

**MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN
MEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**MEDITERRANEAN STRATEGY
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Draft

(work in progress)

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MEDITERRANEAN STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT¹

1. TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

At the 12th Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Monaco, November 2001) the riparian Mediterranean countries and the European Community decided to prepare a 'Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development'. They requested the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD) of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) to develop a draft. The 2nd Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on the Environment (Athens, July 2002) endorsed this initiative, subsequently announced at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, September 2002), acknowledging that the MCSD was the appropriate framework for its formulation.

Sustainable development is a global objective that aims to 'respond to current needs without compromising the abilities of future generations to meet their own needs'. The Millennium Goals approved by 189 countries in September 2000, and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation adopted in 2002 by the World Summit for Sustainable Development, stress the urgency of a greater commitment to reducing inequalities and assisting the development of poor countries. They also emphasise the need to change our unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, protect and sustainably manage natural resources for economic and social development, safeguard health, and better integrate the objective of sustainable development into the process of globalisation. The Summit also called for the development of regional partnerships.

The Mediterranean Strategy calls for action to move the region towards sustainable development so as to strengthen peace, stability and prosperity, taking into account its weaknesses and the threats it faces but also its strengths and opportunities. It also takes into consideration the great gaps between the developed and developing countries, highlighting the need to support the transition processes of the eastern Adriatic countries and those of the southern and eastern Mediterranean with appropriate means. The challenge for all the Mediterranean riparian countries is jointly to benefit from the Strategy in terms of human and economic development and environmental protection.

The Strategy is based on prospective and strategic documents prepared by the MAP's components and other Mediterranean co-operation frameworks and networks. It also takes account of the Millennium Goals, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the evolution of regional co-operation (in particular the Mediterranean Action Plan and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership), and the EU Sustainable Development Strategy. This directly concerns the Mediterranean EU Member States and countries likely to become members (a total of 12 riparian countries) and indirectly the EU's 'Mediterranean neighbours' since it requires that all community policies (including external trade and co-operation) must have sustainable development as their priority.

The Mediterranean Strategy is a 'framework' strategy. It has a catalytic role in leading decision-makers and all civil society actors to decide and act rapidly to implement national, sectoral and local strategies, action plans, partnerships between countries, communities and enterprises, and to reinforce co-operation and solidarity. It is based on the assumption that it is supported by a long-term engagement of all the governments of the Mediterranean and the EU and that it constitutes the strong expression of their voluntarism.

If the Strategy is to play its role there has to be a strong political act of belonging and ownership. It is therefore particularly important for it to be based on principles and a vision

¹ Draft Report prepared by Blue Plan under the supervision of the MAP Coordinator, and with the contribution of the other MAP Components and the MCSD Steering Committee.

shared and desired by all actors, and to become their common objective, with commitments and regular meetings to monitor its implementation.

The Strategy is built around four major, highly interdependent objectives. To involve the eco-region in a 'sustainability' process in a realistic and proactive way, it sets practical objectives and actions to be carried out in seven basic fields and requires progress in terms of governance, without which these objectives cannot be achieved.

1.1. Sustainable development, a requirement for meeting developmental challenges in the Mediterranean

Sustainable development is a particularly important issue in the Mediterranean region because of the many challenges that it faces.

The environmental challenge

First, there is the challenge of sustainably managing its environment. Development in the Mediterranean eco-region is closely linked to its environment and its natural and cultural wealth. But environmental degradation accelerated towards the end of the 20th century. Much of this is irreversible and is increasingly penalising Mediterranean societies and economies.

Soil degradation is perhaps the most worrying problem. Highly valuable farmland is being lost to urbanisation and salinisation. More than 80% of arid and dry areas are affected by desertification with consequences for deprived rural populations. Scarce, over-used water resources are threatened with depletion or degradation. Urban standards of living and health are degraded by vehicle congestion (with high costs in the northern-rim developed countries), noise, poor air quality and a rapid growth in waste production. The littoral and the sea are also victims of pollution, and coastlines are being cemented over and/or eroded. Unsustainable production and consumption patterns by the developed countries are tending to spread to the developing countries.

The possible rise of pressures on limited coastal areas over the coming 25 years is considerable, from tourism (137 million more visitors), transport (projected to more than double) and urban sprawl (33 million more people). By 2025, about half of the coasts might be artificialised. There is increasing vulnerability to flooding, mudslides, earthquakes, tsunamis, droughts, fires and ecological imbalances. Landscapes and biodiversity, from coveted coasts to marginalised inland areas, are being either over-exploited or abandoned, but in both cases disrupted.

The costs of environmental degradation already account for several percentage points of GDP (as many as six in some countries). Unless current trends are significantly changed, the Mediterranean, still one of the world's most agreeable places to live, could enter a period of crisis and a spiral of decline, losing the major assets that make up its richness and condemning some of its population to poor living conditions that are becoming more and more intolerable.

However this is not inevitable. The people of the Mediterranean are now much more aware of the risks that threaten their environment, and substantial policies and actions in all countries show that solutions adapted to the specific characteristics of Mediterranean problems, regions and cultures can be found. Exemplary urban renewal schemes have returned dynamism and higher standards of living to many ancient centres. Adopting clean technologies in industry has shown the considerable economic savings that good environmental management can achieve. Organic agriculture and quality products continue to gain market share. Integrated rural development projects, based on the participatory approach, show that desertification is not ineluctable.

But there are far too few examples of improvements, and the major unsustainable trends have yet to be reversed. Basic obstacles remain and help to explain why it is so difficult for the region to change the scenario.

The Mediterranean: an “eco-region”

The 22 Mediterranean riparian countries and territories are home to around 428 million people (7% of world population) and account for 13% of world GDP. The ‘eco-region’ surrounding and encompassing the Mediterranean covers only part of this area and overlaps with adjoining non-riparian countries.

The Mediterranean is one of the world's richest regions in terms of its history, diversity and fragility and also one of the leading hot spots for global biodiversity. Its landscapes, 46 000 km of coastline, historical and cultural heritage, traditional local products, diet and cuisine and traditional know-how are also of great value, but under threat.

Specific geographical features are marked and often constraining: irregular rainfall, water stress (summer water shortages), the contrast between not very extensive fertile plains and vast inland mountain systems and deserts, and constant natural hazards (floods, mudslides, droughts, forest fires, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions). Natural resources are geographically unevenly distributed. The southern and eastern shores are water-scarce although they have the greatest water needs. Two countries (Libya and Algeria) have large hydrocarbon resources and are major exporters.

The sea serves as a link and facilitates trade and exchanges between the three surrounding continents. It has underpinned millennia of blending of different cultures and civilisations and has helped to give the population a common feeling of belonging to the Mediterranean world. Many networks have been established (intergovernmental, experts, NGOs, professional networks, etc.) and enable the eco-region to gradually build a shared vision of sustainable development.

Family and group solidarity, the small size of companies, the relative importance of tourism (30% of international tourist flows in the riparian countries), semi-natural areas (pasturelands, woodlands) and irrigated agriculture are also important.

The Mediterranean is both a regional and a world sea, carrying 30% of world sea-borne cargo traffic.

The demographic, economic and social challenge

The Mediterranean must also face up to the triple challenge of its demographic, economic and social development.

The northern-rim countries, like the rest of Europe, are faced with the problem of an ageing population. This is of particular concern in Italy and Spain. In the southern and eastern countries, it is just the opposite, with population growth still the major factor: 90 million more people are expected within twenty years. However there has been a spectacular fall in fertility rates in these countries during the past 15 years, from 3 to 6 children per family to 2 to 3; this represents an opportunity for development and will become a major contributor to convergence between the two shores.

The southern and eastern-rim Mediterranean countries, despite progress, are still backwards in terms of literacy (only 70% of young adults are literate in some countries) and gender equality (the percentage of women in salaried, non-agriculture employment is between 15 and 30% compared with 40 to 50% in Latin America). Although there is little extreme poverty, percentages rise when the US\$2 per capita per day threshold is considered (then encompassing more than 1/3 of the population in some countries), and average poverty is not falling (falling in Turkey and Tunisia but increasing in Egypt and Morocco). But it is youth

unemployment on both shores that is particularly worrying, especially in northern Africa where it is 29%.

The southern and eastern-rim countries need to create more than 30 million new jobs within 20 years. Despite the fall in fertility rate, macro-economic stabilisation and progress in social matters (primary education, health), these countries, unlike other comparable regions, have not yet managed to 'take off' economically. Average per-capita income (purchasing power parity) in Egypt, Syria, Albania and Morocco is still one-fifth of the average in the Mediterranean EU countries and Israel. Only the rim countries that joined the EU in 2004 (Cyprus, Malta and Slovenia) have experienced strong convergence with it during the past 15 years.

The challenge of globalisation, peace and regional co-operation

The Mediterranean needs to establish its position within the new context of globalisation by the construction of large regional spaces.

A region of trade and transit, the Mediterranean has only very occasionally succeeded in achieving standards that would give it a chance on the world's markets. All too often its companies have remained uncompetitive and not very innovative. National economies have for too long been based on a "rent economy" fostered by geographical location and on a mining-like exploitation of their natural resources.

Joining the European Union has helped countries such as Spain, Portugal and Greece to advance politically and modernize economically, and is now helping Slovenia, Malta and Cyprus. The probable eventual membership of other Balkan countries and Turkey should lead to a certain political (firmly establishing peace and democracy), economic and environmental convergence. Membership will lead to shared sovereignty and be accompanied by freedom of movement, adopting the community acquis and financial solidarity. Community funds that help modernise agriculture, upgrade environmental and transport infrastructures and strengthen capacities, and the application of directives, will help, at least in part, to limit the negative impacts, in terms of sustainability, of the rapid changes that will result from globalisation, membership of the single market and economic growth (reducing the size of the agricultural workforce, motorisation, waste production, energy consumption, polluting emissions, etc).

