



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND WATER

DRAFT MINUTES

of the meeting held in Stockholm, Sweden
26-27 May 2013

1. Opening of the meeting, adoption of the draft agenda and of the minutes of the meeting in Brussels on 11 April 2013

When opening the meeting the Chair welcomed his new Vice-Chair Mr. Amar MAKHLOUFI from Algeria as well as the new delegate from Israel, Mr. Dov KHENIN.

After the adoption of the draft agenda and of the draft minutes of the committee meeting in Brussels on 11 April 2013 the Swedish delegation leader, Ms. Kerstin ENGLE, welcomed the participants.

2. A drop of water to the sea – the challenge of coastal zone management in the Mediterranean

Mr. Anders ALM, Head of Unit in the Ministry of Environment of Sweden presented the operation of the ecological water system and the treatment of water in Sweden. He emphasized that a holistic approach to the use and treatment of water was necessary.

The Chair drew attention to the precarious water situation in Egypt. He stressed that it would be alarmingly dangerous to start oil and gas production in the Mediterranean Sea, as the Sea has only two effluents and as the water there consequently needs 80 years to renew itself.

In the discussion delegates from Jordan, Israel, France, the EP and Morocco took the floor and debated the water and environmental situation in Jordan and the possible exploration for gas and oil in the Mediterranean Sea.

3. Waste recovery – international partnership – a model to transfer technology and to create local development

Mr Hans BÖRK and Mr Mohammed TAHERZADEH from the University of Borås explained the interaction and cooperation in the framework of the collaboration model of "Waste Recovery – International Partnership". The University of Borås has established international connections with and between universities making use, amongst others, of the relations of rectors with high representatives of local governments and industry. The education of students in this field is split among various universities. Each member of the network (including also poorer countries) has to make a contribution which guarantees the benefits of ownership. The biggest challenge for a successful project, however, was the right timing – if that was provided the success would only be "a question of time".

In the discussion delegates from Morocco, Sweden, Poland, and Algeria took the floor.

4. Report on Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas Network

Purificao CANALS, Chairwoman of MedPAN gave a presentation on the Marine Protected Areas, in particular where they were situated, their status (e.g. less than 0.1 % of the sea was in a strict protection zone) and strategic objectives of the roadmap for 2020, the MedPAN long term mission as well as the finance mechanism of the network.

Delegates from Morocco and Israel took the floor in the following discussion.

After the discussion the Chair informed the Committee of his plans for the envisaged joint meeting of the PA-UfM-committees for Energy, Environment and Water and that for Economy in Istanbul in December 2013. One important topic will be the implementation of the fund for the financing of marine protected areas (MPA), another one being the commitment of environmental ministers, to making proposals for additional MPAs and the means for their implementation.

The Chair informed the Committee that the PA-UfM-Bureau and the enlarged Bureau would meet in Amman on 6 July 2013 and visit a camp for Syrian refugees in Jordan on 5 July.

5. Report on Eco-Towns Project

Rima Tarabay, the initiator and coordinator of Eco-Town Project informed the Committee of the meeting of participating mayors on 11 April 2013 in Brussels. She pointed to the fact that the water-related problems often differ between the northern and the southern cities. She further informed the Committee of an upcoming meeting with the UfM-Secretariat in Barcelona in July to discuss possible financing for the initiative. Before enlarging the network the question of financing should be solved. She said that governments, environment ministries, NGOs etc. would be contacted and hoped that one day all PA-UfM-members including Israel would be part of the initiative.

Delegates from Jordan, Israel, Morocco and the Chair took the floor in the following discussion.

Vice-Chair Parvanova suggested that the committee draft reports on the topics of "waste water management" and on the "sustainable use of water for agricultural purposes".

6. Any other business

The chair informed the Committee of the priorities of the Committee for the coming year: water shortage and related subjects (salinization of ground water, emptying of aquifers, shortage of drinking water, high demand for water in agriculture, including increased meat consumption due to –rising population numbers and changing nutrition patterns). One problem, he stated, was that there did not exist any internationally binding laws on water usage – only the Helsinki rules, which were obeyed by some countries, but not by all.

A number of participants suggested inviting experts to the next committee meeting to discuss the topic of deriving oil and gas through fracking and this technology's environmental impact.

The **next meeting** of the Committee on Energy, Environment and Water will take place in **Luxemburg on 15-16 November 2013.**
