). 86% of total resources are located in countries in the north of the Mediterranean.

As is shown in the following table, the situation is more serious in countries in the south and east of the Mediterranean in which lack of water is chronic, either because of climatic conditions or because demand exceeds the capacity of reservoirs. Apart from privileged areas, the total quantity of water available is an average of 100 m<sup>3</sup>/year/capita.

**Annual water consumption in the Mediterranean for the 1970-94 period**

Country	% ressources/capita	m <sup>3</sup> per capita
Albania	0.9	94
<b>Algeria</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>160</b>
Bosnia-Herzegovina	-	-
Croatia	-	-
Cyprus	-	-
<b>Egypt</b>	<b>97.1</b>	<b>956</b>
Spain	27.6	781
France	19.1	665
Greece	8.6	523
<b>Israel</b>	<b>86.0</b>	<b>408</b>
Italy	33.7	986
<b>Jordan</b>	<b>31.6</b>	<b>173</b>
<b>Lebanon</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>271</b>
<b>Libya</b>	<b>436.7</b>	<b>692</b>
Malta	-	-
<b>Morocco</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>427</b>
<b>Palestine</b>	<b>(with Jordan)</b>	<b>id</b>
Portugal	-	-
<b>Syria</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>435</b>
<b>Tunisia</b>	<b>59.9</b>	<b>317</b>
<b>Turkey</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>585</b>

*In bold: partner countries*

*Source: World Bank, 1996.*

The natural quality of Mediterranean waters is variable, which can still reduce the volume of resources that can be exploited. The regime of Mediterranean waters is particularly sensitive to changes in soil occupation (deforestation, urbanization, etc.), the impact of which still heightens its irregularity. Sudden rises in river levels lead to serious risks of flooding and their impact is made much worse by the concentration of population and activities in the plains and lower parts of valleys. Moreover, the relatively low level of normal water run-off makes water even more sensitive to pollution.

## A RARE RESOURCE UNDER GROWING PRESSURE

Mediterranean countries are increasingly subject to water shortages. Irrigation plays a very important part (73% of total demand). Drinking water still only represents 12% of demand, but urban consumption may well increase fourfold in the countries in the south and east of the Basin by the year 2005. As water losses go on increasing, irrigated agriculture will be challenged by other sectors. The use of water in agriculture is actually a crucial issue in the Mediterranean: water demand for agriculture is mainly concentrated in coastal areas, where the population and other economic activities are also concentrated... There may thus be a growing number of conflicts which would not only focus on sharing a rare resource: another factor to take into account is the competition for access to resources which are less expensive and offer greater security (permanent source from the country itself, good quality). If competition between users already exists in certain regions, it is increasingly stronger in coastal areas where there is a high seasonal demand. This competition will tend to develop: between urban and agricultural uses, but also between irrigation and hydroelectric production or between targets related to use and supply security on the one hand and environmental conservation on the other hand. This means that there will be a need in the future for more arbitration, not to mention crossborder problems to be dealt with.

## LONG-TERM PROSPECTS

Renewable water resources, in sufficient quality and quantity, are a determining factor for sustainable socio-economic development. Retrospective statistical analyses show that pressure goes on increasing on initial availability because of rising agricultural and urban consumption in order to meet the food and water needs of a growing population, particu-

larly in the coastal areas. Forward studies on the Mediterranean conducted by the Blue Plan have come to the following conclusion: "Water resources are already - and will be tomorrow - a limiting factor for the development of most of the countries bordering on the Mediterranean". The exploitation index (lex) defined as the ratio between the quantity of water taken and available resources exceeds 50% in a great number of countries, which means that the resource in question already requires strict management today.

Mediterranean countries can be grouped together under three categories:

- countries in which available resources will be sufficient until 2025 and beyond;
- countries in which resources will considerably diminish and which will have to carry out important works or inter-regional transfers (costly in energy and social terms) (lex over 50%);
- countries in which available resources are already running out and whose exploitation index is over 100% or will be by the year 2000.

This unequal availability in quantity and quality between the northern and southern Mediterranean area is one of the main elements which will determine future opportunities. The contrast will be all the more striking between countries which will need to preserve the quality of their resources and countries which will want - or will have - to manage water shortages. In the latter case, the growing scarcity of available water will require increased efforts to conserve water in its environment so that the quality of supply can be guaranteed for society.

## WHAT IS IMPLIED BY THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE

A major challenge for Mediterranean countries in terms of sustainable development will be to prevent and manage structural water shortages or even those arising out of specific circumstances and plan for the necessary financial provisions and resources in relation to these shortages. To this end, the trend has been to give priority to major hydraulic works such as dams and water transfers whose economic, social and environmental costs are much too high in comparison with profits. In Mediterranean countries faced with scarce water resources, alternative options are being developed, using non-conventional resources (reuse of waste waters, desalination) and non-renewable sources (short-term solution).

There is no guarantee, however, that the application of technological innovations will be enough to ensure sustainable development. A strict management of water resources is becoming vital for Mediterranean countries, either because where demand is growing fast, water resources are limited, or because various forms of pollution threaten water resources. Water savings and the establishment of a price system are two possible solutions to be developed in countries in the Mediterranean area which must meet the economic and social needs of their population in a sustainable way and under the best possible conditions, particularly as regards urban and agricultural management.

The solutions to water scarcity problems are first of all of an institutional nature, as was recommended by the Conference on water and sustainable development which was held in Dublin in 1992. They are also strongly linked to the economic and socio-cultural situation in individual countries, as they depend on investments and costs relating to water supply and conservation as well as on indirect investments (sectorial technologies for water savings and pollution prevention). The success of efforts to improve water management depends on the integration of water policy and other related policies as well as on the organization, coordination and efficiency of the water sector.

## SOIL DEGRADATION AND DESERTIFICATION

Mediterranean soils are under threat, not only because of water and wind erosion or because of the galloping development of urban areas on the best farming lands (river valleys and coastal plains). Intensive farming, especially irrigated farming, and the massive use of pesticides and fertilizers jeopardize soil quality while polluting drinking water and the sea. The salination of soils is very well-spread in irrigated lands in countries like Egypt, Syria or Greece.

In the Maghreb, arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas cover around 700,000 km<sup>2</sup>, not including desert areas. The area situated in the north of the Sahara (Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia) is characterized by winter rainfall, specific to the Mediterranean climate, and long hot and dry summer months, whereas the area situated in the south-west of the Sahara (Mauritania) is marked by a short summer rain season, characteristic of the Sahelian climate, and a long dry season. In

1990 the Maghreb region totalled 60 million inhabitants, over 75% of which lived in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid rural areas. Stock-farming and cereal cultivation are the main economic activities of the people in these areas.

The low average quality of soils (apart from deltas), their strong declivity and the lack of vegetable cover are among the factors which make Mediterranean countries very vulnerable to desertification. The following table indicates the state of the forest cover in all countries bordering on the Mediterranean.

#### Forest cover in the Mediterranean Basin (1990)

Country	surface area (thousand of km <sup>2</sup> )	% of total
Albania	14	53
Algeria	41	2
Bosnia-Herzégovina	23	46
Croatia	20	36
Cyprus	3	30
Egypt	0	0
Spain	256	51
France	135	25
Greece	60	47
Israel	1	6
Italy	86	29
Jordan	1	1
Lebanon	1	8
Libya	7	0
Malta	0	15
Morocco	90	20
Palestine	-	-
Portugal	3	34
Syria	7	4
Tunisia	7	4
Turkey	202	26

Source: World Bank, 1996.

Mediterranean forests are among the most degraded forests in the world and the very few remaining ones are mostly concentrated in the north. Forest protects the ground and regulates the water cycle. So what can be expected if, according to estimates (Grenon and Batisse, 1988), forest no longer covers 5% of its initial surface area in Mediterranean Europe and if, in the south and east of the Basin, desert progresses in regions which used to be covered by forests?

Many people do not regard drought as a natural disaster as its effects are very slow to appear, but as it can be noted in southern Europe, it starts with producing important environmental problems such as desertification and soil erosion because of the loss in vegetable cover and forest fires. Then follow the economic losses caused in the agricultural sector: farmers must cultivate crops which are less demanding in water but less profitable. They must use greater surface areas to keep up their income, which implies an additional impact on the environment and the extension of crops to soils which are often little appropriate. Moreover, there are other economic losses in sectors like tourism. Finally, there is a diminution in the quality of life since, in a few southern areas, restrictions have already been imposed on the population as regards private water consumption.

Taking into account the integrated character of the fight against desertification is one of the (many) innovatory aspects of the Convention on Desertification. As far as the Mediterranean area is concerned, the Convention which was signed in Paris in October 1994 and recently came into effect on December 26, 1996, acknowledges the specificities of the Mediterranean region in Article 2 of Annex IV. Although in principle, this annex only concerns northern Mediterranean countries, these "specificities" inevitably bring to mind the situation in other countries bordering on the Mediterranean.

## ENERGY RESOURCES

The Mediterranean Basin produces 1/3 of the primary energy used in the world (oil, natural gas, hydroelectric energy, nuclear energy) but only consumes 8%; this is therefore an energy exporting region. It represents 7% of the world production of crude oil. Reserves are estimated at 6,030 million tonnes. The main oil producers in the region - 89% of the total - are Algeria, Egypt, Syria, Tunisia and Libya, the latter alone having 50% of resources. Natural gas resources amount to approximately 5,650 million m<sup>3</sup> (5,085 TEP). Algeria is the biggest producer, with 64% of known reserves, followed by Libya, Egypt, Syria and Tunisia. It is estimated that there are still undiscovered reserves of around 3,300 million tonnes for oil and of around 3,400 million m<sup>3</sup> for natural gas.

Annual oil exports amount to 162 million tonnes and gas natural exports to 37 million m<sup>3</sup>. The biggest customer is the EU which imports 92 million tonnes of oil and 35 million m<sup>3</sup> of natural gas. Mediterranean producers supply a quarter of the total EU demand in oil. The main resource remains oil, although there is a trend to replace it by natural gas, which is regarded as a "cleaner" energy.

Apart from these resources, the following are also used (albeit to a lesser extent) in the Mediterranean Basin:

- Coal: some northern countries are not guided by environmental considerations, especially Greece, Turkey and ex-Yugoslavia which continue to use coal as an energy source (20% on average in the whole Basin).
- Nuclear energy: France and Spain maintain a nuclear option. The other Mediterranean countries have decided not to use this energy resource any longer until further notice (or so they say).
- Renewable energy resources: the Mediterranean Basin has considerable potential in renewable energy, especially solar energy and wind power. They are developing at a fast pace: at the beginning of the Eighties, they only represented 1% of consumption; they now represent 9.5 % of the primary energy available in the south and east of the Mediterranean.
- Wood: using wood as fuel remains common practice in countries in which there is a dominant rural economy, such as in Morocco or Turkey for example, where wood represents 4 to 5% of consumption. Although it is limited to rural areas, the use of wood further increases soil degradation and desertification in regions with strong declivity like the Rif and Atlas mountains. Firewood shortage forces rural population to burn agricultural residues and animal faeces, which deprives the soil from nutrients necessary to its regeneration.

Strong disparities in terms of energy resources among Mediterranean partners result in a fast development of transport infrastructures for natural gas, oil and electricity. The Cairo Conference which took place in September 1995 estimated that investment needs amounted to 192,300 MECU for production, transport and distribution in the next 25 years. Which represents 12% of the GNP of Mediterranean partners over the same period.

Without even going into energy consumption in the transport and agricultural sectors, we can note that the energy sector can produce harmful effects on the environment as a result of one or several of the following processes: extraction, refining, transport of fossile fuels, waste treatment, electricity production from fossile fuels, uranium cycle and electricity production from nuclear plants. Whereas the extraction of fossile fuels leads to the greatest environmental impact in the south, fuel refining and electricity production and transport are the main culprits in the north.

Regarding the impact of energy cycles on the atmosphere, it seems that these cycles constitute the main source of emission of sulphur oxides (estimated to be 90% of the total). Whereas SO<sub>2</sub> emissions have diminished in developed Mediterranean regions, emissions have increased in developing regions, partly because of the sulphur content of lignite which is used as fuel in power plants in several countries. The Mediterranean Basin thus appears as more sensitive to climate change than northern Europe and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions linked to the energy sector have gone up there in the past two decades.

As far as sea pollution by hydrocarbon transport, it is estimated that 330,000 tonnes of oil are discharged by ships in Mediterranean waters every year, to which can be added 110,000 tonnes resulting from industrial activities. This type of pollution seems to be the highest in the Ionian Sea, followed by coastal waters in North Africa.

**Energy use in the Mediterranean (oil equivalent)**

Country	Per capita (kg)	GDP per kg (US \$)
Albania	145	0.7
Algeria	955	1.9
Bosnia-Herzegovina	-	-
Croatia	1,109	2.2
Cyprus	2,517	3.5
Egypt	576	1.2
Spain	2,373	5.1
France	4,031	5.4
Greece	2,160	3.3
Israel	2,607	5.1
Italy	2,697	6.4
Jordan	922	1.5
Lebanon	727	2.7
Libya	1,883	-
Malta	2,107	3.2
Morocco	299	3.4
Palestine	-	-
Portugal	1,781	4.8
Syria	798	1.7
Tunisia	576	2.9
Turkey	983	3.1

*Source: WorldBank, 1996.*

The preceding table shows the extent to which energy consumption is unbalanced between the north and the south. With the economic and energy development planned by the Partnership, forecasts are alarming. It is thus estimated that between 1995 and 2030, energy consumption will treble (mainly in the south) and that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the region will go from 90 million tonnes to 220 million tonnes ("all gas" scenario) or even 500 million tonnes ("all coal" scenario) (Antoine, 1996).

## MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL AREAS

It is on the coast that the population and economic activities are concentrated. It is estimated that between 1990 and 2025, the population will increase from 82 to 150 or even 170 million inhabitants. The southern Mediterranean region, which represented 32% of the population in countries of the whole Basin in 1950, will accommodate 60% of the Mediterranean population in 2025, according to the Blue Plan. This growth will mostly be urban. It is estimated that the urban population will reach 50 or even 80% of the total population (Antoine, 1996) and that the pace of urbanization will be 12 times faster in the south than in the north of the Basin.