However the southern and eastern-rim countries, also faced by globalisation, do not benefit from such regional co-operation dynamism. Set up in 1995, the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership still lacks a vision of sustainable development and resources and the commitments that need to go with such a vision. Insufficient North-South and South-South co-operation and continuing conflicts, especially in the Near East, are still a major impediment. The trend risk is one of cumulative political, social, economic and environmental fracture between the two shores, resulting in growing instability.

The stakes of these many challenges face Europe as well as the southern and eastern-rim countries, given the closeness of Euro-Mediterranean interdependencies (trade and economies, the environment, migration and tourism).

Finally, there has to be a choice between an unequal development in North and South, together with unsustainable environmental management, and complementarity and synergies between North and South that could be built around a strong sense of a 'common destiny' and the construction of joint and differentiated processes for sustainable development.

The Mediterranean thus has to face up to the challenge of governance. It is essential for the developed countries adjust their unsustainable consumption and production patterns. But they must also support the promotion of reforms in the developing countries, which are vital for sustainable development and to ensure that Mediterranean countries can live together within a regional area of stability, free trade, democracy and tolerance.

1.2. Principles and a long-term vision

A Strategy based on principles

The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development is based on the principles expressed in the Rio Declaration and the Agenda21, which stress the environmental dimensions of the sustainability. It is also based on the Johannesburg Declaration and its Plan of Implementation that highlights the need for integrated approaches and improved governance. In particular, it refers to the requirement that the environment be integrated into the development process; it stresses the need to internalise environmental costs (the user-pays and polluter-pays principles) and the need for preventive action and caution when faced with doubt (the precautionary principle). At the social level, it adheres to the principles of access to essential services and financial resources, information and justice, gender equality and equity between generations. The Strategy also subscribes strongly to approaches based on actor participation, consultation, partnerships and company accountability. In matters of international co-operation, it adheres to the principles of solidarity and shared (but differentiated) responsibility between developed and developing countries.

The Strategy strongly stresses that sustainability should be based on the interdependence of its four pillars: economic growth, social equity, protection of the environment and improved governance. It stresses that the environment and development in this part of the world are indissolubly linked and that accelerating towards sustainable development is not only vitally important but also increasingly urgent.

It confirms the strategic value of diversity and stresses the need to avoid the paradigm of a single developmental model.

A long-term vision for the Mediterranean

The Strategy is based on a long-term vision of a 'sustainable' Mediterranean, one that is politically stable, prosperous and peaceful. This vision is based on a proactive choice of a 'win-win' scenario; one which may be difficult to achieve but is feasible and realistic, and one which, given the well-understood mutual interests, should promote the co-development of North and South while exploiting the positive synergies of good environmental, developmental, economic and social management. The objectives of this scenario are the sustainable management of resources and regions, enhancement of natural and cultural diversity and a dynamic of complementarity and exchange between Europe and its Mediterranean neighbours around a strong concept of a 'shared destiny'. It rejects a future of unequal, unbalanced, standardised and wasteful development between North and South and promotes a collective determination to overcome the sombre perspectives of the trend scenario.

In a few decades, the region should be able to present an image of a highly integrated eco-region within a Euro-Mediterranean area of prosperity and stability, and a regional unity whose development is based on recognition of the strategic value of the environment, diversity and anticipation and on joint and differentiated approaches, with a community of countries involved in the processes of governance for sustainable development.

This new Mediterranean will be able to participate successfully in globalisation by enhancing its specificities and Euro-Mediterranean complementarities. Domestic and inter-country economic and social divisions will be gradually reduced, and the Millennium Goals achieved. The region will also benefit from its past experience and the different situations between countries for accelerating transition towards sustainable development. The essential collective public goods will be protected and in certain cases restored, and natural resources much better managed and valued. Mechanisms for jointly applying the Kyoto Protocol will be implemented, and a common vision of the future and the multiple roles of agriculture will be produced, and vigorous programmes of sustainable rural development will be developed to mitigate desertification.

Clean technologies and governance modes adapted to the diversity of socio-economic, environmental and cultural conditions will be developed. The people of the region will become aware of the enormous potential of the quality of their heritage for increased specific and diversified tourism developed in synergy with agriculture and industry. Cities will become real vectors of regional development while millions of jobs will be created in new, promising sectors: research and development, clean services and industries, water and energy saving technologies, 'quality' agriculture and food-industry products, enhancement of biodiversity and public transport.

Aware of their well thought-out interest, the EU and the developed countries of the northern shore will play an important role in building this new Mediterranean.

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

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

The EU and its Mediterranean partners will also have worked together to encourage democratic processes, strengthen institutional capacities, improve governance and consolidate a peace process in the regions of conflict. This will have gradually created conditions favourable to the commitment of local and professional actors to sustainable development (local Agendas 21, etc) and for attracting foreign direct investment in the southern and eastern-rim countries, thus encouraging the emergence of new activities and business opportunities for the EU and its Mediterranean partners. The additional incomes resulting from emigration and the jobs created in the southern and eastern-rim countries will have started to reduce the disparities between the two Mediterranean shores. By removing labour force shortages and developing its knowledge economy, the EU will have restored the basis for improving its competitiveness. The entire Euro-Mediterranean region will thus remain one of the three major regional powers in a multi-centred world economy. Its trade will develop essentially as part of a vast Euro-Mediterranean free-trade zone. This 'win-win' scenario for Europe and its neighbouring countries will be built on a Euro-Mediterranean regional area, centred on the Mediterranean.

1.3. The four major objectives of the Strategy

Objective 1: Increasing economic development by enhancing Mediterranean assets

The primary objective of the Strategy is to tackle the challenge of economic development in order to respond to the demand for jobs and allow a gradual convergence of incomes between developing and developed countries.

It is important to direct this development in accordance with the Mediterranean vision in order to release sustainable value-added and reduce pressures on the environment. The aim is to enhance the incomparable diversity and heritage of the region, emphasising the relations of

proximity and vicinity within the framework of the future Euro-Mediterranean common market and the other Middle-East countries, promote a more balanced development that is less concentrated on the coastal areas and large metropolises, and develop new activities (services, clean production, new technologies) with a lower consumption of limited natural resources.

In particular, the Strategy acknowledges the need to promote SMEs-SMIs as a vehicle for economic development and for creating jobs.

It aims to promote innovation, skills and culture and recognises the need for stronger interactions between establishments (training, research) and the private sector and put an end to the 'brain drain'.

Objective 2: Reduce social deficits by implementing the Millennium Goals

The Millennium Development Goals set 2015 as the target date (compared with the 1990 base year) for improving living standards and gender equality.

The Strategy endorses these objectives, already adopted at the international level, in particular: halving poverty and the proportion of the population without access to safe drinking water or sanitation, reducing maternal mortality by three-quarters and infant mortality by two-thirds, achieving full enrolment of all children in primary education and equal enrolment of girls and boys in primary and secondary education.

It emphasises that sustainable progress cannot be achieved while such a large proportion of the population lacks access to essential services. It thus recognises the need to implement strengthened measures to reduce gender inequalities, support the upgrading of too often forgotten rural areas and anticipate urban development.

Objective 3: Change unsustainable production and consumption patterns and manage natural resources sustainably

The Mediterranean cannot avoid the need to improve the management and respect the value of its limited natural resources, and reduce the impacts of economic activity on its fragile environment. 'Decoupling' economic development from pressures on the environment and natural resources is the central challenge of the Mediterranean strategy for sustainable development.

Decoupling aims to break the links that make economic development dependent on a corresponding, or even more intensive, exploitation of the environment and increasingly irreversible degradation of natural resources and ecosystems. Instead, it calls for enhancement of these resources through improved consumption and production patterns and the development of clean technologies and suitable infrastructures (public transport, new renewable energies, etc).

Decoupling essentially aims to improve management and enhance water, energy, soil and coastal areas resources, and to reduce the growth in waste generation and pollutant emissions. The possible related economic benefits are very high.

Through proactive long-term policies, implementation of the Strategy should lead to a more sustainable equilibrium between satisfying people's needs, the requirements of economic activities, and environmental protection. It should also enable the region to develop new technologies and many jobs in future-oriented sectors.

Objective 4: End the irreversible degradation of global and regional public goods, promote their restoration and reduce the increasing vulnerability to natural risks

There can be no 'sustainable' development without ending the irreversible changes that are affecting basic common goods and without contributing to their restoration.

The region's priority challenges are to protect the sea, the littoral, the climate, soils and biodiversity, the cultural and landscape heritage, and to reduce exposure to natural hazards.

It is particularly urgent to halt the continuing degradation of soils, landscapes and coastal areas and respond to the objectives of the Earth Summit by protecting and enhancing marine, coastal and continental biodiversity.

It is also important to reduce the increasing vulnerability of the region to certain hazards likely to affect it, such as floods, fires, droughts, earthquakes and tsunamis, all of which can have serious social and economic consequences.

2. ACHIEVING PROGRESS ON SEVEN ESSENTIAL ISSUES

To help meet these four major objectives, the Strategy aims to achieve real progress on seven interdependent and essential issues, requiring coordinated action to:

- promote sustainable management of the sea and the littoral and urgently stopping the degradation of coastal zones;
- control urbanisation and promote sustainable urban development;
- promote 'quality' agriculture and sustainable rural development;
- promote better management of water resources and demands;
- manage energy demand and reduce the long-term effects of climate change;
- ensure sustainable mobility through appropriate transport management;
- make tourism a leading vector for sustainable Mediterranean development.

