

Mediterranean Multi-Stakeholder Consultation Meeting
“Contribution to a Mediterranean Strategy for the Johannesburg World Summit for Sustainable Development”

Monaco, 13/11/01

OUTCOME OF THE CONSULTATION
USED AS INPUT TO THE 12TH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN AGAINST POLLUTION

Introduction

For the facilitation of the discussion during the Mediterranean Multi-Stakeholder Consultation Meeting, extracts of documents (*) thoroughly negotiated by governments of the region in various official fora contributing to the Johannesburg WSSD process were listed under various headings in the left-hand column of the table. These extracts as well as other documents included in the conference folder were used to inspire the participants and help them in formulating the points that are suggested with indicative language in the right hand column of the present text. **These points were used as input to the drafting of the Declaration of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention for presentation to the Johannesburg WSSD .**

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- (*) The documents available at the time of drafting this working document were:
- UN ECE Ministerial Statement for the World Summit on Sustainable Development as adopted by the meeting in Geneva, on 25 September 2001 (referred to throughout as *UN ECE Ministerial*)
 - UNEP, ESCWA, CAMRE Regional Stakeholders Roundtable in Preparation for the WSSD, Manama, Bahrain, 23-25 September 2001 (referred to throughout as *UNEP/ROWA, ESCWA, CAMRE – Bahrain*)
 - NGO Statement of the UN ECE Region which represents the discussions held in Geneva on 22-23 September 2001 (referred to throughout as UN ECE NGO)

EXTRACTS FROM OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS	SUGGESTED POINTS FOR THE MED DECLARATION
<p>Governance and democratic processes:</p> <p>- Good governance, including respect for human rights, the rule of law, democracy and combating corruption, forms part of the necessary foundation for sustainable development in all countries. Governments should do more to ensure the enactment and enforcement of domestic frameworks including, <i>inter alia</i>, an adequate regulatory and judicial infrastructure, including laws related to property, and should open up the policy making process to get more people and organizations involved in shaping and delivering policy. Democratic institutions, transparency and meaningful public participation in decision-making</p>	<p><i>Governance and democratic processes:</i></p> <p><i>Mediterranean countries recognise that good governance, following the democratic process, respecting human rights, peace, justice and international law, is a prerequisite for sustainable development. Timely and proper implementation and enforcement of decisions taken at all levels concerning sustainable development needs to be given due attention.</i></p> <p><i>Mediterranean countries reaffirm their commitment to the Rio principles and exclude that decisions taken in 1992 at the World Summit be reconsidered.</i></p>

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will also contribute to creating the type of society in which all people have the opportunity to prosper but also the responsibility for the sustainable use of the natural resources on which they depend. *(UN ECE Ministerial)*

- Good governance is essential to eradicate poverty, especially combating corruption and improving accountability and transparency. *(UNEP/ROWA, ESCWA, CAMRE – Bahrain)*

- Encourage regional initiatives and processes with the participation of major groups on public access to environmental and other information relevant to sustainable development, public participation in decision-making and access to justice, and to promote the implementation of Principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration. Governments in the region may wish to consider acceding to the Aarhus Convention, otherwise establishing domestic regimes providing for public access to information, participation in decision-making and access to justice or utilizing the ECE Sofia Guidelines on Access to Environmental Information and Public Participation in Environmental Decision-making. *(UN ECE Ministerial)*

- The role of women needs to be more emphasised at all levels as they play an essential role in sustainable development. Development programmes should focus on women’s issues *(UNEP/ROWA, ESCWA, CAMRE – Bahrain)*

- “Local Agenda 21” strategies on sustainable development should be developed and implemented. These strategies should promote innovative local solutions, supporting partnerships of local people, community and voluntary organizations, consumer organizations and women and youth groups, indigenous people(s), minority groups, local authorities and communities together with business and trade unions, as appropriate. *(UN ECE Ministerial)*

- The need for good governance is strongly emphasized to include strengthening the legal framework, nurturing democracy, accountability and transparency, effective participation of the civil society, especially women and youth, and the private sector in the decision making process. *(UNEP/ROWA, ESCWA, CAMRE – Bahrain)*

Mediterranean countries adhere to the Principle 10 of Agenda 21 and will consider acceding also to the Aarhus Convention and establish domestic regimes which provide for public access to environmental information, participation in decision-making and access to justice.