A larger urban population will mean a greater increase in the number of conflicts regarding land use; these lands - agricultural lands for example - will see their surface area diminish to the detriment of food self-sufficiency, especially in the south.

## MANAGEMENT OF SOLID AND HAZARDOUS WASTE

Calculations show that around 500,000 m<sup>3</sup> of solid waste are gathered every day in coastal areas. The major part of this is not adequately dealt with, which does not only result in an increase in marine pollution and beach pollution but also in



filthy cities, the blockage of sewers and soil contamination near landfills when these are not supervised. In addition, hazardous waste has rarely been adequately treated so far. To complete this black picture of the situation, we must mention that in spite of the prohibition in force on hazardous waste (Basel Convention amended in 1996), certain EU Member States still continued (and may still do) to export hazardous waste to countries in the south and east of the Mediterranean region (Lebanon, Egypt,...).

## MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL AREAS

## MANAGEMENT OF SOLID AND HAZARDOUS WASTE

---

**PART 2:  
THE EURO-  
MEDITERRANEAN  
PARTNERSHIP**

---

## BACKGROUND

The establishment of a contractual relationship between the EU and Mediterranean countries started in the Sixties. In the beginning, these relations were exclusively commercial. Later on, in the Seventies, the scope of the agreements was enlarged to include economic and financial cooperation.

In the Eighties, following the accession of Greece (1981), Spain (1986) and Portugal (1986) to the Union, two types of new agreements were signed: "association agreements" (with Malta, Cyprus and Turkey) and "cooperation agreements" (with other non-EC Mediterranean countries). In 1989 a free trade agreement for industrial products was signed between the Union and Israel.

Trade has been for a long time - and still is - a key element in the agreements. According to the European Commission, free access to Community markets for industrial products originating from non-member countries (NMCs) should have had a positive impact on their economy. In fact, their exports were not diversified enough and their commercial balances have shown a strong structural deficit in relation to the EU. As for free trade in agricultural products, it was never considered and NMCs have only met obstacles, especially since Greece, Spain and Portugal have joined the Union.

As regards cooperation, Community aid represented 0.1% of the GDP for budget funds in the past and 0.3% for EIB loans. The community contribution has remained relatively low, especially when compared with the aid granted by the United States and some oil producer states. It is also quite low in relation to the amounts granted by the UE to other regions, such as Eastern Europe.

Since 1978, the NMCs linked to the EU have benefitted from five-year financial protocols, including budget funds and EIB loans. The distribution of funds was the following:

- \* between 1978 and 1991, the Maghreb and Mashrek countries received 1,337 MECU in budget funds and 1,965 MECU in EIB loans.
- \* Between 1965 and 1993, Malta, Cyprus and Turkey received 672.5 MECU in budget funds and 262 MECU in EIB loans.

Moreover, 100 MECU and 86 MECU were granted to the West Bank and Gaza for 1993 and 1994 respectively, further to the steps forward made in the peace process.

## TOWARDS BARCELONA, 1995

In Dublin (June 1990), the European Council recognized and stressed the need for the EU to play a leading role on the international scene. Concerning the relations with the Mediterranean region, the political policy was determined two years later in Lisbon (June 1992), where the European Council stated that "the southern and eastern shores of the Mediterranean, as well as the Middle East, are geographical areas of a major interest to the EU, in terms of security and social stability".

In 1990 the Renewed Mediterranean Policy (RMP) was adopted. Its aim was to strengthen the links between the EU and NMCs, notably by encouraging liberalization and structural reforms and by developing decentralized and regional cooperation. To reinforce the latter, some 230 MECU were allocated out of budget funds between 1992 and 1996 to projects concerning all Mediterranean countries, the EIB contributing an additional 1,300 MECU for regional cooperation and 500 MECU for environment-related projects.

In the framework of the RMP, the new 1992-1996 agreements (4th), were based on four pillars:

- 1) political dialogue
- 2) free trade in industrial products
- 3) economic, social and cultural cooperation
- 4) financial cooperation.

These four pillars are the foundation blocks of the Partnership which was to be confirmed in Barcelona.

Since June 1994, the process has accelerated. In Corfu (June 1994), the Council confirmed how important existing links were with its Mediterranean partners and stressed the need to examine together the political, economic and social pro-

blems. The Council then mandated the Commission to assess the global policy of the Union vis-à-vis the Mediterranean and to identify the initiatives to be taken so as to reinforce this policy.

In October 1994, upon the Council's request, the Commission adopted a Communication to the Council and the Parliament<sup>5</sup> proposing for the first time the organization of a Euro-Mediterranean conference in 1995 "in order to reach an agreement on the political and economic orientation of our future relationship, which could lead to the establishment of an institutional framework". This proposal and others put forward in the communication, such as:

- \* the establishment of a stability and security zone,
- \* the creation of a Mediterranean economic area, leading in 2010 to the largest free trade area in the world,
- \* the increase in financial assistance to the Mediterranean area
- \* the strengthening of cooperation in a range of sectors.

were taken up and further detailed in the Council meetings that followed and in other Commission Communications focusing more particularly on procedures and means of implementation.

At the Essen Council (December, 1994), the Mediterranean was confirmed in its role of "priority area of strategic importance" and the Spanish government announced its plan to convene a Euro-Mediterranean conference in Barcelona.

In January 1995 the General Affairs Council took several decisions concerning consultation procedures with partner countries.

In March 1995 a new Commission Communication<sup>6</sup> presented a detailed proposal on:

- \* the main guidelines: assistance to economic transition, aiming at a better socio-economic balance, and assistance to regional integration;
- \* instruments, implementation procedures and eligibility criteria.

In June 1995, on the basis of a report, the General Affairs Council determined the position of the EU vis-à-vis the Euro-Mediterranean Conference. The report was transmitted to the Cannes Summit (June 1995) and was well-received there.

Finally, in October 1995, in its conclusions on the Barcelona Conference and the Environment, the Environment Council suggested the drawing-up of a priority action programme within 18 months and delimited the problems to be taken into account in such a programme.

## THE BARCELONA DECLARATION AND THE ACTION PROGRAMME

On 28 and 29 November 1995, 15 EU Member States and 12 partner countries from the southern and eastern shores of the Mediterranean gathered together in Barcelona. Only Libya, the ex-Yugoslavia and Albania were excluded.

The participants signed a Barcelona Declaration and a Work Programme annexed to it.

The Declaration focuses on **the three pillars of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation:**

- political and security partnership: in order to build a common area for peace and stability
- economic and financial partnership: in order to build a zone of shared prosperity through:
  - . the setting-up of a free trade area
  - . economic cooperation and dialogue (including in the environmental field)
  - . financial cooperation
- partnership in the social, cultural and human fields: with the aim of developing human resources, promoting mutual understanding between cultures and exchanges from one civil society to another.

The Declaration lastly gives some details about the **institutional follow-up** to the Conference and sets up a flexible structure in the form of:

- regular meetings of Foreign Affairs ministers, who will have to follow up and assess the application of the Declaration and determine actions to be undertaken to implement the Partnership;
- "ad hoc thematic meetings between ministers, senior officials and experts, exchanges of experience and information, contacts among the actors of civil society and through any other appropriate means";

- contacts between members of national Parliaments, local authorities and social partners;
- regular meetings of a "Euro-Mediterranean Committee of the Barcelona Process" at senior level, composed by the Troika of the EU and one representative from each partner country. The Committee will meet regularly to prepare the meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers, assess the situation, evaluate the process and update the work programme. The follow-up work of the Committee will be carried out by Commission services.

The Work Programme defines the priority areas for intervention, giving examples of specific actions as regards each "pillar" of the Partnership and the institutional aspects.

## POST-BARCELONA DEVELOPMENTS

### FINANCIAL FOLLOW-UP

In its October 94 Communication, the Commission proposed to allocate 6.3 billion ECU to the Mediterranean area over the 1995-1999 period. This amount was deemed too high and in its next Communication (March 95) the Commission cut its proposal to 5.5 billion ECU. The Cannes European Summit decided to allocate a total of 4.685 billion ECU out of budget funds for financial assistance, stating that this amount should be made up with EIB loans and increased bilateral contributions from EU Member States. Finally, the MEDA Regulation as adopted in July 1996 provides for a lower amount: "only" 3,425.5 million ECU for the 1996-1999 period, less than promised in Barcelona, less than the amount received by Eastern European countries.

From 1997 onwards, most cooperation actions will be grouped under a single budgetary item, the B7-410 line, also called MEDA budget, which replaces the bilateral financial protocols that expired in 1996. As from 1997, there will be only one budgetary item for all the actions carried out in the Mediterranean area.

As agreed in Cannes, the EIB should normally contribute to the budget by raising the amount of its loans.

### INSTITUTIONAL FOLLOW-UP AND INFORMATION

The Follow-up Committee of the Barcelona Process met for the first time in Brussels on 15 and 16 April 1996. So far, there has been a total of six committee meetings. The second Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Foreign Affairs Ministers was held in Malta on 15 and 16 April 1997. In Malta the participants reasserted their interest in the continuation of the Euro-Mediterranean dialogue. For lack of a consensus, the adoption of a common statement has been the subject of further meetings.

So far, the dissemination of information has been the most neglected area. 1997 will see the introduction of a specific electronic information system operated on Internet, the circulation of a monthly newsletter, and the publication of four booklets on paper and electronic media.

### BILATERAL AGREEMENTS: TOWARDS A MEDITERRANEAN FREE TRADE AREA

In October 1994 the Commission proposed to start with the signing of free trade agreements with individual countries, with a view to creating a free trade area in the longer term. Since then, the negotiation of bilateral agreements has speeded up. Three Euro-Mediterranean cooperation agreements have now been signed with Tunisia, Morocco and Israel as well as one interim agreement with the Palestinian Authority. Negotiations on new agreements with Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon are in the final stage. A negotiating brief concerning Algeria has been adopted and exploratory talks with Syria are underway. Three other partners already have a special relationship with the EU: Cyprus, Malta and Turkey. Further to the entry into force of the customs union on 31 December 1995, Turkey has set up an external trade policy which can be compared, basically, with that of the Community.

According to the Commission, association agreements have two major interrelated objectives: to set up a Mediterranean Free Trade Area in a global way, and to fully take into account the specificities of each partner.

All the bilateral agreements signed up to now have been structured in a similar way. Like the Barcelona Declaration, they consist of :

- 1° a political and security facet
- 2° an economic and financial facet
- 3° a social and human facet.

The second facet always requires long negotiations, especially as regards the trade of agricultural products for which it is necessary to establish detailed agreements specifying exact amounts and time targets, as free trade is not planned in the short run. The agricultural sector is probably the most tricky to deal with because of long delays in the preparation and conclusion of agreements, for instance with Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt.

## **FOLLOW-UP IN THE THREE AREAS OF COOPERATION**

### **A. POLITICAL AND SECURITY ASPECTS**

It is in this area that the Partnership has most considerably moved forward, through:

- the drawing-up of a list of " confidence-promoting measures ", a large number of which are already operational or have been the subject of an agreement, notably: the setting-up of a network of foreign policy institutes (EuroMesCo) and the creation of a cooperation scheme in case of natural or human disasters;
- the elaboration of an Action Plan, to be regularly updated, on the strengthening of democracy, preventive diplomacy, measures to promote confidence and security, disarmament, terrorism and organized crime;
- the initial work on the establishment of a Euro-Mediterranean Charter for peace and stability;

### **B. ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ASPECTS**

Several ministerial and experts' meetings on these issues were held between November 1995 and April 1996. In order to target priorities better, the number of meetings has been limited since then to seven per semester. In 1996 several ministerial meetings were organized, generally preceded by an experts' meeting, and led to the conclusion of agreements on common principles related to sectoral policy in the fields of industry and SMEs, energy, water management, information, tourism, fisheries and maritime transport.

Meetings were also held with representatives from the private sector: industrial federations, banks, chambers of commerce, economic institutes, trade fairs, with a view to improving mutual knowledge/ understanding and facilitating know-how.

### **C. SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND HUMAN ASPECTS**

Joint actions were carried out on:

- our cultural heritage: a meeting of Euro-Mediterranean Ministers responsible for the protection of the cultural heritage took place in Bologna on 22-23 April. In their final Declaration the Ministers identified several joint priority actions, emphasizing in particular the need to promote quality cultural tourism and restoration as well as raising the awareness of the general public and decision-makers;
- information and education, which were the focus of a ministerial meeting held in Rome in May 96;
- issues related to drugs and organized crime, which were discussed at a senior officials' meeting, and problems connected with young people;
- dialogue between civilizations and religions,
- justice and internal affairs.

Two meetings of the economic and social committees also took place in Madrid (December 1995) and Paris (November 1996) within this framework.

## GUIDELINES FOR THE FUTURE

In preparation for the second Euro-Mediterranean Conference in Malta, the Commission drafted a Communication to the Council and the EP<sup>8</sup> defining the three general objectives of the meeting:

- 1 To enhance the results already achieved within the framework of the Partnership and ratify them, identifying the "areas where delays, or even failures, have been recorded".
- 2° To confirm the guidelines and objectives adopted in November 1995, possibly modifying them on some points and moving forward on others. In this respect, the Commission proposed to develop activities in support of free trade, which had been carried out so far within a bilateral framework, moving towards a coherent organization of regional cooperation.
- 3° To adopt complementary measures until the next ministerial conference, identifying the areas in which further progress is feasible.

In the same Communication, the Commission proposed guidelines for following-up dialogue in the three priority areas, notably:

- in the political and security area:
  - to be committed to progressively elaborating further the Euro-Mediterranean Charter for peace and stability,
  - to encourage partner countries to sign and implement all the international instruments related to the human rights,
  - to start conducting joint reflections about the risks of proliferation of mass destruction armament,
  - to join the various international conventions on the fight against terrorism.
- in the economic and financial area:
  - to emphasize regional actions, ensuring a balanced progress of the Partnership, including by measuring its economic and social effects,
  - to give a strong impetus to the establishment of free trade,
  - to organize cooperation in the areas where it was successfully initiated: industrial policy and SMEs, energy, environment and water policies, information society and maritime transport,
  - to prepare partner countries in view of the current developments within the EU (enlargement to the East, introduction of the Euro ...),
  - to systematically promote private European investments in the area.
- in the social, cultural and human area:
  - to intensify the dialogue between civilizations as well as on human rights, organized crime, drugs and migrations,
  - to continue and step up the activities related to cultural heritage, education and training,
  - to foster the dialogue from one civil society to another: the regular holding of a Euro-Mediterranean Civil Forum could be supported by the EU.