All these issues are important both for development and for the environment. They have been chosen because they are the ones for which the non-sustainable trends are strongest and which therefore most require policies and practices to be improved or changed.

To meet the overall objectives of the strategy, considerable efforts (discussed by other organisations) are more generally required in the fields of the economy and industry. Industrial development should aim to maintain natural balances, enhance strong points and, wherever possible, be decoupled from environmental impact..

The objectives, orientations and actions proposed for each of these seven fields are defined for the entire region and are only *indicative*. However, they are also highly interdependent, and success is more likely if associated and convergent actions are developed in all fields. All these actions have costs, but the benefits (or the costs of not acting) are overall much greater. The actions should be implemented, in association with all the parties involved, by selecting the most cost-effective solutions (using impact assessment studies if appropriate) and through the use of market tools.

Different countries and groups of countries face significantly different situations and challenges and may have different approaches and objectives, which have to be defined in line with national strategies, and as far as possible within the framework of concerted regional and sub-regional (groups of countries) approaches.

A limited number of 'pilot actions' are proposed which might act as levers to accelerate change. With limited costs and potentially high visibility, these could play an important role for involving the region in sustainable development. Other pilot actions should also be considered in the future.

2.1. Promoting sustainable management of the sea and the littoral and urgently stopping the degradation of coastal zones

Degradation of the littoral and pollution of the sea are two of the major causes of the unsustainable development of the eco-region. A coveted area for development, the littoral is a necessary or preferred location for many activities. Its exceptional environmental, social and cultural richness is threatened by growing pressures that emphasize its fragility. The sharp increase in the concreting-over of coastlines and the intensity of human occupation increase the risks of coastal erosion and vulnerability to natural disasters (floods and tsunamis). The spiral of degradation also leads to an often irreversible destruction of the landscape, the cultural and natural heritage, and biodiversity, with growing costs in human and economic terms as well as loss of local jobs (for example when fishing overexploits resources).

Pollution is mainly from land-based sources (80% of the total). About half of cities with more than 100 000 people lack treatment plants and less than half of industrial liquid wastes are treated before discharge into the sea or rivers. Pollution from ships is mostly 'operational' (illegal oil spills). However the risks of accidental pollution are high, given the percentage of ships that carry hazardous substances, the state of the fleet, management conditions, the number of accidents that occur, and the traffic density and its expected increase.

Thanks to the amendments to the Barcelona Convention (extended to the protection of coastal regions and effective in 2004) and to the evolution of the MAP, which gradually implemented programmes of actions and strategies for reducing or preventing pollution and protecting biodiversity and the cultural heritage, regional co-operation for protecting the Mediterranean and its coastal areas has made much progress. Stimulated at the regional level by the MEDWET network, implementation of the RAMSAR Convention has enabled the protection of many wetlands. NGOs and professional networks are also active. However progress in ensuring sustainable management of coastal zones has been insufficient. The Mediterranean does not yet have its own protocol or strategy for coastal management, and only a limited number of countries have managed to implement sets of measures (laws, agencies and economic instruments), other than the creation of protected areas, that would effectively protect the littoral or initiate integrated management processes.

The existing and future EU Member States are held to stringent objectives in terms of environmental management (the Water Framework Directive, Erika Packages 1 and 2). In return they benefit from substantial programmes and community funds for managing and upgrading environmental infrastructures. The other countries have no such support, even though they will need to control the much stronger urban, industrial and tourism growth along their coasts, which is important for their development.

The risk is one of an ever-greater divergence in the level of protection of marine and littoral environments between these two groups of countries.

Stronger policies are essential to reconcile the appropriate economic development of the coastal areas, enhance its social functions and its identity, preserve its cultural heritage, protect its rich but fragile ecosystems, and anticipate natural risks.

Objectives

- Adopt in 2005 and implement a 'Regional Strategy for the prevention of and response to marine pollution from ships' to prevent accidental risks and their impacts. Eliminate operational pollution by ships by 2025;
- Implement, without delay, national action plans for combating pollution from land-based sources in order to meet the objectives of the regional action plan adopted in 1997. Help developing countries to equip themselves with wastewater and waste management systems in all coastal cities with more than [50 000 inhabitants][by 2015];
- Ensure the sustainable management of fisheries and regulate the development of aquaculture to minimise its impacts on the environment;
- Preserve and ensure a sustainable use of habitats, species and sensitive marine and coastal sites. Ensure sustainable conservation/management of at least an additional 2 000 km of coastline by 2015 and increase the protected marine area by 50% by 2012;
- Develop, by 2007, a Mediterranean Protocol to better reconcile development and the environment and promote Integrated and Sustainable Management of Coastal Zones.

Preventing and reducing pollution from ships and the risks of accidents

MAP and IMO, have at their disposal, through REMPEC, a centre charged with coordinating the efforts made in the region. The 'Regional Strategy for the prevention of and response to marine pollution from ships' is being finalized and should be adopted by the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention by the end of 2005. It sets firm objectives for 2006-2015 in terms of the ratification of conventions and protocols, capacity building and equipment, harmonization of sanctions, identification of vulnerable areas, identification of procedures for assisting ships in distress, improving traffic control, proposing ship's routing systems, etc.

The strategy is part of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development. To support its implementation and attain the longer-term objectives proposed (eliminate operational pollution and establish a maritime safety system fully harmonized between the EU and the other Mediterranean countries), the following orientations and actions are suggested.

Orientations and actions

1. Increase EU aid to improve the capacities of national administrations in developing and transition countries to ensure [before 2015] equivalent levels of ship inspection (at least 25% of vessels, whether by port or flag states) and contribute to the upgrading of equipment and infrastructures for preventing and combating marine pollution.
2. Request the EU and the Black Sea coastal states to engage in a similar process.
3. Conduct an environmental impact assessment of all new national or international initiatives for developing maritime transport (including coastal navigation/short-sea shipping, the 'Motorways of the Sea' project and new oil terminals) to ensure that sustainability issues are taken into account.
4. To agree upon [by 2010] at regional level on the most suitable economic tools to be implemented in a coordinated manner, with the view to ensure in all the Mediterranean ports the collection and treatment of liquid and solid ship generated wastes.
5. Request a panel of independent experts to study the possible benefits (added value) to Mediterranean coastal countries, the EU and other partners of endowing MAP (REMPEC) with operational capacities and establishing it as a Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) centre for maritime navigation and rapid intervention on the high seas in case of pollution casualties (pilot action).

Reducing pollution from land-based sources

A 'strategic action programme' (SAP), developed within the framework of the MAP/MEDPOL, was adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in 1997, to implement the LBS Protocol (measures against land-based sources pollution). This programme sets objectives, with various time frames, for reducing dangerous industrial wastes, emissions of nutrients and suspended particulate matter, hazardous wastes and urban pollution. Some of the objectives were readjusted in 2003.

This action programme is a component of the Mediterranean Strategy. It should be implemented within the framework of national action plans currently being formulated, with the support of MedPol and the Barcelona Cleaner Production Regional Activity Centre. The pollution reduction activities of the SAP are based on the 'polluter pays principle', the application of cleaner technologies and the implementation of national economic instruments. However, the SAP will only succeed if there is structural support for treating urban pollution in the developing countries and a generalized reduction of industrial pollution.

Orientations and actions

To accelerate progress in reducing industrial and urban pollution and achieve long-term objectives of the SAP (for urban pollution, installation, [by 2015], of systems for managing wastes and wastewater in all coastal cities of more than [50 000 inhabitants] in developing countries), the Mediterranean Strategy suggests:

1. Strengthening and mobilising Euro-Mediterranean, bilateral and international funds and setting up a structural support system for national action plans (with synergy between MEDA and EIB/FEMIP) to help equip the coastal cities of developing countries, giving preference to technologies selected on the basis of cost-efficiency (choosing simple and inexpensive technologies for more rapid increases in efficiency).
2. Continuing and increasing capacity building programmes in developing countries, cities and enterprises by mobilising international environment funds (GEF, FGEF, etc.) and maximising the synergies with MAP, METAP and the various networks of actors (cities, industrialists, chambers of commerce and industry).

Promoting sustainable fisheries and aquaculture

FAO has drawn up a code of conduct for responsible fisheries. FAO is also in charge of the Secretariat of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), set up in 1949. This agreement between all riparian countries (as well as the European Union and Japan) enables scientific monitoring and regular exchanges of views and better management of Mediterranean fisheries and aquaculture. A community regulation applicable to the EU Member States of the Mediterranean was adopted in 2003.

The objectives of the Strategy are to set up, by 2025, a comprehensive ecosystem-based approach to sustainable fisheries management, and to enhance its social and cultural function. It is also necessary to promote more sustainable aquaculture.

Orientations and actions

1. Make known the value of the Mediterranean fisheries model and local management know-how;
2. Strengthen cooperation between scientists, professionals and decision-makers about sustainable management of fisheries and aquaculture at all relevant geographical levels (local, sub-regional, Mediterranean).
3. Promote participatory and territories-based management of local marine resources within the framework of local development planning and, where appropriate, sub-regionalise fishing activities zones, entrusting their management to Community fishermen. Develop by 2012, over at least [30%] of the coastal area, marine fishery reserves, man-made reefs (preceded by impact assessments, and including a ban on fishing), and coastal protected areas which might serve as 'laboratories' for the sustainable management of local and deep-sea fishing centred on the ecosystem.
4. Develop inter-governmental and professional initiatives at the sub-regional level to ensure the sustainable management of shared fisheries.
5. Consolidate the commitments of Parties and implementation measures related to the GFCM agreement.
6. Formulate (FAO/GFCM) a strategy for the sustainable development of aquaculture by 2007, to be presented for comment to the MCSD (pilot action).