All countries and major groups of the region should develop and implement Sustainability Strategies at various levels (international, national and local) inclusive of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), River Basin Management Plans (RBMP) and Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) within an overall catchment area management scheme. These national strategies must be do-able with specific targets, financial and institutional provisions attached.

Governance within international institutions, rationalization and coordination between institutions and conventions. Strengthening of MAP/UNEP.

The role of both regional (international) and local levels of governance and participatory decision making structures should be strengthened.

The role of women needs to be more emphasised at all levels as they play an essential role in sustainable development. Development programmes will focus on women’s issues

Countries will facilitate the implementation of recommendations and action plans deriving from Local Agendas 21, establishing appropriate institutional frameworks by providing adequate means to local authorities

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<p>- Transparency requires improved public awareness through better access to information and building trust between the different stakeholders involved. Eliminating social, political and economical corruption is also considered essential to achieve good governance. Furthermore, adopting decentralization, and establishing linkages and coordination mechanisms between environment ministries, other concerned ministries and relevant sectors are of paramount importance in improving governance for sustainable development. <i>(UNEP/ROWA, ESCWA, CAMRE – Bahrain)</i></p> <p>- It is of paramount importance to strengthen (institutionally and financially) and empower the UN to play a more proactive role in sustainable development, emphasising the importance of the concentration of each agency on its respective area of specialisation. <i>(UNEP/ROWA, ESCWA, CAMRE – Bahrain)</i></p> <p>- An Arab Council for Sustainable Development to meet at the level of Prime Ministers should be established. Regional cooperation and coordination regarding the implementation of MEAs needs to be strengthened and enhanced. <i>(UNEP/ROWA, ESCWA, CAMRE – Bahrain)</i></p> <p>- Local authorities and decision-making structures should be strengthened (UN ECE NGO)</p> <p>- There is a need to improve the effectiveness of UNEP/MAP by providing a stable, broadened, adequate and predictable financial base.</p>	
<p>Financing Sustainable Development:</p> <p>- It is important to ensure that money from loans is used for sustainable development programmes and projects, transparently and with full accountability. Countries must ensure that the benefits derived from any easing of debt burdens are re-invested in sustainable development activities. <i>(UNEP/ROWA, ESCWA, CAMRE – Bahrain)</i></p>	<p><i>Financing Sustainable Development:</i></p> <p><i>Domestic resources, trade liberalization and private financial flows, notably foreign direct investment (FDI) are of capital importance in generating resources for sustainable development and poverty eradication. Incentives for environmentally and socially responsible investments should be promoted, while environmentally damaging subsidies should be removed;</i></p> <p><i>The international community should strive for to reach the accepted UN target of 0.7% of GNP as soon as possible and decide adequate measures and</i></p>

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	<p><i>encouragements in order to reduce inequalities in the level of development.</i></p> <p><i>New and additional resources of funding referring to the sustainable development principles may include inter alia:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>- debt relief for financing protection of the environment and sustainable development.</i><i>- voluntary contributions of 0.7% of the profits of multinational companies acting in the Mediterranean</i>
<p>Poverty:</p> <p>- Poverty eradication and economic and social development are central to sustainable development. Policies that promote a strong, dynamic, open and growing global economy and address environmental and social concerns and that result in widely sharing the benefits are key elements of poverty eradication and should address the needs and priorities of the poor. <i>(UN ECE Ministerial)</i>.</p> <p>- Better understanding of linkages between environment, poverty, trade and human security should be promoted so as to ensure a better integration between environmental protection and policies for poverty eradication and economic development. <i>(UN ECE Ministerial)</i></p> <p>- The Summit should promote better understanding of linkages between environment, poverty, trade and human security so as to ensure a better integration between environmental protection and policies for poverty eradication and economic development. In the process leading up to the Johannesburg Summit, we will seek enhanced cooperation and solidarity with developing countries based on partnership and mutual responsibility for combating poverty and promoting sustainable development. We will take into account ongoing international processes in this area, in particular the process</p>	<p>Poverty:</p> <p><i>Poverty eradication is a prerequisite for sustainable development and protection of the environment and natural resources. Curtailing poverty requires good governance, accountability and combating corruption, as well as innovative and creative approaches that may go beyond traditional tools.</i></p> <p><i>Mediterranean countries are concerned about widening income gaps between countries of North and South of the region and eventually between rich and poor sectors of the society within each country. They affirm their commitment and to achieve and where possible to surpass the Millennium Summit 2015 targets for poverty reduction, by designing and implementing appropriate regional and national gender equitable policies, strategies and programmes to systematically and effectively address poverty. This will include issues emerging from immigration trends and "new" poverty.</i></p>

