



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND WATER

DRAFT MINUTES

of the meeting held in Brussels, Belgium
11 April 2013

1. Opening of the meeting, adoption of the draft agenda and of the minutes of the meeting in Berlin on 10 December 2012

When opening the meeting the Chair pointed to the fact that – a now-former member of the Committee was the new environment minister of Malta and that another former member was the designated environment minister of Tunisia. He particularly welcomed the delegations of Mauretania and the Netherlands, who were participating in the meeting of the Committee for the first time.

The draft agenda for this meeting and the draft minutes of the meeting in Berlin on 10 December 2012 were adopted. The order in the agenda was changed - the implementation of the "Let's do it"-campaign becoming the first topic.

2. Implementation of the "Let's do it"-initiative

The Chair informed the Committee that the "Let's do it"-campaign had been discussed in the Committee several times and that the day before a preparatory meeting had taken place. With a view to new committee members not yet familiar with the topic he was happy to welcome one of the organisers of the first countrywide clean-up day in the "Let's do it"-campaign in Estonia, Rainer Nõlvak. After showing a film about a day of action Mr. Nõlvak said that the people supporting the initiative were not requesting any help from Brussels. As the clean-up days were organised individually within each country participating in the initiative they were not confronted with transnational organisational problems. Mr. Nõlvak, referring to the preparatory meeting, advocated holding a major meeting of country coordinators in 2013. Concerning the number of participants necessary for a successful clean-up day throughout the Mediterranean he said a million activists would be needed as a minimum. For the organisation of a clean-up day little was needed: integrity of the activists and support of the governments. He added that although nobody wanted to live with garbage the biggest problem was people's indifference. In the discussion delegates from Sweden, Spain and the EP took the floor.

The Chair informed the Committee that the clean-up could be organised city by city and that respective local and regional initiatives already existed. The task now was to connect and coordinate them. He mentioned that the Committee was now also linked with the organisation MedEndangered. Mr. Nõlvak said that the critical mass awareness in the Med-region to take action had been reached.

3. Renewable Energies

The Chair informed the Committee of the developments regarding the renewable energies projects in the MED region, underlining the achievements of Morocco. With reference to the Medgrid-Conference that was taking place the same day in the European Parliament and at which chairman Schennach and vice-chair Parvanova had made introduction statements, the latter proposed paying special attention to the development and upgrade of electricity grids and electricity highways between North and South and South and South-countries.

4. Marine Parks – Presentation by Puri Canals

Puri **CANALS**, Chairwoman of MedPAN (Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas Network), presented the organisation – regarding its presence in the MED-region, main objectives, management, roadmap for 2020 and its strategic objectives, long term mission, existent and planned financing mechanisms, approach for a MED Trust fund etc.

Ms. Canals mentioned insufficient management as a problem ; some Marine Protected Areas (MPA) were professionally managed, others not at all. Therefore capacity building was crucial in the MED-region. The main task at the moment was the financing of a MedTrustFund.

The Chair detected significant interest amongst committee members in the topic and indicated his intention to deepen the discussion on MedPAN in the Committee in the future. Regarding the financing of a MedTrustFund the Chair stated that this topic would be dealt with at a joint meeting of the Committee with the Economic Committee of the PA-UfM.

In the following discussion Egypt, Sweden and the EP took the floor.

5. Eco-Towns

The Chair reminded the Committee of the decision at the last committee meeting in Berlin to create a network of eco-towns around the Mediterranean. He was very happy to already be able to present the charta and the logo of the network and welcomed the mayors present at the meeting.

Rima **TARABAY**, the official coordinator of the eco-towns-project, said that she did not have much persuasion work to do as the aim of the network was the well-being of citizens. She gave an overview of the presentation paper of the new network. She informed participants that the network was not only receiving financial means from the EU but was also asking governments for contributions.

Subsequent to Ms. Tarabay's presentation a number of mayors engaged in the eco-towns-network informed the Committee of the environmental and social problems they were facing, their activities, plans and approaches to problem solution.

The tabled draft recommendations, together with amendments presented, were adopted by the committee.

At the end of the meeting the President of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz, came to welcome the mayors, who the next day had a half day workshop concerning the Eco Towns-project framework of the committee for discussing the next steps of their network. President Schulz had a brief conversation with the mayors as well as with chairman Schennach, vice chair Kikane, and Rima Tarabay, the official coordinator of the Eco towns-project.

An assistant to Mr. Roberto **RUSSO**, President of the International Federation for Sustainable Development and Fight against Poverty in the Mediterranean-Black Sea, presented the Federation whose aim was sustainable development and which also cooperated with governments. Fispmed was active in promoting and strengthening democratic and direct participatory procedures. Mr. Russo expressed great interest in being included in UfM-activities.

Allal **OUAZZANI**, Advisor to the Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean, presented the Gaza Desalination Project, which was planned for 2 million citizens and which was financed mainly by the Islamic Development Bank, the World Bank and the European Development Bank. The Chair called for more financial contributions by governments to the project.

6. Any other business

In closing, the dates of the next two meetings of the committee were announced:

-Stockholm , 27 - 28 May 2013

-Luxemburg , 15 - 16 November 2013.

The Chair furthermore announced

- the first meeting of the committee in 2014 would take place in Tunis

- the second 2014 meeting would be in Turkey, where a joint meeting with the economic committee of the PA-UfM was also planned.