Protecting marine and coastal biodiversity

A strategic action programme for conserving biodiversity (SAP-BIO), developed by the MAP Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas, was adopted in 2003. This programme, part of the Mediterranean Strategy, relies on priority plans and actions at national and region-wide scales. It assumes appropriate human and financial resources to permit the implementation of priority actions, especially data collection, development of research on biodiversity, and information programmes and public awareness-raising.

Orientations and actions

1. Harmonise, upgrade and update by riparian states legislation and policies for conserving biodiversity.
2. Develop actions for conserving threatened and endangered coastal and marine species through inventories, cartography, monitoring, training, information and awareness-raising.
3. Create new generations of protected areas (public/private/local community partnerships, partnerships with major landowners, mobilising local NGOs); increase the size of marine protected areas by 50% by 2012, and invite managers for protected areas to participate more actively in the promotion of sustainable development.
4. Obtain at least 30 Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Interest (SPAMI) by 2012 of which at least one-third would be located in the Eastern Basin.
5. Strengthen institutional capacities to consolidate the management of existing marine protected areas and preparation of detailed management plans for protecting newly-identified sites, including descriptions and GIS maps of the spatial distributions of sensitive habitats.
6. Monitoring the effectiveness of protected areas, using standard mechanisms.

Promoting more integrated development and management of coastal areas and prevention of risks

The promotion of integrated development and sustainable management of coastal areas is a priority of the Strategy. The Priority Actions Programme centre of the MAP helps countries to implement integrated management of coastal zones. It has been charged with developing a new Protocol . Its implementation will vary according to the areas being considered: built-up and degraded coasts will need environmental upgrading, less built-up coasts will require forward thinking, with integration of the fragile features of the natural environment into management decisions.

It is particularly important to build future roads away from coasts (providing access by transverse roads), to enhance the littoral natural and cultural heritage, including the productive activities that contribute to its identity (fishing, agriculture, aquaculture, salt production, etc.), and to maintain green belts (farms and forests) and set ecological corridors so as to avoid linear and unbroken coastal artificialisation, and reduce vulnerability to risks.

This orientation assumes a better integration of sustainability into economic sectors (particularly tourism and transport, see §§2.6 and 2.7) as well as the implementation of regional and national policies for the littoral.

Orientations and actions

1. Adoption, by 2007 (Contracting Parties), a Mediterranean protocol for integrated coastal zones management (with 2010 as the target date for entry into force) (pilot action). This protocol and its accompanying strategy will commit countries to sustainable management of the littoral, recognised as a regional public good. They will establish the principles of identifying the limits of the littoral to be considered and of its integrated management. At the same time, they will serve as a framework for formulating national, local, regional (sub-national) strategies, policies and action plans. This measure will require a follow-up system of quantitative indicators (environmental and socio-economic) of coastal zones development.
2. Adoption, before 2012, of coastal zone laws by countries that do not have them (or the development of existing laws where applicable); the promotion of specialised jurisdictions empowered to enforce respect; and the creation, by 2012, in countries that do not have them, of mechanisms and instruments for coastal management (specialised coastal committees, agencies, land registries, observatories, specific mechanisms and compensation for land easements). They should enable them to apply and monitor coastal policies, strengthen institutional co-ordination and capacities, promote dialogue with decision-makers, professionals and associations, and improve basic knowledge.
3. Promotion of integrated management approaches and projects in all countries, involving local authorities, enterprises and NGOs, with the aim of achieving greater efficiency (co-ordination of a limited number of concrete issues, upstream mobilisation of donors).
4. Defining geo-morphologically the coast area, assessing the vulnerability to natural and technological risks, banning construction in high-risk areas and integrating risk-prevention into urban development plans. Provide all vulnerable coastal spaces with 'risk plans' by 2010, including prevention exercises that mobilise people.
5. Promotion of the role of islands as laboratories for coastal management (subsidiarity and innovation).
6. Support at the Euro-Mediterranean level to capacity building for coastal management, mobilising public opinion, and considering the establishment of a fund to enable private sources and local communities to finance the conservation and sustainable management of the Mediterranean coast.

2.2. Controlling urbanisation and promoting sustainable urban development

In the northern Mediterranean countries, where urban population growth has almost stopped, urban development now implies high environmental and social costs. The explosion of motorised mobility and the dispersion of residential areas and activities has encouraged widespread urbanisation and wasted space, resulting in a decline in social intermixing, high levels of energy consumption and pollutant emissions, and often greater vulnerability to natural hazards. The volumes of waste generated is considerable (566 kg per person in 2000) and may still increase by over 50%.

The southern and eastern Mediterranean countries are faced by a considerable challenge since there will be nearly 100 million more urban inhabitants in 25 years, at least a third of whom will live in urban areas in coastal regions. Urbanisation includes the multiplication of small and medium-sized towns and the vast areas and sprawl of metropolises and conurbations. This strong urban growth raises considerable problems, with a proliferation of informal settlements (currently accounting for 30 to 60% of urban inhabitants), an absence of basic infrastructures and a lack of sufficient economic development. Environmental costs are high (air and water pollution, vulnerability to hazards, health problems), and management problems may get worse with the current changes in consumption patterns. The volumes of waste generated in these countries (282 kg per person in 2000) could double by 2025.

Despite contrasts between developed and developing Mediterranean countries, there are common objectives for reversing negative trends. These include containing urban sprawl, promoting sustainable urban development, management of local developments by local people, changing consumption patterns, and making the urban economy more dynamic. The cities of the most decentralised countries (Spain and Italy for example) possess considerable capacities, and several have undertaken well-funded action programmes (urban upgrading, Agenda 21s, the development of public transport). On the other hand, the capacities of cities in developing countries (technical and financial resources) are very limited. Decentralised co-operation and North-South networks between cities (for example MedCities or co-operations developed through national '21' committees) would benefit from additional support.

Objectives

- Promote a sustainable urban economy. Make the most of the outstanding cultural and landscape features of Mediterranean cities to contribute to their development;
- Reduce social disparities by integrating informal settlements into cities, by halving by 2015, compared with 1990, the proportion of urban inhabitants without access to safe drinking water, sanitation and electricity and extending the coverage of health and educational services;
- Revive the Mediterranean model of mixed, compact cities generating low environmental pressures and offering a good quality of life;
- Strengthen solidarity between Mediterranean cities.

Orientations and actions

1. Reduce the trend towards urban sprawl by promoting peri-urban agriculture and more restrictive master plans set in a national or regional (sub-national) framework. These should aim to link urban development with transport planning, improved public transport (non-polluting public transport, minibuses, shared taxis) and a diversification of land and housing supply in urban centres and suburbs.
2. Promote professional and academic networks to focus on the future of Mediterranean cities and develop the concept of sustainable urban development. Develop, by 2010, guidelines for town planning and construction (with national adaptations) to respond to the challenges of sustainable development (pilot action).
3. Generalise measures and incentives for sustainable building techniques in conformity with the steps and objectives of risk-preparedness, energy saving (training, eco-efficiency standards for housing and other buildings) and respect for the landscape. Make social housing support subordinate to sustainability criteria.
4. By 2010, develop Agenda 21s, strategic plans and concerted projects for urban rehabilitation, regeneration and renewal in Mediterranean cities with more than 100 000 people, involving inhabitants, associations and enterprises, deriving support from the local heritage, in order to create new urban dynamics and revive the compact and mixed model of a city.
5. Reduce urban wastes at source, and recycle them, by promoting practices and investments for recycling and treatment, and improve waste collection, so as to reduce by 40% the projected increase in waste volumes by 2025 (by 20% by 2015). Double recycling rates by 2025 (compared with 2000).
6. Improve air-quality controls (by installing monitoring networks by 2015 in all cities with more than 100 000 inhabitants). Encourage the use of non-polluting vehicles and fuels to reach a 30% share of clean fuels (LPG, CNG and biofuels) by 2015, promote epidemiological surveys of 'air quality and health' and help to create a Mediterranean network of exchange and epidemiological information.

7. Develop decentralised co-operation between cities and local authorities, gradually extending URBAN-type programmes to SEMC urban areas with problems.
8. Initiate a regional co-operation and risk-sharing mechanism partly financed by Mediterranean cities (pilot action).
9. Promote sustainable urban development at the national level, by working out a chart for the sustainable city. Set objectives and implement or develop joint State/city action plans to improve unhealthy habitats and combat air pollution, sanitation and recycling. Strengthen the capacities of local authorities by increasing the share of local taxes in total fiscal revenues. Develop training programmes on sustainable urban management for local authority staff (including training visits to cities of the Mediterranean Europe), particularly to ensure better integration of sustainable development issues into the specifications of 'public/private' partnerships and procurement procedures.

2.3. Promoting 'quality' agriculture and sustainable rural development

Mediterranean rural areas are characterised by the relative importance of mountain systems and semi-natural systems (pastureland and woodlands), rain-fed agriculture (annual crops and arboriculture), the wealth of biodiversity (10% of the world's vegetal species on 1.6% of its surface), the cultural value of Mediterranean agriculture, rural landscapes and diet, and by very high ecological and socio-economic fragility. Given these specific characteristics, the region has long developed co-operation frameworks and skilled networks such as the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (ICAMAS), the SilvaMediterranea network, the new Mediterranean centre of the IUCN, and NGOs active in the fields of forestry and nature protection (in particular IAMF and WWF). Specialised observatories and centres for arid lands (OSS, ICARDA) are also active in the region.

