

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND WATER

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

On the following topics:

- 1. Renewable Energy Sources**
- 2. Eco-Towns**
- 3. Maritime Underwater Parks**
- 4. The 'Let's do it' campaign**

Presented by the Committee Chair
Stefan Schennach (Austria)

Having regard to the meetings of the Committee on Energy, Environment and Water of 24 /25 September 2012 in Rabat, 10/11 December 2012 in Berlin and 11 April 2013 in Brussels, the Committee proposes the following recommendations:

Re: Renewable Energy Sources

The Committee on Energy, Environment and Water proposes

1. Taking advantage of the opportunities offered by the Third Industrial Revolution by promoting clean renewable energy sources and thereby achieving independence from energy imports;
2. Promoting renewable energy sources, especially wind and solar power and energy derived from the oceans and from waste;
3. Taking more advantage of market opportunities by more actively promoting North-South and South-South cooperation, for example through the removal of barriers, such as customs tariffs and a lack of pipeline and cable systems;
4. Enhancing the importance of renewable energy sources as a motor for employment (keyword: the Limassol Declaration) through green technologies, in particular by promoting the training of specialists in this field, for example, at the Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI);
5. Recognising the importance of renewable energy sources as a factor for overcoming the crisis in a period of upheaval, such as the Arab Spring. They may contribute to economic growth and hence, possibly, also to sustainable development and political stability and peace in the southern Mediterranean countries;
6. Highlighting green technology as a measure to combat the effects of climate change and environmental pollution, especially in the Mediterranean countries and the Mediterranean Sea and coastline;
7. Inviting the Committee Bureau to the meetings of the Working Group in preparation for the meeting of energy ministers of the Union for the Mediterranean so as to ensure that the projects and initiatives decided on there are influenced and informed by the Committee's objectives;

Re: Eco-Towns

The Committees on Energy, Environment and Water recommends

8. Promoting the development and networking of cities in order jointly to address challenges in the energy, environment and water sectors through the establishment of an

‘Eco-Towns’ network and a Working Group coordinated by Rima Tarabay from Lebanon, Vice President of *Bahr Loubnan*, and Moez Kamoun from Tunisia, in cooperation with the head of the project and Committee chair, Stefan Schennach;

9. The presentation of the programme by the participating mayors (the network currently comprises some 12 towns) at the next General Assembly;

Re: Maritime Underwater Parks

The Committee on Energy, Environment and Water requests

10. Support for the creation of protected marine areas (underwater national parks) in collaboration with MedPan, as a practical step towards a common environmental strategy for the Mediterranean;

Re: the ‘Let's do it’ campaign

The Committee on Energy, Environment and Water points to

11. The decision to implement the ‘Let’s do it’ campaign which was adopted in March 2012 in Rabat and also considered worth implementing by the General Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean;
12. The recommendation contained in the decision to stage a common annual ‘Let’s do it’ day in the member countries of the Union for the Mediterranean in order to promote proper waste management, for example by awareness-raising at various levels;
13. The initial discussions conducted with NGOs (Horizon 2020 and EnDangered (M.E.D)) as potential cooperation partners with the aim of establishing a collective maritime environmental policy between Mediterranean countries, coastal towns and communities, the economy (especially tourism), NGOs and civil society;

Finally, the Committee for Energy, Environment and Water proposes

14. Addressing the following priority issues next year, in 2013/2014:
 - (a) food security against a backdrop of climate change and the greening of agriculture and sustainable and renewable technologies;
 - (b) the problem of drinking water (especially in the Autonomous Palestinian Territories);
 - (c) the creation of a Mediterranean Forum of NGOs and civil society in order to improve cooperation and regular exchanges of information in areas within the Committee’s remit;

15. Measures to strengthen, promote and develop existing cooperation, in particular with other organisations (such as FISP MED - International Federation for Sustainable Development and Fight Against Poverty in the Mediterranean-Black Sea), NGOs and civil society and their role in order to create more far-reaching and enduring networking and partnerships in the Mediterranean in the fields of the environment, energy and water;
16. Adapting and implementing existing programmes and decisions jointly with all the Mediterranean partner countries.