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IMC WORK PROGRAMME

The CPMR Intermediterranean Commission is entering into a new phase of consideration and work in 2010 which relies on two main pillars:

- Preparing future EU internal policies for 2014-2020 and their adaptation to the particular context of the south of Europe;
- Developing the Euro-Mediterranean relationship which is currently, in the context of the Union for the Mediterranean and the creation of ARLEM, at the heart of our development, peace and stability issues. The two Commissions created within ARLEM continue along the same topics as our working groups.

1) The future of regional policy is the prime concern of the IMC. The Intermediterranean regions shall continue their reflection of the development of this policy and of the methods for a new horizontal and vertical governance of Mediterranean priorities. The difficulty with the decision-making system to tackle the common Mediterranean issues encountered by our territories, calls for an increased role for the regions in the multi-level governance of these policies. In particular, the regions will have to debate these questions on the basis of a report established by the network of Mediterranean institutes on the policy areas of transport, environment, migrations, and innovation, competitiveness and culture policies. This reflection will particularly focus on two complementary approaches:

- The methods for implementing the EU2020 strategy in the Mediterranean;
- The emergence of the Mediterranean macro-region concept for better coordination of EU financial instruments in the Mediterranean and sector-based policies on common objectives.

In addition, some sector-based policies will also be at the centre of our reflections:

- The future of the CAP to take better account of the specificities of Mediterranean agriculture in the new generation post 2013;
- Structuring a Mediterranean integrated transport policy (and in the TEN-T), following a seminar in Murcia on 4 February 2010;
- The specificities of our innovation policies and particularly our open innovation policy in the Mediterranean;
- The implementation of Mediterranean integrated maritime policy.

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2) The future of Euro-Mediterranean policies for 2014-2020 is the second concern of the IMC for 2010. This is organised in three strands:

- The promotion of a convergence policy for countries in the south and east of the Mediterranean, on a regional basis, as the next step in the action plans of neighbourhood policy 2007-2013;
- The development of decentralised cooperation instruments in their Euro-Mediterranean dimension;
- The future of territorial cooperation around the Mediterranean basin and its consistency with the macro-region concept, whilst coordinating the IMC approach and the support of other networks to obtain the approval of Member States and the European Council.

To achieve these objectives, following a survey of our members, we have started a reflection on the organisation arrangements of the IMC, on the most suitable representation within the political bureau, on the consequently necessary updating of the internal rules of procedure and the role of the IMC within the CPMR and its participation, through the CPMR, in external cooperation and international networks such as FOGAR and nrg4SD.

We must increasingly attract regions from partner countries from the Union for the Mediterranean to further develop our work and our actions at sea basin level, as well as our participation in the ARLEM Commissions.