Biodiversity and landscapes are being degraded and threatened by overexploitation of resources and abandonment of traditional practices, placing the eco-region among the world's hot spots. In the developed Mediterranean countries, inland areas were largely abandoned during the 20th century. The decline of agriculture has led to the closure of entire areas, shrinking traditional activities and under-equipped public services. However, this downturn is now beginning to be compensated by a strong diversification in the rural economy (tourism, residential development, agri-food enterprises, etc). In the developing countries, agriculture remains of fundamental social and economic importance. Their mountainous inland areas have recently been a major source of emigration towards cities and Europe. However they have not been depopulated. Local inhabitants exert considerable pressures, and effects can be seen in increased erosion, siltation of dams and poor organisation of water run-off systems. Desertification is particularly serious and exacerbates rural poverty.

The considerable differences in agricultural productivity between the developed and developing countries, and between modern and subsistence agriculture, continue to increase. Many rural areas in the south and east of the region are very fragile in the context of globalisation. Modern agriculture and irrigation are developing in all countries, with harmful environmental effects (over-consumption of water resources, pollution, erosion and soil salinisation). However this development is encountering physical limits. Numerous rural areas in the South and East of the region are very fragile in the context of globalisation.

The major risk in the trend scenario is the increase in instability: desertification, impoverishment and destabilisation of marginalised agricultural societies in the developing countries (with impacts in terms of degradation of natural resources, mobility and emigration), increased pressures on water resources and their impacts, the loss of high-grade agricultural land (through urbanisation), increasing vulnerability to fire and flooding, and irreversible degradation of landscapes and biodiversity. We can also expect a loss of a certain Mediterranean identity and a decline in the region's low-energy content and healthy diet patterns.

To counter this risk, Mediterranean peoples, along with Europe, should endeavour to enhance the region's assets, relativise the potential relevance of export products and enhance land structures and the operating conditions of domestic markets. This should enable them to manage rural resources rationally and diversify and enhance production, and promote the Mediterranean diet model. Food, agriculture, forestry, rural and nature-protection policies must evolve as part of a dynamic Mediterranean and Euro-Mediterranean co-operation. However, Euro-Mediterranean negotiations remain bogged down in short-term commercial approaches that have not much taken the non-commercial concerns of agriculture into account.

Objectives

- Reduce pressures on the environment by agriculture and increase its capacity to end the degradation of rural areas, reduce vulnerability to hazards (forest fires, floods, etc.) and halve the projected growth in loss of peri-urban agricultural land;
- By 2010, significantly reduce desertification, irreversible loss of continental biodiversity and degradation of landscapes. Halt desertification resulting from poor management of rural areas by 2025.
- Enhance the uniqueness, diversity and quality (food, products, territories) of the Mediterranean area and create synergies between activities to generate added value;
- Maintain agriculture and rural areas. Recognise the importance of the non-commercial functions of Mediterranean agriculture to limit the fall in the agricultural workforce (in absolute terms in the developed countries and relative terms in the developing countries);
- Avoid destabilisation of rural societies by reviving rural areas. Halve the proportion of rural populations that have no access to safe drinking water, public sewers and electricity (compared with 1990) by 2015, and reduce most of the observed disparities with cities (poverty, illiteracy, access to basic services such as education and health) by 2025. Diversify the economy and employment in depressed rural areas so as to substantially increase non-agricultural activities and the share of non-agricultural income in rural GDP.

Orientations and actions

1. Produce a common and differentiated vision of desirable long-term futures for agriculture and rural areas, and their roles in a modern sustainable development economy, by 2007. Bring different points of view together within the Euro-Mediterranean framework, integrate non-trade considerations into Euro-Mediterranean negotiations and adopt a special and differentiated treatment for the developing countries with significant rural sectors in fragile ecological and socio-economic situations (phased concessions, exemptions, asymmetric market opportunities) (pilot action).
2. Generalise legally binding measures and plans for the sustainable management of agricultural, pastoral and forest lands. Reduce the projected loss of peri-urban agricultural land by 2025 (by a quarter by 2015) and implement, by 2015 and in at least 20% of rural areas, management plans for mountain areas, pasturelands, forests and protected areas of the regional nature park type or biosphere reserves, so as to limit the effects of erosion and mitigate desertification, improve hydrological systems, conserve and enhance biodiversity and cultural heritage, maintain a profitable pastoral and forestry economy and diversify the economy. Update and relaunch the *SilvaMediterranea*-Mediterranean Forest Action Programme (Med-FAP), adopted in 1993, to serve as a reference framework for national forestry action plans by including lessons learned from current analyses of the governance of sustainable development (participatory approaches).
3. Within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, support the transition towards sustainable agricultural and rural development in developing countries and the emergence of integrated programmes and schemes of the LEADER type, as well as regional nature parks. Invite ICAMAS to expand to all Mediterranean-rim countries in order to strengthen the

- research and development network (with national agronomic research institutes) and better integrate sustainable development into its thinking and training courses.
4. Initiate or develop sustainable rural and regional development policies in order to reduce imbalances between coastal and inland areas, and between rural areas and cities, rebalance urban development (develop inland cities and rural towns), increase the coverage of road, water supply, sanitation and electricity services, develop rural communities as part of integrated territorial projects that aim to create activity poles, enhance resources and the local heritage, economic diversification (tourism, industry, services, etc), support local projects and enterprise creation, attract new rural inhabitants, promote decentralised energy production (solar, wind, hydro-electricity) and ensure sustainable management of natural resources.
 5. Create differentiated taxation and incentive instruments for flexible and decentralised use by rural regions with problems.
 6. Promote environmentally sustainable agriculture so as to reduce consumption of water and other inputs, and soil degradation and restore fertility. Assess and manage the risks of GMOs to the eco-region. Generalise the environmental requirements of financial assistance to agriculture. Take account of the European soils strategy.
 7. Enhance Mediterranean diets and develop quality product identification (organic agriculture, labelling and geographical origin policies) to promote a healthy diet, quality local products, and the use of local varieties, and enhance competitiveness by building on Mediterranean assets. Create a Mediterranean label for 'quality' products.
 8. Recognise the role of farmers as actors in sustainable development by maintaining and attracting young farmers so as to conserve a living rural civilisation, by preparing a new generation of farmers for their tasks, introducing new training programmes in agricultural schools and directing aid to the non-market functions of agriculture.
 9. Improve system of land tenure, access to domestic agriculture markets and credit in the developing countries.

2.4. Improving water resources and demands management

Water is a scarce, fragile and very unequally distributed resource (two-thirds of regional resources concentrated in one-fifth of the Mediterranean Basin). Irregular rainfall, aridity, especially acute in the south and east, and recurrent droughts create major constraints for agriculture. Successive generations have tried to overcome these problems by developing irrigation, which is now the largest consumer of water (65% of total regional water demand, 82% in the south and east). The population in these countries (with less than 1 000 cu. m per person per year) is 108 million and may reach 165 million by 2025, 63 million of whom are projected to be under the scarcity level (less than 500 cu. m per person per year).

National strategies have favoured supply- side policies by multiplying dams and boreholes (500 dams in the Mediterranean region with a total capacity of more than 230 cu. km). This policy continues, with nearly 250 dams with a total capacity of about 90 cu. km planned in nine countries. This trend is not sustainable: the aquifers, many consisting of non-renewable fossil water, are being overexploited or irreversibly degraded by saline intrusion; many dams will lose most of their storage capacity because of siltation, and there ever fewer sites for new dams. Hydrological systems are deteriorating as a result of the degradation and overdevelopment of catchment areas and the disappearance of wetlands. Climate change is expected to lead to more irregular and less rainfall.

The main challenge is to promote demand-side management policies for reducing losses and misuses and create more added-value, through greater efficiency in irrigation, and in industrial and urban water use. The projected trend demand (losses and use) could reach about 210 cu.

km. by 2025. Rational demand-side management could lead to savings of some 54 cu. km of water by then (or 24% of the projected demand), thus rendering unnecessary the building of nearly 100 dams. Non-conventional water sources (reuse of agricultural drainage water and wastewater, desalinisation of seawater, use of brackish water for industrial purposes) could result in recovery of about 25 cu. km by 2025. Some southern and eastern countries have successfully undertaken demand-side management policies that have demonstrated the feasibility and strategic advantage of this, and the World Summit on Sustainable Development requested the establishment of national water efficiency plans by 2005. Integrated water resources and demands management could also offer the opportunity of promoting the interface between actors at pertinent scales (catchment areas and water tables).

Other challenges are to improve access to safe drinking water and sanitation along with the protection of ecosystems and the quality of resources, and the risks already mentioned of growing disparities between EU countries (subject to the Water Framework Directive but with significant infrastructures and resources) and the other Mediterranean coastal countries.

Objectives

- Reduce loss and wasteful use of water to decrease the projected demand for water by 10% by 2015, and significantly increase the economic agriculture added-value per cubic metre of water used;
- Protect resources (quality and quantity) and ecosystems;
- Promote integrated management of catchment areas, especially for reducing natural hazards;
- Achieve objectives for access to safe drinking water and sanitation and reduction of land-based pollution.