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launched at the 1995 World Summit on Social Development. The international development targets as agreed in the UN fora, in particular in the Action Plan of the third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC3) will guide our action. As a next step, the development goals need to be further operationalized and effective monitoring systems need to be set up. We expect that the Conference on Financing for Development will produce clear strategies and actions, both from developed and from developing countries, on the mobilization of resources for meeting the development goals. *(UN ECE Ministerial)*

- We recognize the primary role of domestic resources, as well as the role that trade liberalization and private financial flows, notably foreign direct investment (FDI), can play in generating resources for poverty eradication and sustainable development. *(UN ECE Ministerial)*

- ODA should take into account the extent of poverty in a recipient country, the commitment shown by governments towards the goal of poverty eradication and the extent to which policies are directed at this goal. *(UN ECE Ministerial)*

We will strengthen our support to countries in transition in their efforts to promote economic growth, eradicate poverty and resolve environmental problems, and thus contribute to the reduction of structural causes of violent conflicts. *(UN ECE Ministerial)*

- Good governance is essential to eradicate poverty, especially combating corruption and improving accountability and transparency. *(UNEP/ROWA, ESCWA, CAMRE – Bahrain)*

- Poverty is considered as the main limiting factor in achieving sustainable development. Curtailing poverty requires long-term strategic planning and creative approaches that may go beyond traditional tools of poverty eradication. *(UNEP/ROWA, ESCWA, CAMRE – Bahrain)*

- Poverty eradication needs the development of programmes aimed at social welfare, illiteracy eradication, promoting employment and equality of opportunity, and protecting the environment. Specific programmes are required

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<p>for capacity building to promote income generation for the most vulnerable groups (e.g. women and children). The poor should be empowered to be active actors in developing opportunities to eradicate poverty. They should also be provided with free access to basic public services such as safe drinking water, sanitation, health, and elementary and technical education. <i>(UNEP/ROWA, ESCWA, CAMRE – Bahrain)</i></p> <p>- There is a need to develop regional strategies and programmes to address poverty. The Arab and Islamic Development Funds, regional charities Arab-Arab regional investment conditions, soft loans and micro-financing initiatives to empower the poor, capacity building and greater access to technology. <i>(UNEP/ROWA, ESCWA, CAMRE – Bahrain)</i></p>	
<p>Food and Water security:</p> <p>- Water scarcity, land degradation and food security represent the major challenges in the Arab Region. The three issues are interdependent and jointly can significantly influence biodiversity, population policies and security in the region. <i>(UNEP/ROWA, ESCWA, CAMRE – Bahrain)</i></p>	<p><i>Food and Water security:</i></p> <p><i>Clean and safe water, land productivity and food security will be addressed within a regional framework based on sustainable agricultural production, equitable trade policies, environmental needs and requirements to adapt to and mitigate impact of climate change.</i></p>
<p>Natural Resources:</p> <p>- Sustainable management, use, and conservation of natural resources are needed to reverse current trends in unsustainable consumption and production at the national and global levels. Goals should be set on environmental protection and improved eco-efficiency and resource productivity with a view to demonstrating tangible results. Furthermore, specific initiatives should be developed, building on work undertaken since Rio, in areas such as: fresh water, sanitation, oceans and seas (including coral reefs), coastal zones, mountains, land use, forests, biodiversity, energy, minerals and metals, and health and environment. Sustainable management, use and conservation in the</p>	<p><i>Natural Resources:</i></p> <p><i>Mediterranean countries take responsibility to promote sustainable and integrated management of water at watershed level, aiming to secure access to the resource, ensuring that water allocation, saving and management underpin economic and social well-being, taking into account ecological needs.</i></p> <p><i>Mediterranean countries will strive to significantly increase the share of environmentally sound renewable energy (particularly solar, wind and geothermal) in total primary energy production and use and assist in accelerating the development and application of energy-efficient technologies</i></p>

