



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND WATER

DRAFT MINUTES

of the meeting held in Zagreb, Croatia
6 October 2014

1. Opening of the meeting, adoption of the draft agenda and of the minutes of the meeting held in Barcelona on 12 June 2014, welcome address by the Speaker of the Croatian Parliament Mr. Josip LEKO

Following introductory remarks by the Chair and Mr. Ante BABIĆ, member of the Croatian delegation to the PA-UfM, as well as the adoption of the draft agenda and of the draft minutes of the Committee meeting held in Barcelona on 12 June 2014 Mr. Josip LEKO, Speaker of the Croatian Parliament, welcomed the participants. He stressed that Croatia has been very active in the UfM which it sees as a very important forum for strengthening cooperation.

The Committee stood for a minute of silence in memory of the lives lost in the Mediterranean on 3 October 2013 when 268 Eritrean refugees and migrants drowned off the Italian island of Lampedusa.

2. Address by Mr. Hrvoje DOKOZA, Deputy Minister for Environment and Nature Protection, on the environmental policy in Croatia

Environmental policy involves much more than just the preservation of rare plant and animal species. Mr. Hrvoje DOKOZA, Deputy Minister for Environment and Nature Protection of the Croatian government, stressed. It rather should involve all aspects of our lives, from the economy, jobs, education, culture and tourism over to agriculture. Environmental protection policies play an important role and open opportunities - innovation and green technology can be drivers for investment and jobs. The environmental policy of Croatia has four main priorities: waste management, nature protection, circular and green economy and the protection of air quality as well as the implementation of measures to mitigate the effects of climate change. Mr. Dokoza noted in his speech the enormous advances that have been made in the past year in establishing an integral and functional waste management system.

Delegates from Jordan, Italy, Israel, Palestine and Turkey took the floor in the following discussion.

3. Architecture and opportunities for renewable energies and energy efficiency

Mr. Martin TREBERSPURG, Architect and Professor for Sustainable Constructions, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna, presented the "SolarCity Linz-Pichling" in Austria as a prototype for sustainable urban development in the future. Built along radial concentric lines it now offers living space for 5,000 people. Furthermore he

defined a passive house as a building, for which thermal comfort can be achieved solely by post heating or post cooling of the fresh air mass, which is required to fulfil sufficient indoor air quality conditions and went on to present some projects that have been realised in Austrian cities and even in high mountain areas.

Mr. Dieter MOOR, Ertex Solar, presented ways and possibilities of integrating photovoltaic installations in existing and new buildings and constructions.

Delegates from Jordan, Luxembourg, Italy, Algeria, Croatia and Israel took the floor in the following discussion.

4. Challenges for tourism in the Mediterranean

Mr. Zoran KLARIĆ; Associate Professor at the Institute for Tourism Zagreb, took a closer look at sustainable development in tourism that uses natural resources and cultural heritage to increase the number of visitors and profit, but also preserves them for future generations. The maximum number of people that may visit the tourist destination without causing destruction of the physical, economic and socio-cultural environment and an unacceptable decrease in the quality of the visitors' satisfaction had to be taken into account, he added. In this regard capacity assessment studies have been carried out at several places in the Mediterranean such as Rimini, Crikvenica, Malta, Larnaca, Marsa-Matrouh and Beirut. However, national and local governments and entrepreneurs in general were not interested in carrying out capacity assessments because they were not seen as tools, but rather as obstacles to tourism development, he deplored.

Delegates from Jordan, Israel and Palestine took the floor in the following discussion. Mr. SANDUQA, Vice-Chair of the Committee, gave an overview of casualties and damages recently caused by Israel in Gaza. The Chair encouraged the Committee on Economic and Financial Affairs, Social Affairs and Education of the PA-UfM to deal with the topic of tourism as well.

5. Eco-towns – State of Play

Ms. Rima TARABAY, Initiator, Coordinator and President of the Eco-Towns Project, started her presentation by giving an overview of the history of the Eco-Towns Network since its launch on 11 December 2012 and the conditions to be met by towns applying to join. She then reported on recent action taken in Naqoura/Lebanon, Cassis/France, Piran/Slovenia and Amsa/Morocco that included the installation of solar panels, the distribution of paper bags and reduction of waste.

Mr. Ivo RADICA, Mayor of Vis and Ms. Tonka IVČEVIĆ, Mayor of Komiža gave a presentation of both towns situated on the Croatian island of Vis and wishing to join the Eco-Towns Network. There will be further talks on how to proceed, but in principal the Chair declared that Eco-Towns would be happy to welcome Vis and Komiža as new members of the Network. The Chair will visit both towns together with Ms. Tarabay in order to realize the membership.

Mr. Ammar MAKHLOUFI, Vice-Chair of the Committee, took the floor in the following discussion.

6. Decision on future partnerships with the Committee

Mr. Laurent SOURBES, Vice-President of MedPAN, described the mission of the network: to promote, through a partnership approach, the sustainability and operation of a network of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean which are ecologically representative, connected and effectively managed to help reduce the current rate of marine biodiversity loss. Launched in 1990 MedPAN now has 58 members and 32 partners and operates with a permanent secretariat based in Marseille.

According to Mr. Michael SCOULLOS, Horizon 2020 Capacity Building / Mediterranean Environment Programme Team Leader, municipal waste, urban waste water and industrial emissions are responsible for up to 80% of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea. The Horizon 2020 Initiative of the UfM runs from 2007 to 2020 and includes investments in reduction and prevention of pollution, capacity building, review and monitoring as well as research. The UfM-Ministerial meeting in Athens on 13 April 2014 led to an endorsement of the second phase in particular broadening the scope and aiming at increased synergies with the Barcelona Convention.

Ms. Agni KALDMA, Let's Do It! Mediterranean (LDIM) core team, reported on recent developments in the campaign and its main objectives up to 2018: to involve at least 1 million people participating in clean ups; to diminish the inflow of marine debris into the Mediterranean Sea by 10 % by the year 2018; to carry out large scale technical competition to find novel technologies to clean the marine environment of debris (incl. micro plastic); to create legislative changes in waste management at EU level and collect scientific data in order to identify and remove the 10 biggest polluters around the Mediterranean Sea by year 2018. The first clean up event on 10 and 11 May 2014 mobilized 67,309 volunteers across 16 Mediterranean countries, Ms. Kaldma said. The next LDIM-cleanup day is envisaged to take place on 25 April 2015.

Delegates from Croatia and Palestine took the floor in the discussion.

The Chair concluded by stating that he will report to the Bureau and to the PA-UfM that the NGOs MedPAN, Horizon 2020 and LDIM will be considered partners of the Committee as is already the case with the Eco-Towns Project and will be invited to future meetings.

7. Any other business

The day after the meeting the Committee visited best practice models with regard to clean energy and energy efficiency in the city of Ludbreg.

The **next meeting** of the Committee on Energy, Environment and Water will take place in Lisbon within the framework of the annual session of the PA-UfM.