Orientations and actions

1. Reorient water policies by moving from a supply-driven approach to one of integrated supply and demand-side management so as to improve the efficiency of water usage in technical (reducing unnecessary losses) and economic, social and environmental terms. Develop demand-side management measures in various sectors and policies: agriculture (by generally implementing technologies and practices for optimising and saving irrigation and drainage water), industry, tourism, and urban water. Establish a fiscal and pricing framework to encourage investment in demand-side management; develop financial mechanisms for ex-ante internalisation of profits from water saving, transferring them in the form of credits and subsidies to those involved in the investments needed for water savings and increasing the exploitable potential; and raise awareness among professionals and users about the potential gains from such management.
2. Conserve and increase resources through soil and water conservation (agricultural and forestry practices) and replenish water tables.
3. As a complement to demand-side management, encourage and develop non-conventional water production and use (re-using wastewater, desalinisation) through credit policies and public and private investment.
4. Strengthen regulations for reducing over-exploitation of water tables and non-renewable resources, promote artificial replenishment of water tables, protect wetlands by strengthening regulations and assess ecosystem demand, so that it can be taken into account in planning.
5. Support the implementation of water-management schemes in catchment areas and, primarily, plans for risk-prevention, mainly by relying on sustainable agriculture.

6. Initiate, in the framework of a Euro-Mediterranean partnership water programme, an institutional co-operation project with national water directors to help re-orient public policies and strengthen capacities (pilot action).
7. Fund (donors) pilot operations, including subsidies for demonstrating the validity of these new approaches.
8. Create a Euro-Mediterranean facility to support investment and achieve the objectives of the MDG and the Barcelona Convention (access to safe drinking water, equipment of coastal cities with treatment plants).

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

The energy consumption of Mediterranean countries reached 820 mtoe in 2000, having more than doubled in 30 years. If this trend continues, demand will reach about 1 365 mtoe by 2025, 87% of which would be met by fossil fuels, with a growing share of natural gas (the fossil energy dependence index for all Mediterranean countries would have increased from 21% in 1970 to 38% in 2025). The energy, residential, industry and transport sectors are the main emitters of greenhouse gases. Without a change in the trend, Mediterranean emissions will increase from 7% to 9% of the world's total by 2025, despite a predictable energy deficit in many countries (increasing by 1% to 2% per year between now and 2025).

Reduction in fossil energy consumption is particularly important. Several countries in the region have undertaken to respect the provisions of the Kyoto Protocol. The Mediterranean is particularly threatened by climate change (increasing water stress, desertification, droughts and flooding, submergence of low-lying delta areas, etc.) and the Kyoto Protocol represents an opportunity for funding development. The Northern Mediterranean developed countries accounted for nearly 70% of total energy-related CO₂ emissions in the Mediterranean in 2000.

Rational energy use and increasing use of clean and renewable energies (solar, wind, biomass, etc.) are the most important energy stakes facing the region.

There are Mediterranean networks (OME, MEDENER), and co-operation projects (such as Italy's Mediterranean Renewable Energy Programme) and a Euro-Mediterranean regional programme have been launched. However the region has much to gain from implementing joint clean development mechanisms under the Kyoto Protocol which would enable the UNFCCC Annex I countries to meet their greenhouse gas emission reduction objectives while committing their enterprises to increasing investment in developing countries who have ratified the Kyoto Protocol. These investment flows in the Region will facilitate the establishment of a sustainable market for renewable energies and energy efficiency technologies, and stimulate exchanges of technology and know-how between North and South. The region must also prepare for the post-Kyoto period.

Objectives

- Increase energy efficiency (Rational Energy Use) and reduce energy intensity to achieve demand reductions of by 2015 compared with the trend projected demand;
- Develop renewable energies to meet 7% of energy demand by 2015
- Substantially reduce CO₂ emissions in the region by 2025 by exploring all possible options. Accelerate the transition of the developing and transition Mediterranean countries towards sustainable development through projects that exploit the Kyoto Protocol joint implementation mechanisms;
- By 2015, halve the proportion of the population with no access to energy, by favouring the use of renewable energies.

Orientations and actions

1. Give priority to Rational Energy Use (in particular for lighting, construction and residential buildings, industrial production and transport) and renewable energies. Set overall and sectoral objectives for 2015 for each country.
2. Encourage producers, builders, users and all actors to switch to sustainable and equitable behaviour patterns, particularly through the use of market signals such as incentive prices for energy savings, discouraging waste and polluting energies and awareness-raising campaigns. Encourage industrialists and other users to make assessments and develop effective strategies.
3. Increase financial instruments and mechanisms: taxation, subsidies, tax credits, operator pricing policies, Tradable Renewable Energy Certificates (TRECs) allocated to collective and individual equipments that would result in energy saving or the use of renewable energies.
4. Integrate sustainability into the Mediterranean interconnection networks by favouring renewable and diverse energy sources.
5. Invite Mediterranean Annex I countries to create a carbon fund (a clean development mechanism proposed by the Kyoto Protocol) which permits the purchase of Certified Emission Reduction credits by investors operating in other Mediterranean countries who have ratified the Kyoto Protocol (pilot action).
6. Invite donors, to re-direct their programmes towards energy-efficiency and renewable energies to help to achieve the objectives that have been set.

2.6. Ensuring sustainable mobility through appropriate transport management

Demand for mobility for people and freight is growing far more rapidly than either the economy or the population. However transport links between North and South are seldom competitive.

Land transport is dominated by road (88% of passenger transport and 82% of freight) with serious consequences in terms of pollutant gas emissions, landscape degradation and wasted time. The vehicle ownership rate of 540 per 1000 inhabitants in the Northern developed countries contrasts with 30 to 100 per 1 000 in the South and East, but predicted growth is very high.

Air traffic is increasing while rail traffic accounts for only a small share and is declining in most countries. Maritime transport is also increasing (30% of the world's cargo traffic goes through the Mediterranean Sea). The trend still favours road traffic. In 2000, transport accounted for 32% of final energy consumption in the Northern countries. The trend scenario growth in transport in the Mediterranean countries is not sustainable.

The EU, some countries and a growing number of local authorities have become aware of the impasse that would result from these baseline developments and have begun to implement policies aimed at changing the modal shares and reduced demand for transport. Strict standards for motor vehicles are being implemented in the EU, which should accelerate the introduction of significant technological improvements, but risks widening the gap with the southern and eastern countries.

The stake for the region is to develop a transport system and modes that factor in and anticipate these developments. A Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum has been instituted and interconnections between countries are being planned. But expertise on sustainable transport in the Mediterranean is still limited, and sustainability issues are not sufficiently integrated into strategies and policies.

Objectives

- Establish Euro-Mediterranean transport links to ensure greater economic competitiveness while integrating sustainability stakes;
- Reduce the trend share of road transport: by 2015 transfer 10% of the growth projected trend of road transport to rail transport and 2 to 5% to shipping transport also by 2015;
- Better control of transport by decoupling motorised transport from GDP by 2015 and reducing current and projected traffic congestion through better spatial planning, widespread use of public transport and incentives for reducing individual motorised transport;
- Reduce pollution from transport by widely exploiting available technologies for improved vehicle performance.

Orientations and actions

1. Develop, before 2010, a Euro-Mediterranean sustainable transport framework inspired by the objectives of the European Sustainable Development Strategy adopted in Göteborg and the Mediterranean Strategy (pilot action). This framework should aim at complete and optimised Mediterranean transport links (reducing administrative constraints and break of load) between the various relevant Euro-Mediterranean structures (the Euro Med Transport Forum and the project for Euro-Mediterranean multi-modal corridors) and the MCSD.
2. Extend to the non-EU Mediterranean countries the benefits of the Marco Polo Programme for developing road-sea modal transfers.
3. Re-direct support from States and donors especially, towards the development of alternatives (rail, river and maritime) to an all-road mode.
4. Develop coastal shipping and harbour infrastructures (small and medium ports) to reduce the need for large road infrastructures. Develop 'motorways of the sea'.
5. Promote new local partnerships between local authorities, businesses and chambers of commerce to extend public transport networks and gradually introduce non-polluting urban transport;
6. Implement a range of national measures (subsidies, taxation, funding of public transport, abolition of subsidies for polluting fuels, master transport plans, etc.) to internalise the external costs of transport into prices by 2015.
7. Give proper consideration over the coming decades to ways of reducing transport demand through the development of the non-material economy (teleworking and teleconferences) and other applications of new information and communication technologies. To this end, support the UNEP Multi-Stakeholder Process for developing the 'digital' economy (Global Sustainability Initiative).

2.7. Making tourism a leading vehicle for Mediterranean sustainable development

The Mediterranean is the world's leading region for tourism. Its scale (366 million international and domestic tourists in 2000), its foreign exchange earnings, its contribution to GDP and the number of jobs created make this a vital economic sector for all Mediterranean countries.

Growth projections (637 million tourists by 2025, 270 million more than in 2000, about half of whom will visit the coastal regions) need to be planned for so as to enhance their positive impacts and reduce their negative ones (tourism is simultaneously a source of wealth, a creator of heritage, a cause of increased public expenditure, a contributor to irreversible environmental degradation and an agent of cultural destruction).

Mediterranean tourism is essentially based on the seaside resort model. Seasonality is a major factor and is the reason for over-sized infrastructures. It has developed within a very competitive

system dominated by a few major tour operators. Increased competition between destinations and countries is leading to a certain standardisation and some levelling of what is on offer, with possible risks of crisis. This competitiveness has sometimes been encouraged by proactive public policies, emphasising tourist numbers and related infrastructure rather than added value and development.

The environmental and socio-cultural impacts of tourism development are considerable and risk outstripping the benefits. Local benefits may be limited, while other economic sectors frequently remain disconnected from tourism development. In some destinations, holiday homes are multiplying, contributing to fragmentation of land and dispossession of local inhabitants. The real costs and benefits remain very inadequately assessed.

Some countries have achieved major diversification, creating added value, in order to adapt to changes in international and domestic demand (rural, cultural and eco-tourism). In the developing Mediterranean countries, growth in domestic demand represents an opportunity but is often poorly met.