## THE EUMP AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The Community policy has dealt with the Mediterranean environment, either through regional and bilateral agreements within the framework of the Renewed Mediterranean Policy (RMP), or through specific instruments for the environment such as MEDSPA, now replaced by LIFE, or through regional initiatives such as the Nicosia Charter.

In a way, the Nicosia Charter is the predecessor of the EUMP in the field of the environment. In 1990 in Nicosia, the EU had committed itself to providing financial support to third countries' efforts towards a better environment and sustainable development. Two years later, in 1992, the EU reasserted its commitment at the Cairo ministerial conference and a short, medium and long term priority action programme was adopted. Such commitments have not been followed through and the programme failed.

In the Barcelona process, "environment" has been understood in a broader sense as a priority aspect of an integrated economic and social development (Com, October 1994). In Cannes (June 95) it was recommended that "they (the partners) would recognize the importance of reconciling economic development with environmental protection, and of integrating environmental concerns into all aspects of economic policy (industry, research, energy, transport, agriculture, fisheries, tourism and regional planning) in order to foster the sustainable development of the region".

How will the environmental aspects of the process be implemented? The March 95 Communication put forward several specific means, which were later endorsed by the Cannes Summit:

- adopting a priority action programme for the short and medium terms;
- setting up a monitoring scheme for the implementation of such a programme;
- adopting and implementing environmental legislative measures;
- identifying and supporting activities in the field: training, education, networking and compilation of environmental data.

Several of these proposals were confirmed in Barcelona: in their Declaration, the Parties stressed their interdependence in this field, which requires a regional handling of problems, and committed themselves to drafting a priority action programme for the short and medium term. The action programme annexed to the Barcelona Declaration already points to several issues, such as:

- integrated management of water, land and coastal areas,
- waste management;
- prevention of air and sea pollution in the Mediterranean,
- conservation and management of the natural and historical heritage,
- protection and restoration of the Mediterranean forest through preventive measures and the fight against erosion, desertification, land degradation and forest fires,
- integration of the environment into other policies.

No doubt that in order to be operational, priorities should be kept to a small number! Under the coordination of the European Commission, the priority action programme is now being worked out and will be adopted at the Helsinki Ministerial Conference scheduled for November 1997.

On the bilateral level (90% of total MEDA funding), it can be foreseen that part of the funds will be earmarked for the environment. In the first-year programmes, the environment is already included in the planned measures for most partner countries (Morocco, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey).

As far as regional cooperation is concerned (10% of the total), apart from interest-rate subsidies provided for under the MEDA Regulation regarding loans granted by the EIB for environmental projects, it is difficult to know at present what will be the share for the environment. It is hoped that the ministerial conference in Helsinki will also define instruments and procedures in this respect..





---

## PART III: OPINIONS AND PROPOSALS

---

*What is the future of the EUMP? What impact will it have? What conditions should it fulfil in order to be "sustainable"? Since the preparation of the Barcelona conference, there has been quite a number of opinions and positions on this issue, whether in the European Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee or Euro-Mediterranean NGOs and networks.*

## OPINIONS

### THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, EP

**A**t its October 95 session, the European Parliament adopted a resolution<sup>9</sup> in which it stated that it was "convinced that the Barcelona Conference could open a new era in the relations between the EU and the Mediterranean countries, and lay the foundations for a sustained mutual understanding, cooperation and confidence in the area, so as to reduce the disparities between the two shores ... and migration, and to promote social and cultural development and the improvement of the environment, and support regional integration". The Parliament invited the Commission to "make the required studies to find out the implications of the new institutional framework for the Mediterranean areas of the EU" and to indicate the necessary adjustments to be made. As regards the setting-up of a free trade area more specifically, the EP, while considering this as a "valuable objective", warned against the possible increase in unemployment following privatization and asked for compensatory measures in parallel to the restructuring of the economy. The EP expressed its concern about the threats on the environment, underlining "that such emergency needs be faced imperatively". It asked for "a large and good representation of NGOs from the EU and the non-member Mediterranean countries, NMCs during the conference and in its follow-up". On institutional issues, the EP suggested<sup>10</sup> that the new organization resulting from the Conference should "have an appropriate institutional support: a parliamentary assembly composed of members of the European Parliament and elected MPs representing participating countries, the Council of Ministers, ...".

In September 1996, in a draft report and resolution on the pursuit of the EU Mediterranean policy after the Barcelona Conference<sup>11</sup>, the EP "reaffirmed its determination to promote parliamentary cooperation in the Mediterranean in the framework of a parliamentary forum". Apart from institutional issues, the EP expressed its opinion on key aspects of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, including on the participation of civil society in the Barcelona process, the debt burden, energy, water and immigration.

### THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE, ECOSOC

In March 1995, the ECOSOC adopted an opinion on inter-regional cooperation in the Mediterranean<sup>12</sup> emphasizing four sectors that required a thorough revision of European policies and new development policies: problems related to agriculture in dry and arid zones, halting environmental degradation, tourism, training of human resources.

The report proposed, as a prerequisite for a new organization of the Mediterranean area, to change the European development model. This would imply a thorough revision of the European policies affecting country planning in Mediterranean countries:

- problems related to agriculture in dry and arid zones, taking the fight against desertification into account;
- environmental degradation;
- tourism;
- training of human resources.

In September 1995, in an opinion on the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, the ECOSOC, while being favourable to the general approach of the partnership project, made some very relevant criticism and asked for the huge external debt of some Mediterranean countries to be taken into consideration and for aid to be more flexible.

In October 1995, a hearing on the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership in the field of energy:

- highlighted the close links between energy and the environment. The experts specifically put forward the need to fight against air and water pollution as well as deforestation;

- emphasized the relationship between energy and water scarcity. Energy prices are too high and many Mediterranean countries, like Malta, spend a high percentage of their GNP on water desalination.

The Economic and Social Committees of Euro-Mediterranean countries also met in Madrid (December 1995) and in Paris (November 1996). In the latter meeting, they defined the EUMP as *"a project that we must successfully achieve together"* and as *"one of the EU policies the European citizens should identify with"*. On that occasion, they exchanged and analyzed the proposals made during preparatory work on several issues: energy (including water), debt and migration.

## NGOs

Just as those in charge at the European Commission and in Mediterranean states, NGOs have been actively involved in the preparation of the Barcelona Conference. Some networks organized meetings and public debates (Forum Civil Euro-med, Forum alternatif, Legambiente). Others preferred to draft background documents or memoranda containing specific proposals for sustainable regional cooperation (Caritas-Europe, Coordinadora Española, Liaison Committee of Development NGOs to the EC, European Environmental Bureau).

In 1995, on the occasion of the Barcelona Euro-Mediterranean conference, the EEB decided to prepare a memorandum to be addressed by Euro-Mediterranean NGOs to the officials in charge in EU Member States, in the southern and eastern Mediterranean states and the European Commission. This memorandum was finalized, signed and circulated by a group of 43 signatory NGOs from 13 countries.

The memorandum contained:

- general considerations on the social and environmental impact of a Mediterranean free trade area, and on the (so far missed) opportunity to bring together the efforts towards sustainable development in the Mediterranean Basin,
- a reminder of the commitments signed by Heads of state and governments in Rio and Copenhagen,
- a reminder of past failures (including the Nicosia Charter in 1990 and the Mid-term action programme signed in Cairo in 1992),
- specific proposals regarding the establishment of new institutions for water, energy, the setting-up of an Economic and Social Security Council or the creation of a budget line for NGOs.

These NGO proposals are still relevant today and some of them have been seriously taken into consideration, for instance the idea of creating a Mediterranean Water and Energy Community.

In 1996 the EEB carried out an enquiry among Euro-Mediterranean NGOs in collaboration with RAED, the Arab NGO Network for the Environment and Development, and MIO, the Mediterranean Information Office, via their joint newsletter. Results highlighted in particular the NGOs' concern about the Mediterranean Free Trade Area, which was regarded as a potential risk for sustainable development. NGOs worried about the pollution caused by the development of production activities and transport, although they considered the Free Trade Area as *"a necessary step"* for the development of partner countries, and even as a *"necessary evil"*, given the lack of alternative in the face of the globalization of the economy.

With evidence to back them up, they provided examples of environmental impact caused by economic development in their country, which may become worse or happen elsewhere. For instance:

- in Tunisia: the chemical industrial plants in the south and the discharge of phosphogypsum into the sea, which have considerably polluted the coast,
- in Algeria: the case of cement works, asbestos works and fertilizer plants,
- in Israel: air pollution in the Haifa Bay, marine pollution in the Abukir Bay as well as pollution in the Jordan river as a result of agricultural and industrial activities,
- in Greece: excessive use of pesticides and fertilizers in agriculture, non-recycling of waste waters and non-treatment of waste, including hazardous waste.

# PROPOSALS

---

**T**he proposals set out hereafter are drawn from documents, conclusions of meetings and enquiry findings mentioned earlier on. We selected more particularly the proposals related to the environment and participation. This list of proposals is a kind of "menu" for sustainable development in the Mediterranean area which may prove to be useful for decision-makers.

## 1. BACKGROUND: THE SPATIAL DIMENSION OF THE EUMP

- When speaking of the "Euro-Mediterranean" area, one should go beyond the traditional limits of the Mediterranean Basin, *stricto sensu*, and refer to the whole new set of 27 signatories to the Barcelona Declaration: EU Member States and partner countries.
- Concerning the Mediterranean Basin as such, ALL states without exception should be involved. This means that the EUMP should be opened to Albania, Libya and the Ex-Yugoslavia countries.
- It seems necessary to promote a new spatial organisation of the Mediterranean area. This can be achieved through:
  1. the reinforcement of polycentric development in which the Mediterranean would play the role of a readjustment and regional cooperation zone;
  2. the thorough revision of European policies in the fields which most particularly affect planning in the Euro-Mediterranean area, such as:
    - agriculture in dry and arid zones, taking the fight against desertification into account,
    - environmental degradation,
    - tourism,
    - training of human resources;
  3. a different structuring of the policies for transport and development, starting with those in southern Europe but also with the development of new functional relations between the northern and southern shores and in the east-west direction;
  4. the unblocking of urban areas, notably by reinforcing the role of intermediary cities;
  5. the integrated management of coastal areas: this should be a priority for Euro-Mediterranean cooperation and for the programmes developed by multilateral organisations. In this context, what is needed is:
    - specific legislation for the protection of coastal areas;
    - the identification/designation of natural reserves along the coasts, as a testimony for present and future generations;
    - the identification of critical zones requiring strict management;
    - coordination between planning and management of these critical zones and the surrounding zones of influence;
    - coordination of coastal area management with urban planning and the establishment of regional development plans;
    - incorporation of landscape protection into rural management policies;
    - designation of coastal areas as areas free of important industrial or energy plants, in particular nuclear plants which entail serious environmental risks.

## 2. PRIORITY AREAS FOR THE EUMP

### 2.1. POLICY AND SECURITY

- To initiate a concrete and substantial dialogue
- To hold regular institutional consultations
- To draft a Euro-Mediterranean charter in this field.

## 2.2. COOPERATION

### **Economic aspects:**

- To increase development aid and facilitate access for civil society on both sides of the Mediterranean;
- To promote policies enabling partner countries to develop, so as to enhance a practical complementarity between the two shores through economic and commercial exchanges, exchanges of know-how, consumption patterns and high-level competitive labour force.
- To prevent the environmental impact linked to the development of production activities, infrastructures and consumption patterns.
- In the field of agriculture:
  - to give priority to the initiatives aiming at food self-sufficiency in partner countries,
  - to use varieties better adapted to drought and promote crops requiring less water,
  - to use traditional systems,
  - to collect rain water and use waste water to irrigate existing cultivated areas,
  - to reconcile and harmonize the common agricultural policy (CAP) with Mediterranean agriculture.
- In the tourism area, to promote initiatives that are compatible with the environment and the social and cultural background.
- In the fisheries area, to promote a better management of fish resources.

### **Environmental aspects:**

#### **Fight against desertification**

- To favour a better interweaving of activities carried out at national and regional levels as well as of the programmes designed within the framework of Annex IV (Mediterranean) and Annex I (Africa) of the Convention to Combat Desertification, CCD.
- To promote a national, regional and sub-regional approach in this field, adapted to the scale of problems. To establish a dialogue and coordination mechanisms to identify and implement regional initiatives.
- To harmonize national approaches while taking into account national experiences and the results of regional experiences.
- In the Maghreb region, to set up:
  - a research and training centre on the fight against desertification and the development of arid zones,
  - a flexible structure for coordinating, planning and following up regional activities aimed at holding desertification in check. This structure would be placed under the auspices of the UMA,
  - a database on desertification in the Maghreb region,
  - a regional project promoting a participatory approach and an increased participation of the population in the actions to fight against desertification, for example through training,
  - a pilot project to control desertification in the arid Maghrebi ecosystems, emphasizing the diversity of social and ecological conditions. It would be a transfrontier project which would encourage and strengthen sub-regional cooperation. Two integrated projects have already been identified by the UMA, one in El Ouaïra (Tunisia and Libya), one in the region of Oujda (Algeria, Morocco),
  - a Euro-Mediterranean Liaison Centre on Desertification, CLEMD, based in Tunis and managed by NGOs.

#### **Water management**

- To give priority to water saving and the search for alternatives.
- To approach the water management issue from the point of view of demand and no longer from that of offer.
- To adjust the price of water, to integrate environmental costs, to index water rates according to the value of crops, in particular "strategic" crops (cash crops). Water rates should also vary according to the season and a progressive scale of prices should be applied in arid zones, reflecting the scarcity of water and the increase in marginal costs.
- To prevent conflicts on water and guarantee its use for environmental protection as an urgent priority.
- To ensure integrated water management which can meet all needs in a balanced way and also inter-regional water management in order to coordinate work and develop water reservoirs while ensuring their durability and quality.

- To raise the technological level by developing new technologies or by adapting existing technology to the physical conditions and traditional practices of each country.

#### Energy

- To improve energy efficiency and develop clean energy sources, moving from hydrocarbons to gas, L.P.G., particularly propane, and encouraging renewables.
- To ensure cooperation between Mediterranean countries in the following fields:
  - in rural areas, reforestation and a careful use of wood resources which would stabilize soils and hold desertification in check;
  - development of new ways of using biomass energy, particularly in Turkey and Morocco;
  - construction of housing according to the principles of solar passive architecture, particularly bioclimatic architecture, an example of which can be found in Ghadaïö, Algeria. This would give rise to considerable energy savings in heating and air-conditioning;
  - development and transfer of solar thermal technologies for water heating, drying of agricultural products, energy production and desalination. Israel is at an advanced stage of research in this area;
  - use of photovoltaic solar energy for the electrification of villages and isolated housing and, on a larger scale, for connections to national networks;
  - development of other forms of energy, such as hydraulic energy in Turkey and Morocco, wind power in Morocco and Malta and geothermic energy in the eastern Mediterranean region;
  - in the long term, photovoltaic energy production from hydrogen which, when production costs become competitive, will be easier to transport/export;
  - promotion of techniques for rational use of energy in industry and transport;
  - setting-up of specialized organisations responsible for energy policies and planning as well as the training of personnel in areas related to energy;
  - promotion of joint research projects, for example in the fields of photovoltaic and thermosolar energy;
  - adaptation and flexibility of international aid and financing.

#### Pollution of the Mediterranean sea

- To put an end to the export of toxic and hazardous waste from EU Member States to partner states.
- To implement ecological treatment of waste (as far as possible), notably in partner countries.
- To treat waste water in the Mediterranean urban areas.
- To eliminate land-based persistent and biocumulative toxic substances which pollute the sea.
- To prevent north-south pollution transfers caused by industrial relocation (of polluting industries).
- To reinforce the actions aimed at monitoring water quality carried out by NGOs like "Goleta Verde" (Legambiente, Italy).

#### Biodiversity

- Urgent identification by the States of the areas listed under MAP II as Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Interest,...

### 2.3. SOCIAL AND CULTURAL FIELDS

- To promote sustainable social development by developing reliable and accurate criteria to measure sustainable social development and by identifying "social indicators" which would be used by the States.

#### Information

- To inform civil society about the EUMP, to improve transparency and raise public awareness so as to foster participation in the process.

#### Participation

- To acknowledge the essential contribution that civil society can make to the development process of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.
- To recognize that participation is a key factor for achieving better understanding and bringing peoples together.

- To foster participation of civil society in the Barcelona process: to guarantee its full participation, with equal rights, within an institutional framework.
- To reinforce and/or set up the required instruments for decentralized cooperation. To strengthen contacts, notably between NGOs and local communities.
- To favour a more participatory approach in all spheres of cooperation, including the environment, and pave the way for regular exchanges with civil society in this respect.

#### **Democracy**

- To give concrete expression to the support of democratic institutions and to the reinforcement of the state of law and civil society.
- To accept the principle of equal rights between citizens of the same country (minorities, women) where this is not yet the case.

#### **Migrations**

- In the north: to overcome one's fears regarding the rapid and massive immigration of populations with very different cultural and religious traditions.
- In the south: to check rural migration, to improve the quality of life in urban and rural areas (electrification, water conveyance, etc.)
- To introduce migration policies in the countries of origin (training, social security, job creation, information) as well as in the host countries (respect for individual rights, making society aware of its responsibilities). To provide for common economic and social compensatory measures such as training activities, respect for a "social clause", correct information of immigrants, etc.
- To draft a "common Euro-Mediterranean charter of the immigrants' rights and duties".
- To create a budget line to fund actions on migrations and to set up a Euro-Mediterranean observatory of migratory flows with representatives from NGOs.

#### **Religions**

- To encourage inter-cultural dialogue and foster contacts between representatives of various religions.

### **3. INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS**

- To set up a permanent political and administrative structure within the framework of the EUMP.
- To foster the Euro-Mediterranean parliamentary dialogue by creating a parliamentary union in the Mediterranean Basin.
- To set up a "Euro-Mediterranean Water Agency" or a "Euro-Mediterranean water and energy Community".
- To establish regular contacts between decision-makers (Euro-Mediterranean ministers meeting per subject area) and representatives from civil society.

#### **The environment**

- To reinforce MAP II by increasing the EU's financial support.
- To reinforce the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development to turn it into the environmental forum. To give it decision power, and, in the longer term, take it out of the UNEP/MAP framework.

### **4. FINANCIAL ASPECTS**

- To restructure budgets in a transparent way in accordance with the scarcity and reduction in available funds, taking as a model existing participatory mechanisms such as those in the GEF.
- To implement the 20/20 proposal adopted in Copenhagen.

#### **European funding**

- To review the geographical scope of existing financial instruments, taking the "Euro-Mediterranean" area into account.
- To introduce more flexibility in the use of funds, for instance by concluding development agreements between the European Commission, governments of Mediterranean countries, and economic and social sectors (ECOSOC).



**Structural funds:**

- To extend the INTERREG programme to all the partner countries and to all types of transnational cooperation and to increase its budget accordingly.

**MEDA**

- To follow up funding under MEDA transparently, at regular intervals, and to allocate funds by following a more decentralized approach.
- To set up an "environment" facility under the "Regional cooperation" section, with possibility of access for NGOs.

**Decentralized cooperation**

- To set up the Med-NGOs line

**Debt**

- To cut (or write off) the debt burden, notably the public debt of partner countries vis-à-vis EU Member States.
- In this respect: to experiment in the Mediterranean area about debt swaps by setting up a Euro-Mediterranean development fund with the main creditors (the EU, France, Germany, Spain, etc.)
- To implement alternatives like "debt-nature swaps" for the benefit of actions carried out by NGOs, as a means of raising additional resources.

**Financial institutions**

- To set up a Regional Bank.
- To set up a Special Fund for the protection and sustainable development of coastal areas.

**Alternative funding sources**

- To encourage local savings, which are still too limited in partner countries.
- To adopt common economic and fiscal measures in the countries bordering on the Mediterranean.

---

**PART IV:  
INSTRUMENTS,  
CONTACTS**

---

# I. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

**D** Details are given below about some of the financial instruments for the environment and sustainable development whose funds come in whole (for most of them) or in part (METAP) from the European Community. Bilateral aid has not been taken into consideration and neither have the specificities of the countries of the Mediterranean Basin belonging to the group of Eastern countries (Albania) which benefit from other instruments such as PHARE.

Three criteria are taken into account in the table below: geographical scope, sector of intervention, and access to funding by NGOs. The following conclusions can thus be drawn:

- 1) The "unity" recognized to the Mediterranean in writings and speeches is not translated into a "unity" in funding and financial instruments. Most of the time, the latter are intended for EU Member States in the North, or for partner countries in the south and east of the Mediterranean; instruments and criteria (for example in the case of LIFE) are different. Only METAP and the Med programmes have made it possible until now to actually cooperate on a Mediterranean scale.
- 2) Judging from the number and variety of instruments targeting the environment, this issue seems to remain a priority area for intervention, whether specifically (LIFE, METAP, Ecology in Developing countries, research programmes) or in connection with other sectors, as is the case for the cohesion funds which concern the environment and transport. Regarding recently adopted instruments, like MEDA, although we know the environment is among the criteria listed in the Regulation<sup>13</sup>, the share that will be devoted to this sector and the procedures for granting the funds are far from clearly defined to date.
- 3) NGO access to Community instruments remains limited. Only 5 instruments (decentralized cooperation, Ecology in developing countries, Rehabilitation programme, co-financing of development NGOs and MEDA-Democracy) allow NGOs to have direct access to the funds. It should be noted that most of these instruments have the same regional scope: southern and eastern countries. Concerning European countries, direct funding is less frequent: within the framework of LIFE as well as of cohesion funds, it is required to go through national governments. The most significant omission is the lack of "MED" instruments directly accessible to NGOs in the Mediterranean context: a Med-Associations line is missing.

## Financial instruments for sustainable development<sup>14</sup> in the Mediterranean

	1. Member States	2. Med. Basin	3. Partner countries
Environment:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LIFE</li> <li>• LIFE Envt</li> <li>• LIFE Nature</li> <li>• research programmes (DG XII)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• METAP (?)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LIFE Third Countries</li> <li>• Ecology in developing countries</li> </ul>
Miscellaneous (including the environment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• structural funds</li> <li>• cohesion funds</li> <li>• <u>co-financing of NGOs (DG VIII)</u></li> <li>• <u>(awareness raising actions)</u></li> <li>• EIB loans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>decentralized cooperation:</u></li> <li>• <i>Med-Urbs</i></li> <li>• <i>Med-Media</i></li> <li>• <i>Med Techno</i></li> <li>• <i>Med Campus</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>rehabilitation programme</u></li> <li>• <u>co-financing of NGOs (DG VIII)</u></li> <li>• <u>(actions in the field)</u></li> <li>• MEDA line(?)</li> <li>• EIB loans</li> <li>• <u>MEDA-Democracy</u></li> </ul>
<b>not the environment but other aspects of the EUMP</b>			

Key: NGO access - Underlined: direct access - Italics: indirect access - Normal: in principle, no access at all. (?) not frequent, or to be determined

Only the instruments that can be directly or indirectly accessed by NGOs are detailed below:

# 1. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS APPLIED IN EU MEMBER STATES

## 1.1. LIFE

### DESCRIPTION

The aim of LIFE is "to contribute to the development, and if the case arises, the implementation of the Community environmental policy and legislation".

A first phase of LIFE covered the 1992-1995 period<sup>15</sup>. In 1995 an assessment made by the European Commission led to a proposal to modify the initial regulation. The revised regulation (EC n° 1404, OJ L 181/1 of 20.07.96) adopted in 1996 contains some adjustments in view of pursuing the action between 1 January 96 and 31 December 1999.

From this second phase onwards, the LIFE programme has been subdivided into three parts according to fields of action:

- LIFE-Environment (applicable in the Union territory)
- LIFE-Nature (also applicable in the Union territory)
- LIFE-Third countries (concerns Eastern European and Mediterranean countries).

### BUDGET

For the 4-year LIFE II period, the budget totals 450 million ECU, to be shared out among the three fields of action.

### NGO ACCESS

Any natural or legal person established in the EU, giving every indication of financial and technical reliability, can file a proposal for LIFE support. This means that, in principle, NGOs can benefit from LIFE funding, but their proposals need to be accompanied by a document testifying that public authorities in the Member State concerned take an interest in the proposed action. It is established that the person or the institution proposing the project should be able to implement it and disseminate the results.

In practice, however, there are "target groups" or priority groups, according to the priority or field of action concerned by the project (industrial activities, local communities, information, etc.).

## 1.2. LIFE-ENVIRONMENT

### DESCRIPTION

Eligible actions for the 1996-1999 period are the following:

- innovatory or pilot actions to promote sustainable development in industrial activities,
- pilot and promotional actions as well as technical assistance to local communities to foster integration of the environment into land planning and promote sustainable development,
- preparatory actions for the implementation of the Community environmental policy and legislation, including:
  - protection and rational management of coasts and rivers flowing into the sea in these areas and, as the case may be, of their wetlands, and sustainable management of these lands and rivers,
  - waste control, particularly toxic and hazardous waste,
  - protection of water resources, including treatment of waste or contaminated water,
  - air pollution, acidification, tropospheric ozone

### BUDGET

46% of the total LIFE budget, i.e. 207 MECU, are earmarked for actions within the framework of LIFE-Environment.

## NGO ACCESS

LIFE-Environment is mostly aimed at the industrial sector and local communities. It can be regarded as an incentive for the industrial sector to take environmental aspects into account.

## 1.3. LIFE-NATURE

### DESCRIPTION

The aim of LIFE-Nature is nature conservation in the widest sense by supporting actions "required to preserve and restore natural habitats and populations of animal and plant species in a favourable state of conservation".

More specifically, LIFE-Nature aims at contributing to the implementation of the "Birds" (79/409/EEC) and "Habitats" (92/43/EEC) directives and notably to the establishment of the Natura 2000 network whose purpose is to manage and preserve the most remarkable species and habitats in the European Union.

In principle, all the actions proposed under LIFE-Nature must be carried out within the EU. However, there is an exceptional possibility of including actions in third countries if:

- the project concerns a habitat or a species of Community interest,
- the amount of the actions outside the EU does not exceed 10% of the planned budget,
- the applicant provides evidence that he/she has sought funding from other Community funds.

### BUDGET AND CO-FINANCING REQUIREMENTS

The LIFE-Nature indicative budget for the 1996-1999 period amounts to 207 MECU. Maximum financial support should not exceed 50% of eligible expenses, exceptionally 75% in the case of actions related to priority habitats or species.

### NGO ACCESS

Any natural or legal person established in the EU is entitled to file a project within the framework of LIFE-Nature. Projects can provide for collaboration between actors, including NGOs. As is the case with other LIFE budget lines, a document testifying that relevant public authorities support the project must also accompany the funding application.

## 1.4. COFINANCING OF NGOs (SEE 3.4)

# 2. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS APPLIED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE MEDITERRANEAN BASIN

## 2.1. METAP

### DESCRIPTION

The METAP Programme (Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Programme) is the major component of the Environmental Programme for the Mediterranean, EPM, launched by the EIB and the World Bank in 1988 to reverse current trends towards environmental degradation in the region. The aim of the METAP Programme is to identify actions, through feasibility studies, which could be supported by investments from the World Bank, the EIB, the UE, national governments, etc. The final objective is to curb environmental degradation in the Mediterranean area.

During the 1st phase of METAP (1990-1993), activities were supported by the EIB (21%) and the World Bank (15%) as well as by the EC (35.2%, through MEDSPA-LIFE resources) and UNDP (26.8%). In this way, METAP constitutes a potential instrument for coordination between multilateral donors and their respective environment and development programmes and activities in the Mediterranean region.

METAP II (1993-1995) was officially launched at an interministerial conference on the environment in Casablanca in May 1993. METAP II activities were geared towards project preparation on issues such as urban growth and related environmental problems, marine and coastal pollution control, or biodiversity conservation.

METAP entered a new phase in 1996. The joint definition of indicators for sustainable development in the Mediterranean area will be one of the priorities of METAP III, which plans to assist Mediterranean countries in the implementation of a reliable framework of specific indicators and related reference points that can be used to monitor and assess the impact of policies, programmes and projects, including METAP activities, the priorities of which are capacity building and integrated water management as well as holding pollution in check and preventing it at "critical spots".