A reorientation of policies, a concerted institutional strategy and regulatory measures are needed to correct market failures and better support Mediterranean development. The challenge is to achieve better management of tourism growth, particularly by influencing its spatial distribution and diversifying supply for the benefit of sustainable urban and rural development, and better satisfaction of international and domestic demand (which is growing strongly in the South and East). However, the region has not yet succeeded in establishing an adequate regional co-operation mechanism.

Objectives

- Decouple tourism economy from its impacts on the environment;
- Promote sustainable tourism, which brings territorial and social cohesion as well as cultural and economic development;
- Regulate flows and activities of the tourism sector through an institutional strategy;
- Redirect one-third of the expected increase in the number of tourists by 2025 in the littoral towards urban and rural developments in the inlands of countries and coastal regions where this is justified.

Orientations and actions

1. Implement mechanisms to regulate tourism so as to manage its impact by undertaking evaluation of carrying capacity in the destinations, adopt economic and land use regulations and mechanisms to enforce these limits, develop 'tourism pay-back' formulae to enable tourists to contribute to the preservation of the environment and the sustainable development of destinations (in particular in islands with taxation systems based on transport), regulate leisure activities that contribute to the degradation of local areas, especially on the coast, and implement progressive pricing of consumption of natural resources.
2. Promote sustainable tourism by encouraging diversification through the development of businesses rather than residential tourism, encourage rental policies, a better satisfaction of domestic tourism demand, promote urban, cultural, rural and eco-tourism for a better enhancement of the Mediterranean's specific characteristics and heritage, and exploit synergies and added value with other economic activities (agriculture, craft industry, agro-food industry).
3. Re-orient tourism policies, and integrate them better into urban and rural policies. Ensure a better distribution of tourist flows in space and time (also in line with transport policies). Encourage measures for enhancing tourism facilities and services and avoid overloading. Re-think the spatial distribution of tourism as part of master plans, particularly to remove tourist infrastructures from the coastline, slow the increasing concentration of holiday homes on the coast and improve inland communications and facilities. Promote a Mediterranean label for tourism.
4. Create a regional co-operation mechanism for promoting Mediterranean destinations, establish a permanent forum for exchange of good practices, build capacities through training and technical support programmes, and raise awareness of tourists and operators in destinations and countries of origin. Promote communication and information to tourists and local actors.
5. Organise a meeting of Euro-Mediterranean tourism and environment ministers (WTO with the UNEP/MAP and the EU) to establish a common determination to re-orient tourist development, and create a North-South co-operation mechanism. Organise the monitoring of tourism satellite accounts. (Pilot action).

3. MOBILISING ACTORS, IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY AND MONITORING PROGRESS

To be effectively implemented, the Strategy must be supported by innovative and strong commitment as regards Mediterranean co-operation and national and local governance. Such commitment means profound changes and reforms. Success will depend on the ability to promote converging points of view and synergies in planning, decision-making and actions by governments, local authorities, companies and other actors in civil society. Its effectiveness will depend mainly on the ability to monitor its progress of implementation.

3.1. A Mediterranean co-operation for sustainable development

A Euro-Mediterranean area of solidarity and commitment

One important area of regional solidarity that constitutes a political base necessary for a Mediterranean Strategy seems quite naturally to be that of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, launched at the 1995 Barcelona conference; its objectives is to create a common area of shared prosperity and stability.

Centred mainly on implementing a free-trade zone and on security issues, it should integrate the concept of sustainability in its policies.. The Mediterranean countries that agreed to its initial objectives stand a better chance of having their expectations met through a strengthened Partnership.

Such a revival must rely on a common determination by the Mediterranean countries to see sustainable development included as a guiding principle for the Euro-Mediterranean project. The Partnership would gain much from such a positive re-orientation, which is vitally important for the region's future.

Strengthening solidarity and commitment to sustainable development is already underway in the EU countries and gradually in the countries planning to join. Political revival should ensure a gradual spread of this solidarity to the southern countries while keeping in mind the differences in their situations. It is also vital to simultaneously strengthen mutual solidarities based on South-South co-operation.

On the northern shore, strengthening of commitments and solidarity is already underway. For the EU and future member countries, the challenge is to review the partnership and the enlargement policies in order to better integrate the principles and objectives of European and Mediterranean strategies for sustainable development.

Orientations and actions

1. Strengthen reciprocal commitments to internal reform, seek support from Europe to improve standards, North-South and South-South co-operation. 2. Better integrate the principles of sustainable development and the Strategy's objectives into the long-term Euro-Mediterranean vision, neighbourhood agreements, and regional and national programmes. Adapt finance tools and mechanisms. Expand the benefits of community research and development and programmes of the Interreg, Urban and Leader types to the South and East. Evaluate the efficiency of the programmes in terms of sustainable development.
2. Invite the European countries to develop initiatives and projects of a regional, sub-regional or bilateral nature that contribute to the implementation of the Strategy through the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership to identify innovative mechanisms in dealing with the debt issue by reconverting debt into research and development actions, into programmes and twinning between local and professional actors on both shores, and programmes in favour of environment.

3. As part of the Partnership, initiate a specific regional programme for sustainable development (monitor progress, implement pilot activities set out in the Strategy, support the development of national strategies and strengthen capacities).
4. Implement a Euro-Mediterranean facility for water to help the southern and eastern-rim developing countries to reach the Millennium Development Goals and objectives of the Johannesburg Summit and the Barcelona Convention (access to water, equipping coastal cities with wastewater treatment plants, support for national efficiency plans).
5. Take into consideration the cost assessments of environment degradation and the gains resulting from “win-win” scenarios (studies by World Bank, MAP) and proposals resulting from the sustainability impact assessment study of the Euro-Mediterranean free-trade zone (study underway).
6. Consider, in trade negotiations and the advancement of Partnership action programmes, the multiple roles of agriculture, including economic, social (food and health, poverty, rural jobs) and environmental aspects (desertification, biodiversity, natural risks, etc.) and the issue of sustainable rural development in the South and East.
7. Study the possibility of elaborating a Mediterranean agreement on investment including sustainability rules (a platform of minimum social and environmental rules, the transfer of best available technologies), to promote a greater mobilisation of private European funds in activities that favour sustainable development.

Strengthening synergies with other co-operation frameworks

Implementation of the Strategy should rely on other Mediterranean co-operation frameworks. The Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) plays a vital role in strengthening the commitment of countries and all actors to the management of the marine and coastal environment. Sub-regional agreements (the Adriatic and Ionian Initiatives, RAMOGE, etc.) enable the reinforcement of this commitment. Professional and NGO networks are also active.

ICAMAS is expected to become a more committed player in the field of agronomic research and training for sustainable development.

The GFCM and Silva Mediterranea play an essential role in managing fisheries and involving forestry administrations in sustainable development and environmental protection.

Although mainly located around the Mediterranean Basin, Mediterranean countries are also part of regional structures that involve their wider neighbourhoods, which can extend beyond the eco-region. This is particularly the case for the countries that belong to the Arab League, the Arab Maghreb Union and the various United Nations regional organisations that overlap with the Mediterranean region. These co-operation frameworks and structures such as the CEDARE and METAP programme, can play an important role vis-à-vis their beneficiary countries.

The Mediterranean Strategy takes these multiple affiliations into account and exploits the complementarities and synergies of its commitments with the co-operation instruments, which these regional institutions can mobilise in the Mediterranean.

Other International Organisations that are active in the region (World Bank, UNDP, etc.) have also a crucial role in contributing to the implementation of the Strategy.

Orientations and Actions

1. Encourage the various co-operation frameworks to better integrate the issue of sustainable development into their thinking and actions and contribute to implementing the Strategy.
2. Increase synergies between these various co-operation bodies, the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and the MAP.
3. Strengthen synergies with the MAP, countries and NGOs within the implementation of the SMAP programme (the Partnership’s environmental programme). Focus this programme on

common-interest environmental issues: protecting and making good use of biodiversity, integrated management of coastal zones (including risk prevention), preventing maritime pollution, and strengthening the capacities of environmental ministries for integration.

Exemplary regional monitoring of progress

Sustainable development is development based on knowledge. It is thus strengthened by monitoring its progress, exchanging experiences, and the continuous extension of joint thinking. Regular assessments will demonstrate the Mediterranean's determination to be exemplary in this field and contribute to international thinking. It is thus important to measure the Mediterranean's contributions to the defined global objectives.

Founded in 1995 as part of the MAP, the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development is the proper framework for this thinking and collective monitoring. It brings together representatives of all Mediterranean-rim countries and the European Commission as well as local authorities, actors in the socio-economic sector and NGOs. The Mediterranean-rim countries have also begun to set up national commissions for sustainable development and develop first-generation of national strategies for sustainable development. They have issued initial reports on the environment and sustainable development, and some have established 'national observatories' or equivalent agencies. Progress in the MEDA beneficiaries countries has been made concerning statistics. But capacities for producing and disseminating information need to be improved.