## **BUDGET AND FUNDING PROCEDURES**

METAP III plans to continue its work upstream by providing funds and technical support to medium-term activities leading to the setting-up of policies and a series of investments to restore the environment. Until now, METAP has already granted some 25 MECU in support of 121 technical assistance activities. These activities have helped in turn to identify and set up investments for the environment amounting to more than 1.5 billion ECU. Under METAP III, cost estimates for identified activities amount to some 91 MECU, which constitutes a significant increase.

### **NGO ACCESS**

Few NGOs have so far benefitted from METAP support.

## **2.2. DECENTRALIZED COOPERATION**

### **DESCRIPTION**

The notion of decentralized cooperation appeared for the first time in the Lomé IV Convention (articles 20 to 22), not as a new instrument but as "a different approach complementing traditional ways of designing and implementing cooperation"<sup>16</sup>. It seems to be more efficient than State action, less formal at an institutional level, less bureaucratic in daily management and less costly. To put it in a nutshell, more flexible and better adapted to development requirements. In the longer term, decentralized cooperation should be part of sectorial policies and not considered separately.

There are three types of decentralized cooperation:

1. decentralized cooperation of an "integrating" nature, that is horizontal cooperation between sectors of civil society in EU Member States and third countries. This is the case for decentralized cooperation in the Mediterranean area, specifically for the MED programmes.
2. decentralized cooperation of a "participatory" nature, which should have greater influence on the practices of traditional cooperation, for instance under Lomé.
3. decentralized cooperation of a "substitutive" nature, replacing official cooperation where this has been suspended.

In spite of this variety, a budget line for "decentralized cooperation" (B7-5077) was created in 1992, targeting all developing countries without distinction. The aim of this budget line is to provide support for "upstream" actions to reinforce and mobilize decentralized actors as well as to set up and support North-South and South-South networks and preparatory actions for decentralized cooperation programmes within the framework of other programmes (EDF, ALA, etc.)

### **BUDGET**

So far, the "decentralized cooperation" line (B7-5077) has been provided with a very small budget, completely out of proportion with the needs and objectives of decentralized cooperation. Over the 1992-94 period 7.845 MECU were committed, and in 1994 this budget line amounted to 5 MECU. The amounts slightly varied over the years that followed: 5 MECU in 1995, 6 MECU in 1996 and an estimated 5 MECU for 1997.

The regional distribution of funds is very irregular, the Mediterranean being the area benefitting less from Community funds.

## NGO ACCESS

The introduction of decentralized cooperation into the EU 's cooperation policy shows a willingness to be open and to cooperate with all development stakeholders, building on everyone's skills. The entities potentially targeted by decentralized cooperation are: NGOs, decentralized public authorities, groups (urban, professional,...), cooperatives, companies and economic circles, trade unions, and as a whole, "the living strength of civil society, both in Europe and in the South, which are in a position to contribute to the social and economic development of developing countries"<sup>17</sup>.

## 2.3. THE MED PROGRAMMES

*"Decentralized cooperation initiatives for the development of the Mediterranean region have emerged essentially, and among others, as a result of an observation: traditional cooperation, particularly through official development aid, reflects inequalities between donor countries and beneficiaries, without taking into account the variety of interests underlying the exchange patterns originating in history or imposed by geography"<sup>18</sup>.*

### DESCRIPTION

The MED programmes were launched in 1992 to encourage the setting-up of decentralized networks for exchanging knowledge and experiences between the EU and Mediterranean partners. Their aim was to mobilize certain sectors of society, including local authorities, universities, private enterprises and the media, following a "decentralized cooperation" approach.

Beyond political, economic and financial cooperation, the MED programmes are based on exchanges of experiences and know-how transfers. The distinctive feature of such a policy is to be as close as possible to the needs expressed by the various sections of civil society, gathered together in networks structured around common projects.

The six MED programmes target local authorities (Med-Urbs and Med-Migration), universities and higher education institutes (Med-Campus), small and medium-sized enterprises (Med-Invest), the media (Med-Media), and scientific research institutes (Med-Techno).

The Med programmes have given rise to the establishment of networks of individuals or organizations working together on a project. Each network must comprise participants from both the EU and partner countries. Networking allows exchanges of experiences and know-how transfers between northern and southern entities at a decentralized level. The European Commission particularly encourages entities from partner countries to submit proposals, and where possible, to take on the leadership of a project.

Because of irregularities in the management and allocation of funds, the MED programmes were suspended in January 1996. A report of the European Court of Auditors adopted at the end of May 1996 highlighted a series of dysfunctions and asked the Commission to review the design, management and implementation of the programmes. New provisions are now being examined, but will not be approved until the end of 1997.

### BUDGET AND FUNDING PROCEDURES

Between 1992 and 1994, 78.9 MECU were allocated to the MED programmes.

### NGO ACCESS

As mentioned earlier, each MED programme targets a specific sector of civil society: the media, universities, local communities, etc. In order for NGOs to have access to the programmes in another way than as sub-contractor, an analysis within the Commission services resulted in a feasibility study, carried out in 1995-96, which concerned the setting-up of a Med-Associations programme. Unfortunately, this programme which would have directly benefitted Euro-Mediterranean NGOs, in particular those organized in networks, never saw the light of day.

## **3. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS APPLIED IN THE CONTEXT OF SOUTHERN AND EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES**

### **3.1. LIFE-THIRD COUNTRIES**

#### **DESCRIPTION**

The aim of LIFE-Third countries is to implement technical assistance actions and pilot actions in Mediterranean third countries<sup>19</sup> in the following areas:

- technical assistance for the establishment of the necessary administrative structures in the field of the environment and for the development of environmental policies and action programmes;
- the conservation or restoration, from the point of view of nature protection, of important habitats hosting endangered flora and fauna;
- pilot actions to promote sustainable development.

Among the criteria applicable to actions in third countries, it should be mentioned that these actions must contribute to an approach fostering sustainable development at international, national or regional levels and bring solutions to well-spread environmental problems in the region or field concerned. It must be noted that proposals should have an immediate practical application (which leaves out studies, research projects, etc.).

#### **BUDGET AND FUNDING PROCEDURES**

The budget allocated to LIFE-Third countries for the 1996-99 period amounts to 36 MECU, which is significantly less than the other LIFE budget lines. The rate of financial support for actions related to nature protection and pilot actions for sustainable development cannot exceed 50% of eligible costs. For technical assistance actions, a maximum 100% contribution can be granted. The Commission tends to favour projects with a total cost ranging from 100,000 to 600,000 ECU.

#### **NGO ACCESS**

LIFE-Third countries basically targets administration but remains open to any person or entity established in the eligible countries. Funding applications must, in the latter case, include a statement of interest and support from the relevant public authorities. Projects can provide for the collaboration of several actors, with one of them taking on the task of coordinator. NGOs may take part in such partnership networks.

### **3.2. ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ECOLOGY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES)**

#### **DESCRIPTION<sup>20</sup>**

The budget line "Ecology in developing countries" (B7-5040) was created in 1982 on the initiative of the European Parliament to fund actions in the Mediterranean countries, as well as in Africa, Latin America or Asia, always in relation to geographical priorities. In the Mediterranean area, priority has been given to pollution control.

Three types of action can apply for support:

1. those aiming at the integration of environmental aspects into cooperation, including training actions and environmental impact assessments;
2. those with the objective of helping partners of developing countries to improve the institutional capacities required for the formulation and implementation of projects;
3. those making it possible to test and promote innovative approaches and techniques through pilot projects dealing with the urban environment, coastal or wetland ecosystems, or interaction between trade and environment.



Apart from the development of institutional capacities, participation of local people is an important focus in the implementation of projects.

## **BUDGET**

The allocated budget in 1995 amounted to 13.2 MECU. In 1996 it was 15 MECU and in 1997, 12 MECU. Half of the budget is managed by DG I (Mediterranean), the other half by DG VIII.

## **NGO ACCESS**

Beneficiaries are not only the states and regions but also decentralized services, regional organizations, public agencies, traditional or local communities, private operators and enterprises, cooperatives, non-governmental organisations or associations representing the local population.

# **3.3. REHABILITATION PROGRAMME**

## **DESCRIPTION**

Aid provided for under this budget line is intended for countries "which have suffered serious damage through war, civil disorder or natural disaster with priority given to the least developed among them". Contributions within rehabilitation are limited in time (one to two years) and their purpose is to cover the interim period between humanitarian aid and medium and long-term development cooperation. They aim at setting the economy on its feet again, reestablishing the institutional capacities required for social and political stability and enabling people to resume a normal lifestyle. They more particularly target displaced population, refugees and demobilized troops.

In the Mediterranean area, the programme has been applied in Lebanon, a country severely affected by a 16-year war.

## **BUDGET**

This budget line appeared for the first time in the 1994 budget, with an allotted amount of 65 MECU. In 1997 this amount was 57.5 MECU.

Actions can be financed up to 100% of the total cost, except for administrative expenses. It is desirable, however, that the applicant institution should partly contribute to the funding.

## **NGO ACCESS**

As a rule, the Community encourages a decentralized implementation of rehabilitation actions, involving the population and local communities.

More specifically, projects may be submitted by (European or local) NGOs, community-based organisations, associations, regional or local authorities in the countries concerned. In the case of European NGOs filing in a project, an important criterion is participation of local partners in the design and operation of the project.

# **3.4. CO-FINANCING OF NGOs**

## **DESCRIPTION**

The co-financing of NGO actions by the Commission, DG VIII, has been under review for several months. A final version will not be available until 1998. In the meantime, a co-financing budget line is open to projects by European NGOs in all developing countries recognized as such by the OECD, including South Africa (as from January 1997). The quality of the relationship between partners from European and recipient countries is a key element in the appraisal of projects. Apart from projects submitted by individual NGOs, the European Commission fosters the setting-up of European NGO consortia for the funding and implementation of common projects.

In 1997 the co-financing budget will include small budget lines set up over the past few years by the European Parliament and managed so far by the geographical or sectorial desks concerned<sup>21</sup>.

Some 90% of the funds are intended for the co-financing of actions carried out by European NGOs in developing countries. The rest is for the co-financing of awareness-raising actions in Europe, conducted by NGOs in order to "develop and strengthen solidarity between the peoples of Europe and the peoples of developing countries".

In either case, funds can only be granted to European NGOs who meet specific eligibility criteria (among these: to be a non-profit-making organization based in a Member State, with good management capacity and experience in the field as well as relations with other NGOs in Europe or in third countries, etc.)

## BUDGET

The amount allotted to this budget line steadily rose over the past few years until 1996, thanks in particular to EP support. In 1997, however, the amount has been significantly reduced from 174 MECU in 1996 to the 150 MECU provided for by the Council.

Funding requirements specify that the amount of the Community contribution cannot exceed 50% of the total cost of the project and that the applicant NGO must contribute to a minimum of 15% out of its own funds.

## NGO ACCESS

This is an NGO line par excellence. It targets European NGOs operating in the field in southern countries and conducting awareness-raising actions within the Union.

## 3.5. MEDA

### DESCRIPTION

In November 1995 the EU committed itself in Barcelona to providing considerable financial support to help the Mediterranean partner countries level up their economies. Much hope was then put into the MEDA budget line, with each actor hoping to find the solution to its own financial problems. The MEDA regulation adopted in July 1996<sup>23</sup> defines the major objective of the MEDA programme, which is: "to contribute to common interest initiatives in the three areas of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership: to strengthen political stability and democracy, to set up a Euro-Mediterranean free trade area, to develop economic and social cooperation, and to take into account the human and cultural dimension" (art. 2.1.).

MEDA is managed by the Commission, which is in charge of the "effective coordination of efforts" made by the Community and its Member States and "encourages coordination and cooperation with international financial institutions" (art. 4.1). The Commission is assisted by the "Med Committee" composed of representatives from EU Member States and chaired by the Commission's representative, with the participation of one EIB representative, without voting rights.

A decision adopted by the Foreign Affairs Council<sup>24</sup> concerning guidelines for the indicative programmes under MEDA emphasizes, among others:

- the complementarity between bilateral and regional programmes,
- the "multiannual" nature of programming, which allows for middle-term intervention,
- the need to make indicative programmes focus on a limited number of priority sectors,
- the need for regional cooperation to deal with the three domains of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership,
- the decentralized approach (no longer called "cooperation") "in order to reach target populations more effectively and to widen the participation in the MEDA programme to the different parts of the civil society that are included in the scope of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership" (art.10),
- the need to accompany economic measures with greater social cohesion through tackling inequalities in the health sector or regarding established social benefits, access to water and housing, etc.
- the development of civil society through support to communication, research, cultural activities, etc., in which "social partners and the NGOs would be encouraged to play an active role" (art. 17).

## BUDGET

The MEDA budget line was provided with 3,425.5 MECU for the 1995-1999 period.<sup>24</sup>

## NGO ACCESS

Concerning beneficiaries, the MEDA regulation clearly states:

"Beneficiaries of the support measures are not only the states and the regions, but also local authorities, regional organizations, state organizations, local or traditional communities, business support organizations, private operators, cooperative groups, mutual benefit societies, associations, foundations and non-governmental organizations" (art. 1.2).

## 3.6. MEDA-DEMOCRACY

### DESCRIPTION

This new budget line was established in 1996 on the EU's initiative, while the MED programmes were being reorganized. It finances activities in keeping with:

- international acts related to human rights;
- the Barcelona Declaration on the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership;
- the EU policy related to human rights and the actions resulting from it;

The geographical scope of MEDA-Democracy comprises southern and eastern Mediterranean partners which signed the Barcelona Declaration.

The fields and indicative means of intervention include:

- political rights (democracy, state of law),
- civil rights, freedom of meeting and association (in general, support to civil society) and freedom of religion (inter-religious dialogue),
- socio-economic rights (support to trade unions, training, right to decent working conditions),
- protection of target groups (women, children, refugees, displaced persons, victims of torture and prisoners),

### BUDGET

The MEDA-Democracy budget was 9 MECU in 1996. It amounts to 8 MECU in 1997. The financial contribution of the Commission must not exceed 80% of the total estimated cost, except in exceptional circumstances. Administrative expenses are limited to 10% of the budget.

### NGO ACCESS

Targeted operators are semi-public, public or private operators (organizations, associations). NGOs have direct access to this budget line.

## II. THE UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTIONS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA

*"The historical and cultural wealth of the Mediterranean is only equalled by its ecological vulnerability. Cooperation among the riparian countries was at its best when preservation of this space was at stake."*<sup>25</sup>

**T**he environment gave rise to the first agreements and to the setting-up of genuinely "Mediterranean" programmes: the Barcelona Convention and the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP). The implementation of the environmental aspects of the EUMP will need to be coordinated with those programmes so as to avoid duplication and wasting of - scarce enough - funds.

The MAP was established in January 1975 when UNEP, FAO and IMCO brought together 16 countries of the Mediterranean region in Barcelona for the first time. One year later, in February 1976, the Conference of plenipotentiary states bordering on the Mediterranean adopted the Barcelona Convention and its first two protocols.

The MAP is composed of 21 member states, all bordering on the Mediterranean, except Jordan. Each state or contracting party has designated a focal point in its administration to be in charge of MAP follow-up. The contracting parties meet every two years. In the meantime, an Executive Committee or Bureau is responsible for following up the implementation of the decisions adopted in plenary assembly and the work performed by Regional Activity Centres, RAC. Among the latter, the RAC/Blue Plan should be mentioned: set up in 1985, it has conducted studies on the various possible scenarios concerning the way in which the Mediterranean environment can evolve. MAP coordination is carried out by the coordination unit or Secretariat, based in Athens since 1982 and in Geneva before that (1980-82). Two support committees, the Scientific and Technical Committee and the Socio-economic Committee, help the Secretariat follow up the application of MAP programmes and protocols.

Although, in the beginning, MAP concentrated on pollution control in the Mediterranean sea and among its protected species, it has gradually integrated the concept of sustainable development, giving an increasingly greater weight to the connections between economic activities and the environment.

The MAP includes actions and programmes in the areas of management, assessment and the legal sector. The latter focuses on the framework Convention and its protocols.

## MAP II

In June 1995 in Barcelona the MAP was reviewed and updated in Barcelona in the light of the Rio agreements. So as to mark the enlargement of its scope, even the title of the Barcelona Convention was changed to "Convention on the protection of the marine environment and the coasts of the Mediterranean".

In Barcelona, the following agreements were adopted:

- **A new Action Plan for the protection of the marine environment and the sustainable development of the Mediterranean, MAP Phase II.** It is based on the 20 year-experience of MAP and is in line with the conferences of Rio (1992), Antalya (1993) and Tunis (1994). MAP Phase II consists of three sections dealing with (1) the integration of the environment and development, (2) the conservation of nature, landscapes and sites and (3) the assessment, prevention and elimination of marine pollution.
- **A programme-budget for 1996** amounting to 6,749,000 USD. This sum essentially covers the costs related to MAP traditional activities and operating expenses, while the implementation of innovatory activities in the fields of sustainable development and public information still depends on additional external funding, whether from the European Commission, the EIB or the World Bank. Among the "steady" sources of funding, one should mention contributions from the Parties, which have accepted to increase them by 9%, the counterpart contributions from Greece and UNEP, and the voluntary contribution from the EU (560,000 USD).
- **A Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, MCSD**, through the adoption of a first background document and a negotiation schedule.
- **Guidelines for MAP cooperation with NGOs**, put forward in a document<sup>26</sup> which provides for information exchanges, gives partner NGOs the opportunity to attend MAP meetings and sets the responsibilities of invited NGOs.
- **A list of priority actions in the fields of the environment and development in the Mediterranean Basin (1996-2005)**<sup>27</sup>, in such areas as integrated management of natural resources (water, land, fight against erosion and desertification, forests and vegetable cover, genetic resources), integrated management of coastal areas, waste management, economic activities or urban development.
- **A Barcelona Resolution** on the environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean Basin. In this text the Parties strongly commit themselves, in particular, to the implementation and funding of MAP II, the setting-up of the MCSD and solidarity between the states bordering on the Mediterranean. They call upon external donors to get involved in the implementation of MAP II.

- **New legislative instruments:** a revised version of the Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean sea against pollution (Barcelona Convention), amendments to the protocol on dumping at sea by ships and aircraft, and a new protocol related to specially protected areas and biodiversity in the Mediterranean region. It was also agreed that the revised text of the protocol concerning land-based pollution sources would be finalized in order to be adopted at the meeting of plenipotentiaries in 1996<sup>28</sup>.

## THE INSTITUTIONS FOR ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT RESULTING FROM MAP

### THE MEDITERRANEAN OBSERVATORY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT, MOED

The MOED is an instrument for systemic and exploratory analysis of the relationship between development and environment in the Mediterranean Basin. Its purpose is to help with decision-making in line with sustainable development and Agenda 21. It is based on a geographical, statistical and documentary information system.

Some of the objectives of the MOED are:

- To contribute to a better understanding of situations and trends in the relations between development and environment in the Mediterranean Basin, and more particularly its coastal areas.
- To produce factual information to help decision-makers, on the local, national and international levels, gear their actions towards sustainable development of the Mediterranean Basin and its coastal areas.

The objectives of the MOED include:

- Collection and treatment of information on development and environment in coastal areas.
- Working out Mediterranean indicators of sustainable development. A lot of work still remains to be done to unify collected data and to identify upstream the type of representative data needed which the states should provide.
- Support to the setting-up of national observatories and networks of the Mediterranean institutions concerned.
- Analysis of the relationship between development and environment.

The MOED collaborates with national research institutes and NGOs. The many documents available at the Blue Plan are the fruit of this collaboration

### THE MEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, MCSD

This advisory assembly will help the countries bordering on the Mediterranean, as a whole (through the MAP) and individually, to better design and implement sustainable development strategies. It will build on the "Med 21" document prepared in Tunis in 1994, on the work of the World Commission on Sustainable Development and on the "Agenda 21", as well as on the work of the national commissions of Mediterranean countries. It will monitor progress (global reports to be drafted over the four previous years; exploratory reports and action reports based on the work of the Blue Plan; national reports) and will suggest guidelines, for instance for policy integration, capacity building, technology transfers...

The MCSD is composed of a maximum of 36 members, of which 21 representatives from the states, appointed by them, and 15 representatives from civil society: 5 NGOs, 5 representatives from the socio-economic sector, and 5 from local or regional authorities.

It is planned that the MCSD should meet at least once a year until the year 2000, then every 2 years. At the first meeting of the MCSD, which was held in Rabat (Morocco) from 16 to 18 December 1996, it was decided to draft a work programme including activities in the short term (1997-1998) and in the middle term (1999 and after), according to the priority needs of the Mediterranean region and to the work already achieved within the MAP framework. Eight priority issues were identified, the first two of which will be the focus of short-term actions:

1. sustainable management of coastal areas
2. management of water demand
3. sustainable development indicators
4. (eco)tourism
5. citizens' participation and information
6. free trade and environment in the Euro-Mediterranean area (strategic impact assessment studies)
7. industry, pollution and sustainable development (cultural, economic, technical and financial aspects of the step-by-step elimination of land-based pollution)
8. management of urban/rural development.

The second meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development took place in Palma (Spain) in May 1997. Its aim was to determine more clearly the planned actions within the framework of each working group.

Blue Plan/MOED

15, rue Ludwig van Beethoven

Sophie Antipolis

F- 06 560 Valbone

Tel: +33 4 93 65 39 59 - Fax: +33 4 93 65 35 28

E-mail: planbleu@planbleu.com

UNEP/MAP

PO Box 18019

GR - 11610 Athens

Tel: +30 1 725 31 90/95 - Fax: +30 1 725 31 96/7

E-mail: unepnuedu@compulink.gr

### III. NGO NETWORKS<sup>29</sup>

#### THE ARAB NETWORK OF NGOs FOR ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (RAED)

Set up in 1993, RAED aims to develop coordination among its members in the fields of environment and sustainable development in the Arab world, through:

- the exchange of information and experiences to solve environmental problems,
- working out projects and seeking sponsors,
- enlarging the scope of action of Arab NGOs by weaving links, exchanging experiences and knowledge, and through a partnership with foreign NGOs,
- participation in Arab and international meetings and conferences related to the objectives of RAED,
- improvement of the members' capacity through training sessions.

RAED - P.O.B. 2 - IR Abul Mahassen El Shazly Str. - Mohandiseen, Cairo EGYPT

Tel: +20 2 302 83 91 - Fax: +20 2 304 16 35

#### CARITAS EUROPA

The Caritas groups are autonomous associations of Catholic inspiration, whose mandate is to spread mutual aid and social justice throughout the world. The Caritas Confederation is one of the largest networks of associations at international level, through its operations - in permanent contact with the grassroots - in 180 countries.

Caritas Europa is a network of community associations established both in large cities and in rural areas all over Europe. Its fields of action are:

- information on European legislation and programmes,
- coordination of emergency aid, structural aid and training programmes carried out with EU support,
- representation of Caritas members to the European institutions in Brussels and in Strasbourg,
- lobbying on social policy (poverty/exclusion, migration) and international cooperation (humanitarian aid, development ...) on the basis of Caritas members' reports.

Because of its presence on both sides of the Mediterranean (40 members in Europe, 16 in the Middle East and North Africa), Caritas takes a special interest in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. Thus, in view of the Barcelona Conference in November 1995, Caritas Europa (on behalf of its members from both regions) circulated a document which emphasized human dignity (status of minority groups, immigration policies, racial or religious discriminations), the promotion of civil

society (promoting structures and practices for participation), and sustainable development. These three aspects remain the work priorities for Caritas as regards the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. These concerns are translated into concrete commitment in the field, from emergency aid to development actions.

Caritas Europa  
4 rue de Pascale  
1040 Bruxelles, BELGIUM  
Tel: +32 2 280 02 80  
Fax: +32 2 230 16 58

Caritas MONA  
B.P. 60317  
Imm. Pierre Abi Haila  
Rue Rouphaël Abou Jaoudé  
Tel/fax: +961 1 89 35 99 or 89 38 65

## **CARTA MEDITERRÁNEA**

The Mediterranean Charter Group is a regional NGO. In addition to the permanent secretariat which will be set up in Madrid, the Charter group will be structured around sectorial fora devoted to the following issues:

- peace and security building
- economy, co-development and association
- environment
- population, health and social policy
- human dimension and intercultural dialogue
- education and culture

On each of these issues, the Charter proposes to set up concrete research and partnership actions, complementing ongoing initiatives in other networks.

Some four years ago, the Mediterranean Charter Groups launched a reflective process which resulted in the signing of a Charter. This document is inspired by other legal texts such as the Helsinki Act or the Algiers Declaration of Peoples' rights. Its specificity is to address "Peoples", making it an initiative from civil society, whose participation is essential to the success of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

Organización Carta Mediterránea (Mediterranean Charter Group)  
c/o Instituto Ciencia y Sociedad - C/ Ayala, 7-3º Izqda. - E-28001 Madrid, SPAIN  
Tel/fax: +34 1 435 73 57

## **ECOPEACE**

A non-profit-making, non-governmental organisation, EcoPeace gathers together NGOs from Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Palestine. The establishment of EcoPeace marks the realization in the Middle East that the region shares common ecological characteristics and that environmental problems must be addressed cooperatively from a regional perspective.

Its primary objectives are to protect the environmental heritage, to promote sustainable development and to help create the necessary conditions for lasting peace. EcoPeace works towards these objectives through scientific research, public education and awareness-raising programmes as well as lobbying.

Ecopeace - 2 El-Akhtal Street - East Jerusalem 97400 - PO Box 55 302  
Tel: +972 2 626 08 41 - Fax: +972 2 626 08 40 - E-mail: ecopeace@netvision.net.il

## **ENDA MAGHREB**

ENDA Maghreb is a decentralized sub-branch of the international organization "Environnement et Développement du Tiers-Monde" (ENDA-TM). It undertakes research work, actions, education and training activities and fosters network activities, which must all contribute to fighting against poverty and promoting sustainable social development, community participation, environmental planning and South-South dialogue.

The activities of ENDA Maghreb are structured around six main lines:

- Women, children and youth confronted with the environment, employment and culture,
- Identifying and reducing economic and socio-spatial disparities,
- Promotion of appropriate environmentally-friendly combined technology,
- Popular economy and ecology in urban and rural areas,

- Communication for development,
- Fight against imported consumption patterns and lifestyles.

ENDA Maghreb - 196, Quartier O.L.M. - Rabat Souissi, MOROCCO  
Tel: +212 7 75 64 15/14 - Fax: +212 7 75 64 13 - E-mail: endamaghreb@endamag.gn.apc.org

### **THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN LIAISON CENTRE FOR DESERTIFICATION CONTROL (CLEMD/LCD)**

The creation of the Centre originates in the international workshop on desertification organized by the APNEK in collaboration with the EEB, ATPNE and MIO on 28,29 and 30 March 1996, in Kairouan (Tunisia). The objective of the Centre is to create dynamics between partners through awareness-raising, mobilization, developing people's sense of responsibility and conducting actions to fight against desertification.

The Centre gathers together NGOs from the North and the South into a community-type structure. It will operate in collaboration with existing networks and work together with any institutions interested or active in desertification control.

The Centre proposes to place itself under the aegis of UNEP/MAP. As regards funding, the Centre calls upon any active donors in the Mediterranean area, with none debarred. In order to follow up work and manage the network, an ad hoc Committee was appointed. It is composed of 8 NGO members. The APNEK is in charge of coordinating the Committee.

APNEK - BP 197 - 3100 Kairouan - TUNISIA  
Tel/fax: +216 7 229 668

### **EUROPE-MAGHREB NGO COORDINATION COMMITTEE**

The aim of the Europe/Maghreb NGO Coordination Committee (CCFD, TOUIZA, CLONGD/EC) is to foster the establishment of partnerships between NGOs in western Maghreb and Europe in order to work towards sustainable development in cooperation with local communities, through various means such as: strengthening institutional capacities to encourage the development of Maghrebi extender structures; boosting community life through the exchange of experience and know-how; introducing mutual information mechanisms and strengthening NGOs in three Maghrebi countries (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia).