Orientations and Actions

1. Make the MCSD a framework for thinking and monitoring, whose work will effectively engage the concerned administrations of the member countries and the European Commission, along with the IGOs working in the region. Invite the economic actors and local authorities to participate as actively as the NGOs.
2. Carry out an overall regional assessment, every five years, of the progress of the Strategy within the MCSD and with support from the MAP secretariat. Progress should be regularly measured on the basis of agreed indicators² and the various available analyses.
3. Strengthen exchanges of experience and organise Mediterranean fora (regional or sub-regional) within the framework of the MCSD on the seven priority fields., , These fora could lead to new proposals for defining objectives, actions and instruments included in the Strategy.
4. Strengthen the Mediterranean network for monitoring the environment and development (Plan Bleu with other centres of the MAP, EEA and other co-operation frameworks, countries and experts networks) to gather useful information, and make this continuously available for monitoring sustainable development and the Strategy.
5. Invite countries to set up extensive public information programmes about the Strategy and involve actors in its implementation, and its assessments (enterprises, local authorities, associations and technological entities). Fora could be organised for this process in countries or at the Regional level, Mediterranean, European and Euro-Mediterranean.
6. Use the MCSD framework to move closer to international points of view on relevant issues related to the future of the region (safeguarding diversity, the multiple non-commercial functions of agriculture, etc).

3.2. Mobilise people and funds and organise national implementation

² To be annexed to the present Strategy in May 2005

Strengthening human capital and involving actors: research, training, education, awareness-raising and participation

There are still significant levels of illiteracy in the developing Mediterranean countries, particularly in rural areas and among women, despite government spending on education being, on average, higher than in other comparable regions. The imbalance between the skills acquired in schools and universities and the job market needs is resulting in under-employment and an increase in unemployment among young graduates. The 'brain-drain' is a reality. Research and development expenditures are on average much lesser than in countries with similar incomes, including the developed countries of the northern shore. The spread of knowledge is limited by the low level of access to the Internet. The low percentage of high-value technology products in the exports of nearly all Mediterranean countries is symptomatic, as is the persistently low investment in these sectors.

The continuing deficits, for example in the dissemination of knowledge, education and access to information, do not favour the creation of NGOs or the participation of people in the decision-making process, despite progress made in legal provisions in these fields. It is nevertheless noteworthy that active networks of NGOs have been constituted at the regional level and with support from the MAP and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, enabling the dissemination of knowledge and experience among countries, especially in environmental education. Some countries have started to make considerable educational efforts in this field. However, education in sustainable development still generally needs to be set up, including at the higher levels.

The major challenge for the region is to make up for these deficits by integrating sustainable development issues at all levels so that all actors automatically integrate the need for sustainable developments into their behaviour.

Orientations and Actions

1. Ensure primary education for all and promote gender equality, to reach the Millennium Development Goals.
2. Train young people and SMEs to prepare for the new context created by globalisation and free trade and prepare them for the new technologies of the 21st century.
3. Give an appropriate place to education in sustainable development in accordance with the Thessalonika UNESCO Conference Declaration (1997), and actively participate in implementing the United Nations resolution launching a Decade for Education in Sustainable Development (DESD) from 2005 to 2014. Introduce sustainable development into educational curricula, from primary school right up to universities and graduate schools (training economists, engineers, managers, architects and planners, and business executives). Under the aegis of UNESCO, generalise the creation of chairs for sustainable development.
4. In synergy with the private sector, increase spending on research and development between now and 2015 so to reach at least the average level in countries with equivalent incomes, stressing the rational use of natural resources, developing environment-friendly technologies and recognising and economically and socially enhancing know-how and Mediterranean diversity.
5. Implement the MCSD recommendations relating to information and public participation.
6. Develop regional co-operation (MAP and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership) for supporting efforts by the regional networks of NGOs and countries for information and participation.
7. At the regional level, promote networking of universities and research and training centres to improve the overall effectiveness and contribution of research to the problems of sustainable development in the Mediterranean.

Financing sustainable development

Implementing the Strategy should make it possible to avoid the very high costs and risks of unsustainable development. In some fields it will make it possible to avoid large infrastructural costs and make substantial savings. It will also lead to greater appreciation of the value of natural resources, create added value and position the region more advantageously for globalisation.

However implementing the Strategy requires significant government spending in infrastructural projects to address the challenges of reducing environmental problems (water and waste treatment), improving access to basic services (water, energy, education, etc), research and development, sustainable transport infrastructures, incentives for changing consumption and production modes (with benefits that may be deferred), capacity strengthening and support for sustainable farming and rural development, etc.

The developing Mediterranean countries are confronted by the weight of their foreign debt (which in some countries accounted for more than a third of the export value of goods and services), the weakness of their government financial resources (especially direct taxation), a fall in customs incomes, low levels of savings and domestic investment and a lack of suitable environment for FDI. Thus, the share of international financial flows into the Mediterranean fell from 17% between 1971 and 1980 to 8% during the period 1991 to 2002. The scope for funding sustainable development is also limited by relatively high expenditures on sovereignty (defence, security, etc.) and by traditional supply-side policies, which often have high costs and environmental impacts.

Current financing systems do not make actors sufficiently accountable for triggering the sustainable development process. The incentive and taxation mechanisms are not adapted enough to effectively promote development that factors in the social, economic and environmental requirements of sustainability. Local taxation is particularly low in the South and East. The financial sector still remains over-dominated by a banking system that has a near monopoly on savings. The collateral required by commercial banks and the high costs of credit impede access by SMEs to funding for launching productive activities. Financial markets and the possibilities of alternative financing (micro-credit, venture capital, subsidies, etc.) are poorly developed. Only about 19% of public aid is devoted to actions especially advantageous to sustainable development. Financial backers still do not have the tools necessary for funding human resources and programmes that are typified by multiple, small actions.

Although domestic reforms for rationalising public expenditures and revising taxes and banking systems are necessary and are already partly under way, they are still insufficient, and the developing countries cannot deal with such needs on their own.

Orientations and Actions

1. Increase public development assistance from the European OECD countries to 0.7% of their GDP before 2015 (the Millennium Development Goal).
2. Encourage donors to give greater weight to sustainability in their strategies and methods. Double, within 10 years, the relative percentage of aid to actions that contribute to the present Strategy. Promote the development of practices for financing programmes by local and professional actors and encourage decentralisation of financial co-operation.
3. Rationalise and re-orient domestic government spending to align better with the objectives proposed by the Strategy. Systematise cost-benefit analysis (including an environmental and social dimension) before any major public investment programme.
4. Promote the implementation of systems to enable the funding of SMEs for production and innovation activities (micro-credit, venture capital, incentives, etc).

5. Evaluate the positive and negative externalities of activities in terms of the environment and sustainability. Implement systems of subsidies/taxes and pricing that factor in the externalities to mobilise and make actors accountable for sustainable development processes (sustainable management of resources and areas, production and dissemination of new technologies, changes in consumption and production patterns, etc).
6. Develop equalisation systems (taxation, duties and incentives) between privileged regions and towns and under-privileged areas for the sake of their development.
7. Continue and accelerate tax reforms and the reforms of financial and banking systems, taking into account their definition and implementation imperatives related to financing activities in the framework of strategies for sustainable development.

National implementation

Engaging in the process of sustainable development calls for involvement by the highest levels (heads of state and governments, mayors, business leaders) since it means defining and adopting fundamental principles in laws and institutions, making decisions and setting long-term objectives, engaging actors, recognising conflicts of interest, sometimes questioning certain established rent economy, ensuring arbitration and consistency and moving policies forward.

To enable progress in this sense, the Johannesburg Summit proposed that national strategies be developed and the Mediterranean Countries had decided to do so, since 2001. The Mediterranean Strategy as a 'framework' could serve as an inspiration for the national strategies that are currently being formulated, or may help to update them. It will only have a real impact if it is taken into consideration by such strategies on the understanding that each country must set its own specific objectives, depending on its national specificities and challenges, schedules and resources for action.

These national strategies would gain considerably by relying on prospective analyses of the environment and development. The administrations in charge of the environment, of the territories and of planning have an important role to play in highlighting the major issues and risks and in contributing to the development of shared visions of possible and desirable futures.

Significant success would result in these national strategies being extended to sectoral sustainable development strategies. The promotion of local developmental policies (urban and rural development, integrated management of coastal zones), could justify greater devolution of jurisdiction to local authorities and actors (devolution or decentralisation) as part of contracts that guarantee the factoring-in of sustainability.

The States need to do more than just adopt the strategies. They also have to be prepared to consider reforms and policies, especially in terms of institutional and legal measures regarding changes in the role of ministries for the environment, training, financing mechanisms, partnership organisation and contracting.

Orientations and Actions

1. Develop national sustainable development strategies or update them by factoring-in orientations and objectives set by the Mediterranean Strategy.
2. By 2008 develop (or update) sectoral strategies for sustainable development in the seven basic fields of action adopted by the Mediterranean Strategy (for the country as whole or only for its Mediterranean area). Set objectives adapted to the challenges and specificities of each country.
3. Introduce urgent provisions to assert the right to information, participation and the basic principles of coherence, transparency and accountability.
4. Promote internal reforms that govern the success of the sustainable development processes aimed at by the Strategy: changes in the role of the State, defining its public supervisory

functions for sustainable development, removing function that might be better carried out by local authorities or the private sector, implementing mechanisms for making development and environmental policies consistent, re-orienting environmental policies and regional management to give them substantial resources for 'anticipation' and 'integration'.

5. Implement institutional organisations adapted to national sustainable development issues: national commissions for sustainable development, changing the role and skills of environment ministries, systems for assessing policies and programmes and tools for observing, analysing and developing prospective studies for sustainable development.
6. Set up partnerships and instruments that enable commitment to the processes of sustainable development: processes of local development and integrated regional management projects, mobilising pools of experts for helping local actors (designing and carrying out action programmes, consistency and arbitration, monitoring projects and assessing their impact); incentives (subsidies, tax breaks and tax credits), pricing, duties and taxes, certificates, charters and standards; contracting with professional and local actors, awareness-raising campaigns, information and communication.

ANNEXES (under current preparation)

Annexe 1 List of acronyms

Annexe 2 List of the Strategy follow-up indicators