The Coordination Committee intends, among others, to promote the needs of grassroots associations and the capacity for designing well-targeted development projects (diagnosis, implementation, follow-up, assessment), to promote development activities in close collaboration with various actors (local authorities, development agencies, research institutes, etc.); to improve connections between national development policies and European authorities' development cooperation policies (EU, decentralized cooperation, bilateral cooperation).

Comité de coordination ONG Europe-Maghreb - 4, rue Jean Lantier - F-75001 Paris FRANCE  
Fax: +33 1 42 82 80 00

### **FOE MEDNET, THE MEDITERRANEAN NETWORK OF FRIENDS OF THE EARTH**

The Mediterranean network of Friends of the Earth (FoE MEDNET) is a regional coordination of Friends of the Earth national organisations in Cyprus, France, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia. All are members of Friends of the Earth International, a network composed of 57 national groups in the whole world.

The primary objectives of FoE MEDNET are:

- to promote sustainable development in the Mediterranean area through environmental awareness campaigns and education;
- to promote the participation of ECOs (environmental citizens organisations) in Mediterranean issues;
- to cooperate with other ECOs in the Mediterranean region.

FoE MEDNET's main fields of action are:

- promoting measures in favour of sustainable management of tourism in the region, including the integration of sustainable tourism education;
- promoting actions to achieve integrated coastal management;



- actions to preserve Mediterranean natural and cultural diversity;
- action programmes to promote Agenda 21 for the Mediterranean, with special attention given to the MCSD and the Barcelona Convention.

MEDNET COORDINATION - Amigos de la Tierra - C/San Bernardo, 24 - 3º - E-28015 Madrid SPAIN  
Tel: +34 1 523 0263 - Fax: +34 1 523 1185

### **FORUM CIVIL EUROMED**

The Forum Civil Euromed originates in the Barcelona meeting which followed the official conference in November 95. A permanent FCE Committee was set up within the Instituto Català de la Mediterrània, composed of a maximum of 60 Euro-Mediterranean members ensuring a balanced representation of countries, organizations and sectors. Elected for a three-year term, the primary objectives of the Committee is to stimulate the implementation of strategic guidelines defined at the first forum, to examine and analyze the Mediterranean policies decided by the EU and the countries of the region, and other actions undertaken by institutions or movements.

The FCE has several ongoing projects, in which it participates fully or partly, one of them being the launch of a comprehensive study of the Maghreb civil society, with research and meetings in Tunisia, Morocco, etc. As regards the environment, the FCE helped in 1996 in the drawing of a map of the environmental landscape of the western Mediterranean region. In 1997, the FCE plans to open a marine science faculty in Vilanova i la Geltrú in collaboration with the polytechnic University and the Vilanova town council.

Instituto Català de la Mediterrània - Av. Diagonal 407 bis, planta 21 - E-08008 Barcelona SPAIN  
Tel: +34 3/ 415 7222 - Fax: +34 3/ 415 9330

### **IUCN -MEDITERRANEAN OFFICE**

The regional Mediterranean office was set up in 1996 in order to decentralize the work of IUCN in Gland (Switzerland) and to establish closer links between IUCN members in the region. Its aim is to examine development and conservation issues with its members and to establish medium and long-term strategies. Following the first feasibility studies, the Mediterranean Bureau will have, among other functions:

- to work on the issues identified by its members, i.e.: conservation of marine and land coastal ecosystems, including islands; analysis of the pressures brought about by development (tourism, urban development) and its impact on conservation; sustainable use of marine and land species; protection of wetlands and their water resources, etc.
- to promote the action of IUCN in order to apply the programme provided for under the Convention on Biodiversity and the Barcelona Convention.
- to be an undisputed driving and coordination force behind exchanges taking place between the grassroots and the politicians, and vice versa;
- to identify the issues to be submitted to the next meetings of the Conference of Parties to the Barcelona Convention, and hence to set forth the themes of the biodiversity programme.

IUCN-Mediterranean - c/o Fundació CIEDES  
Tel: +34 52 602 777 - Fax: +34 52 223 092

### **MAGHREB-MASHREK WATER ALLIANCE (ALMAE)**

The ALMAE gathers together NGOs, community groups and researchers involved in development actions related to water resources in the Maghreb and Mashrek. It can be defined as a forum for meeting, sharing and establishing communications among communities with various traditions, with a view to facilitating the creation of a synergy between the actions carried out by civil society in the field of protection, management and access to water resources.

Considering that access to healthy water is a fundamental human right, the ALMAE favours the involvement of populations, in particular women and children. It works in three areas: knowledge of the environment, training through the exchange of experiences, information and communication. It endeavours in particular to enhance and promote traditional water management systems, to have regulations adopted and to raise awareness about the need for water legislation.

ALMAE - 53 Rond-point Mers Sultan - Casablanca 21100, MOROCCO  
Tel: +212 2 26 11 15 - fax: +212 2 22 33 97

### THE MED-FORUM NETWORK

The Med-Forum (Mediterranean Forum for the Environment and Sustainable Development) stands up for the ideals of solidarity between persons and peoples, between peoples and the environment, between contemporary citizens and future generations. From the point of view of this network, it will only be possible to protect the environment if a sustainable development model is applied, allowing an integrated and solidarity management of the whole coast of the Mediterranean Basin. The founding text adopted by the network is "the Barcelona Declaration of Mediterranean NGOs" (June 1995).

The essential objectives of the MED Forum are focused on cooperation programmes for sustainable development concerning environmental protection, with a strong social emphasis. The Forum wants to be an interlocutor for governments and international organizations and promote common actions and campaigns among various member NGOs in the defence of the environment in the Mediterranean area. Med Forum comprises 52 members from 21 countries (18 Mediterranean countries and 3 neighbouring countries).

EcoMediterrània, - Gran Via de los Corts Catalanes, 643, 3 - E- 08010 Barcelona SPAIN  
Tel: +34 3 412 5599 - Fax: +34 3 412 4622 - E-mail: MEDForum@pangea.org

### THE MEDITERRANEAN INFORMATION OFFICE FOR ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (MIO-ECSDE)

The MIO-ECSDE is a federation of Mediterranean NGOs for the environment and development. It is made up of 52 member organisations. Its objectives are to protect the natural environment and cultural heritage of the region, to promote sustainable development in a peaceful Mediterranean area. Major tools used by the MIO-ECSDE to achieve its objectives are: promotion of the understanding and collaboration among the peoples of the Mediterranean area, especially between NGOs and governments, parliaments, local authorities, international organizations and socio-economic actors of the Mediterranean region; assistance in the establishment, strengthening, co-operation of Mediterranean NGOs and facilitation of their efforts by ensuring a flow of information among relevant bodies; promotion of education, research and study on Mediterranean issues; raising of public awareness on crucial Mediterranean environmental issues.

Activities of the MIO-ECSDE include dissemination of information on environmental activities, policies and issues in the Mediterranean area, working out common NGO policies (to reinforce the collective voice of the NGOs in international fora), promotion of participatory processes, cooperation with international governmental organizations, scientific and other networks, environmental education or public awareness campaigns.

MIO/ECSDE - 28 Tripodon Street - Athens 10558, GREECE  
Tel: +30 1 322 52 45 - Fax: +30 1 322 52 40 - E-mail: mio-ee-env@ath.forthnet.gr

### THE MEDITERRANEAN WATER INSTITUTE

The Mediterranean Institute for Water ("Institut Méditerranéen de l'Eau") (IME) is an international NGO networking on water issues. It was set up in 1982, on the occasion of the Water Distributors Congress in Rabat. It is an institute whose members work on a voluntary basis. They are not permanent but are present in several Mediterranean countries in an individual capacity or within their own organization. The IME runs the MEDWAN and contributes to the Mediterranean Water Network by being in charge of its technical committee.

The IME works in collaboration with the World Water Council, officially launched on 21 and 22 March 1996, with headquarters in Marseilles. The IME currently develops its network of Mediterranean water experts, integrating NGOs into it.

Institut Méditerranéen de l'Eau  
Centre euro-méditerranéen de rencontres - 58, Bd Charles Livon - F-13007 Marseille, FRANCE  
Tel: +33 4 91 59 38 41 - Fax: +33 4 91 59 38 40

## THE MEDITERRANEAN NETWORK OF THE UNESCO MAN & BIOSPHERE PROGRAMME

The setting-up of a regional network on Mediterranean ecosystems was proposed on the occasion of the Euro-MAB-V Conference which took place in September 1995 in Greenland. The initiators of the network, the Croatian MAB Committee, stressed two main priorities: (1) conservation of coastal mountain ecosystems by introducing Permaculture, so as to reduce the agricultural run-off pollution sources in Mediterranean coastal areas; (2) protection of marine ecosystems, to address, among other threats, the expansion of *Caulerpa taxifolia* and resulting eutrophication, the shrinkage of *Posidonia oceanica* beds, and the diminution in mammal biodiversity (*Monachus monachus*, *Tursiops truncatus*). Other recommendations for the network include the establishment of new marine biosphere reserves in the Mediterranean Sea (e.g. the Adriatic coastline and Croatian archipelago), and modern environmental education in a collaborative effort with IUCN.

Croatian National UNESCO/MAB Committee - University of Zagreb (School of Medicine, Department of Biology)  
Salata 3 - 10 000 Zagreb, CROATIA  
Tel/fax: +385 1 410 823

### "TRANSMED", THE TRANSMEDITERRANEAN PROGRAMME

The "Transmed" programme was initiated by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe following the symposium on "Transmediterranean interdependence and Partnership", which was held in Rome in January 1994. The activities of the Transmed programme emphasize the interdependence between the political, economic and cultural aspects of the Partnership, with a view to building a thorough relationship based on our common cultural heritage.

The aims of the Transmed Programme are to raise awareness, to develop communication and to promote the collaboration between NGOs, universities and research institutions, local and regional communities, the media, and youth organisations from the southern and northern shores of the Mediterranean.

Priority areas for the Programme are: intercultural dialogue, communication and information, migrations, youth and human rights.

Centre Nord-Sud, Programme Transmed - Avenida da Liberdade 229, 4º - P-1250 Lisbonne, PORTUGAL  
Tel: +351 1 52 29 03 - Fax: +351 1 353 13 29/352 49 66 - E-mail: info@nscentre.org

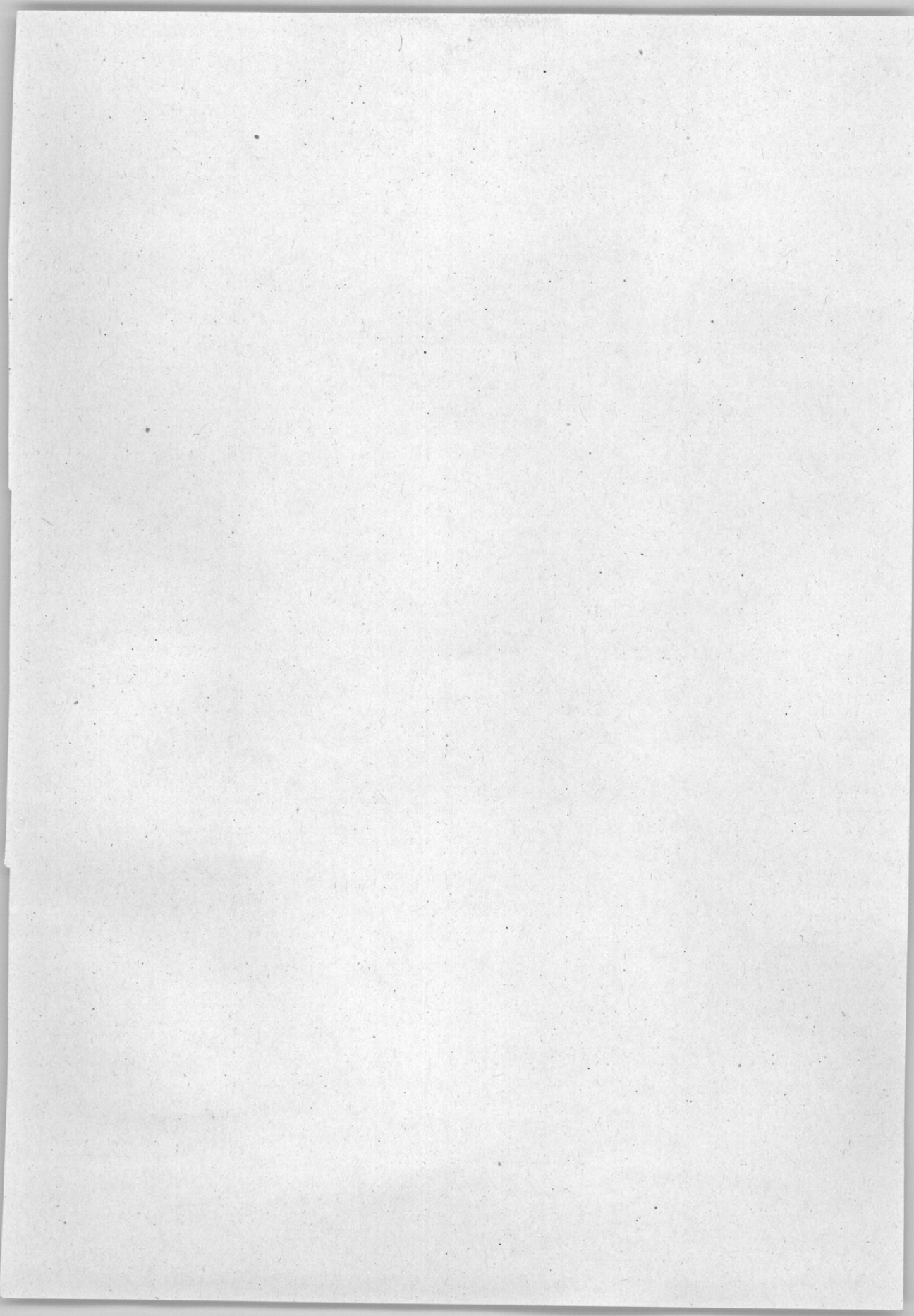
### WWF MEDITERRANEAN

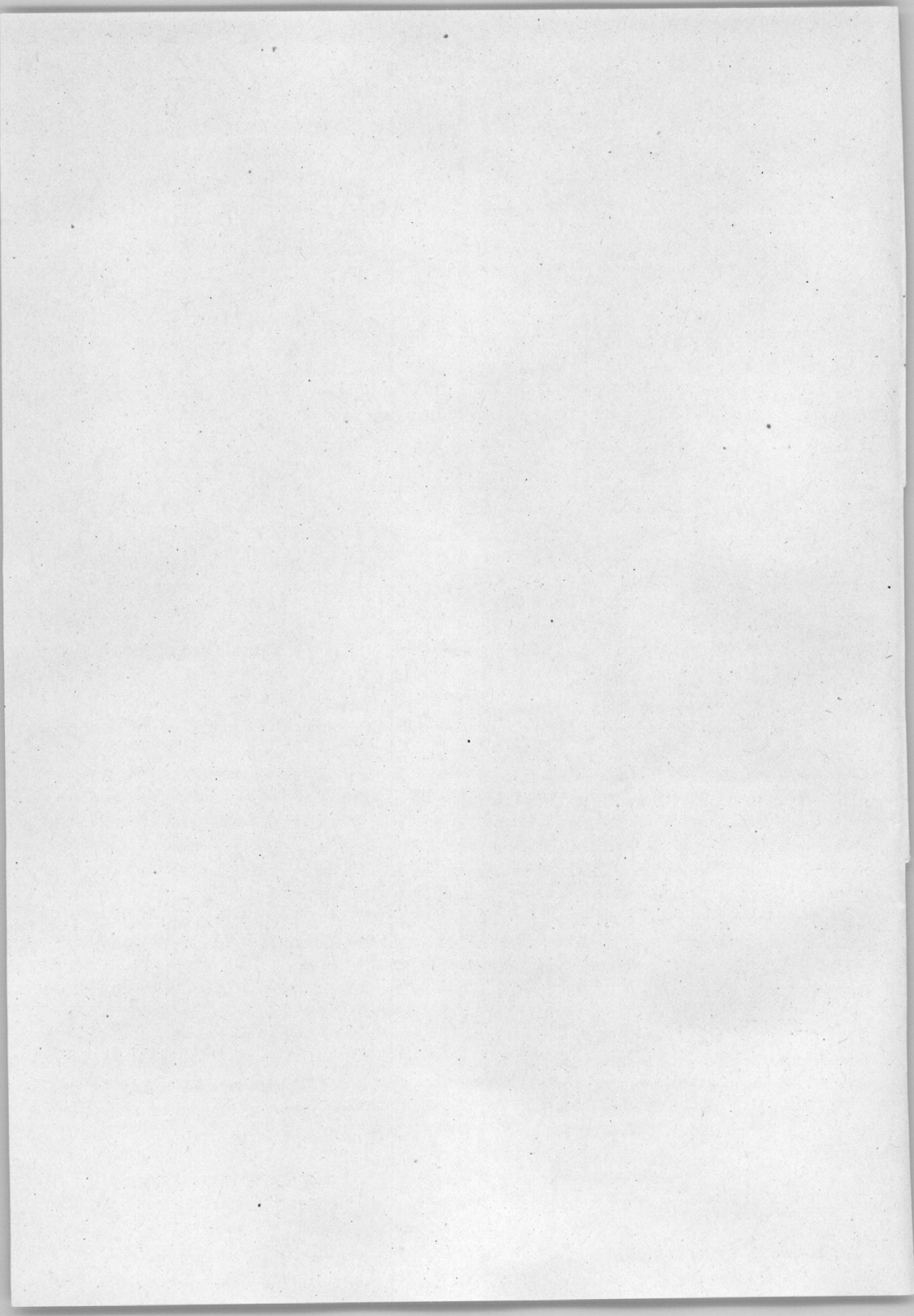
WWF has been active in the Mediterranean area for more than 30 years, having established national organizations in France, Italy, Greece, and Spain. It also works with an associate organization in Turkey and has opened a project office in Tunisia. In 1992 WWF established a Mediterranean Programme, with its coordination office in Rome. An increasing number of regional projects are now funded and managed through this programme. WWF is acting both locally and regionally, ensuring that problems are tackled at the appropriate level.

Established in the Arab world since 1994, with an office in Tunisia, WWF has strengthened its regional programme and developed a comprehensive five-year strategy to face the challenges existing in the region. This strategy is structured around three main ecological priorities: forests, drinking water and the marine environment. In addition, the programme recognizes the importance of capacity building, education and public awareness on the environment via the "Across the Waters" programme, which provides small grants to local organizations working on conservation and education.

WWF's Mediterranean strategy also incorporates cross-sectorial issues like energy, agriculture, and tourism.

Mediterranean Programme Office, c/o WWF-Italy - Via Garigliano, 57 - I - 00198 Roma, ITALY  
Tel: +39 6 844 971 - Fax: +39 6 853 00612 - E-mail: mc2248@mlink.it





## SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER READING

- Agenda MED 21, The Tunis Conference on Sustainable Development in Mediterranean, MAP/UNEP, Ministry of Environment and Land Use Planning, Tunis November 1994.
- Aménagement et nature, "Nature, environnement et développement durable en Méditerranée", n° 121, printemps 1996.
- Antoine, Serge, 1995, Méditerranée 21: 21 pays pour le 21ème siècle, développement durable et environnement, ISBN: 2-9508745-1-7, novembre 1995.
- Antoine, serge, 1996, "Nature, environnement et développement durable en Méditerranée", dans Aménagement et nature n° 121, pp. 15-24.
- Balta, Paul, 1992, La Méditerranée réinventée, réalités et espoirs de la coopération, La Découverte/Fondation René Seydoux, Paris, 1992.
- Banque Mondiale, Atlas 1996, Washington.
- Bistolli (sous la direction de), 1995, Euro-méditerranée, Une région à construire, Publisud, 1995, ISBN 2-86600-768-9.
- Comité de Liaison des ONG de développement auprès de l'UE, ONG Guide '97, Bruxelles.
- Commission européenne, 1997, Le Partenariat euro-méditerranéen, DG IB Relations extérieures, mars 1997
- Conseil Economique et Social portugais, 1996, Contribution au Sommet euro-méditerranéen de Paris, 21-22 novembre 1996.
- EEB, "Sustainable Mediterranean", n°1 (dossier on the Euro-mediterranean Conference), n°2 (dossier on Urban Environment), n° 3 (dossier on Water Management and Desertification"), n° 4 (dossier on Energy), n° 5 (dossier on Barcelona + 1), n° 6 (dossier on Fisheries); co-edited with the MIO and the RAED, Brussels.
- European Commission, DG IB, Euro-Mediterranean Partnership: Barcelona Declaration and Work Programme, Euro-Mediterranean Conference, Barcelona, 27-28 November 1995.
- Forum Civil Euromed, 1996, Vers un nouveau scénario de partenariat euro-méditerranéen, Barcelona 1995, Institut Català de la Mediterrania d'Estudis i Cooperació, Barcelona.
- Giesecke, Cassina et Margaleff i Masià, Rapport d'information de la section des relations extérieures, de la politique commerciale et du développement sur la "Création d'une zone de libre-échange et flux migratoires", Comité Economique et Social des CE, Bruxelles, 23 octobre 1996.
- Grenon, M, et Batisse, M, 1988, Le Plan Bleu, Avenirs du Bassin Méditerranéen, Plan Bleu, Plan d'Action pour la Méditerranée, Economica, Paris, 1988.
- Khader, Bichara, 1995, Europa y el Mediterráneo: del Paternalismo a la Asociación, ed. Icaria, Barcelona, 1995.
- Khader, Bichara, 1997, Le Partenariat euro-méditerranéen, l'après Barcelone, ed L'Hamattan, Paris, 1997.
- UNDP/UNSO, 1996, Mobilizing Resources for National Desertification Funds through Debt-for-Environment Swaps, New York, 1996.
- PNUE, 1996, Le Plan d'action pour la Méditerranée, Contribution au développement durable du Bassin méditerranéen, Athènes, juin 1996.
- Montanari, A, 1993, South to North migration in a Mediterranean perspective, Belhaven Press, London, 1993.
- Montanari, A, 1995, "The Mediterranean region: Europe's Summer Leisure Space", in European Tourism, Regions, Spaces and Restructuring", ed. Wiley, Chichester, New York, 1995.
- Ministerio Español de Medio Ambiente, Convenio de Barcelona para la protección del Mediterráneo, PNUMA, Centro de Publicaciones, Secretaría General Técnica, Madrid, 1996.
- Rahmani, T, et Bekkouche, A, Coopération décentralisée, L'Union européenne en Méditerranée occidentale, Collection références européennes, Continent Europe, sd, ISBN-2-84176-001-4.
- Reynaud, Christian, 1996, Transports et environnement en Méditerranée: enjeux et prospective, Les fascicules du Plan Bleu n°9, PNUE-CAR/PB, Economica, 1996.
- Solidarité Eau, La Lettre du Programme Solidarité Eau, n°22, nov. 1996 (numéro consacré à la Méditerranée)
- STOA, Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean Region: The Challenges and the Policy Instruments, European Parliament, February 1996, PE 165.661,
- vol 1 (A) - Human Activities and their Effects on the Mediterranean Environment
  - vol 1 (B) - State of the Environment in the Mediterranean Region
  - vol 2 - Assessment of EU Policy Instruments for Protection of the Environment in the Mediterranean Region
  - vol 3 - Data on the Economic Situation of the EU-Mediterranean Member States
  - vol 4 - Assessment of EU Policy Instruments for Development in the EU Mediterranean Region.
- UNEP, 1995, "Observation and Evaluation of Environment and Development in the Mediterranean (Preparatory phase), april 1995.
- World Bank, European Investment Bank, 1990, The Environmental Program for the Mediterranean, EPM, Preserving a Shared Heritage and Managing a Common Resource, March 1990.

# NOTES

## Part 2

- 1 "mise à niveau" (levelling-up) being the expression used by the Tunisian partner.
- 2 EP 218.799/A, 18 September 1996, N.
- 3 Egypt had been granted significant debt relief further to its participation in the Gulf war.
- 4 On financial grounds more than for geographical, ecological or historical reasons.
- 5 The reinforcement of the EU Mediterranean policy: establishment of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, Brussels, 19 October 1994, COM(94)427 final.
- 6 Strengthening the Mediterranean Policy of the European Union: Establishing a Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, Brussels, 8 March 1995, COM(95)72 final.
- 7 COM(97)68 final.
- 8 EC Commission, state of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and preparation for the second conference of foreign affairs ministers, COM (97) 68 final, Brussels, 19.02.97.
- 9 EP 194.336, A4-0232/95
- 10 Resolution on the Mediterranean policy of the European Union in view of the Barcelona Conference, A4-0232/95, OJEC n° C 287/121.
- 11 EP 218.799/A and 799/B of 18 September 1996, rapporteur: Iannis Sakellariou. This draft was discussed in committee in January 97.
- 12 ECOSOC 629/94 fin, REG/95, Brussels, 17 March 1995.
- 13 Regulation (EC) n° 1488/96
- 14 Funds coming from the EU in whole or in part. Does not take Member States into account.
- 15 EC Regulation n° 1973/92
- 16 COM (96) 70 final
- 17 COM (96) 70 final
- 18 Rahmani et Bekkouche
- 19 In the Mediterranean area, eligible third countries are the following: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cyprus, West Bank and Gaza, Croatia, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey.
- 20 Based on the revised draft regulation, COM (97)3 final.
- 21 LCDNGO, NGO Guide, 1997.
- 22 Council Regulation (EC) n°1488/96 of 23 July 1996 concerning financial and technical measures to accompany the reform of economic and social structures in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership (MEDA).
- 23 Council Decision of 6 December 1996 concerning the adoption of guidelines for the indicative programmes concerning financial and technical measures to accompany the reform of economic and social structures in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership (MEDA), OJEC L 325/20 of 14.12.1996.
- 24 MEDA Regulation, art. 1.3.
- 25 Rahmani, T. and Bekkouche, A., p. 21
- 26 UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.5/11 of 15 April 1995.
- 27 UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.5/9.
- 28 The protocol was revised and adopted in Syracuse in March 1996.
- 29 or organizations closely working with them.

# ACRONYMS

---

ECOSOC:	Economic and Social Committee
EIB:	European Investment Bank
EP:	European Parliament
EUMP:	Euro-Mediterranean Partnership
IUCN:	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
MAP:	Mediterranean Action Plan
MCSO:	Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development
MOED:	Mediterranean Observatory on Environment and Development
NMC:	Non-Member Countries
ODA:	Official Development Aid
RAC:	Regional Activity Centre
RMP:	Renewed Mediterranean Policy
TMC:	Third Mediterranean Countries
UNDP:	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP:	United Nations Environment Programme
WTO:	World Tourism Organisation
WWF:	Worldwide Fund for Nature.



## THE EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU (EEB)

---

**T**he EEB is a federation of non governmental organisations (NGOs) set up in 1974. It has a consultative status with the Council of Europe, and relations with the Commission of the European Union, the European Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee of the European Union, the OECD, and the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD).

The EEB brings together non-governmental organisations dealing with environmental issues and nature protection, from EU and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) member States, and corresponding NGO members from non-EU member states. In all, it has 130 member organisations in 24 countries (78 full members, 24 associate members, 21 affiliate, 7 corresponding).

### THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE EEB ARE:

- to bring together environmental non-governmental organisations in the member states in order to strengthen their impact on the environmental policy and projects of the European Union;
- to promote an equitable and sustainable life style;
- to promote the protection and conservation of the environment, and the restoration and the better use of human resources;
- to promote external policies of the European Union contributions to sustainable development in other regions and globally;
- to make all necessary information available to members and other organisations likely to assist in the realisation of these aims, and organise consultations and joint actions;

The EEB has worked on Mediterranean issues since the 80ies. Since 1991, it has striven to strengthen the Mediterranean NGO network, notably through the Mediterranean Information Office (MIO), created by the EEB and Elliniki Etairia (Greece). Meetings have been organized on several topics: water, desertification, the EU's Mediterranean policy as a whole, and documents have been produced.

Since 1995, the EEB has followed the Euro-Mediterranean policy of the EU.

With the MIO and the RAED (Réseau arabe des ONG pour l'Environnement et le Développement), the EEB publishes a quarterly bulletin « Sustainable Mediterranean », of 20 pages, disseminated in the Mediterranean Basin and in Europe. The EEB is in charge of coordination, edition and secretariat.