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full range of resource sectors, both renewable and non-renewable should be encouraged. *(UN ECE Ministerial)*

- Environmental, social and economic impacts of exploiting natural resources in environmentally fragile eco-systems should be assessed, taking into account the latest research on the specific circumstances in these areas. *(UN ECE Ministerial)*

- Effective solutions to serious global and regional environmental problems should be sought through international and regional legal instruments including multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). Countries are urged to strengthen their commitment to MEAs and meet their national commitments, such as limitation and

reduction targets for greenhouse-gas emissions. For the large majority of countries in the region this means seeking the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) by 2002, with timely ratification processes *(UN ECE Ministerial)*

- Biodiversity and the implementation of the Biosafety Protocol should receive more attention in the region's efforts towards sustainable Development. *(UNEP/ROWA, ESCWA, CAMRE – Bahrain)*

- We will promote the integration of biodiversity concerns into land-use planning and management, sectoral and pollution control policies as an essential component of sustainable development. *(UN ECE Ministerial)*

- Countries should support the implementation of Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) as instruments of sustainable development by integrating them fully into national and regional socio-economic development planning, in coordination with the relevant regional and international agencies. The Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) is of great importance to the region. The activities of regional organisations to implement the CCD, and to develop an Arab programme to combat desertification should be strengthened. *(UNEP/ROWA, ESCWA, CAMRE – Bahrain)*

- We will strive to significantly increase the share of environmentally sound

(regional target?).

Mediterranean countries will integrate biodiversity concerns into land-use planning and management, sectoral and pollution control policies as an essential component of sustainable development. In this respect:

(a) a X% of coastlines should be designated for each country as free from construction and/or protected (under various types of regimes) to conserve biodiversity and/or to allow restoration.

(b) Promote a region-wide initiative for the reforestation of Mediterranean forests with a target to reach levels appropriate and ambitious for each country and the region as a whole.

(c) To contribute to the solution of the global warming problem by seeking the entry into force and implementation of the Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) by 2002, with timely ratification processes and encourage national and local programmes.

(d) Properly implement the CCD and develop and strengthen appropriate programmes to combat desertification.

(e) GMOs

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<p>renewable energy in the total domestic primary energy supply and to assist in accelerating the development of energy-efficient technologies. <i>(UN ECE Ministerial)</i></p>	
<p>Globalisation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Countries should work towards widely sharing the benefits of globalization while taking account of challenges to social integration, environmental quality and cultural diversity. <i>(UN ECE Ministerial)</i>- Globalization is an irreversible process. It has destroyed geographical, financial and cultural barriers. Globalization should be a partnership and not a one-pole process or permit dominance of one group over the others, loss of identity and the ability to survive. <i>(UNEP/ROWA, ESCWA, CAMRE – Bahrain)</i>- The business and industry sector should develop partnerships and take measures in the areas of corporate responsibility, economic, social and environmental accountability and exchange of best practices and technologies through various partnerships with other sectors. <i>(UN ECE Ministerial)</i>- The use of new information and communications technologies (ICT) should be diffused and used in order to avoid unsustainable products and processes as they may offer possibilities for significant reductions in the use of materials, energy and transport, and potential new directions in environmental policy design, implementation and monitoring. <i>(UN ECE Ministerial)</i>	<p>Globalisation:</p> <p><i>Globalisation is a rapid, irreversible, powerful process. Mediterranean countries, acting individually or collectively, in co-operation with all socio-economic actors, will work towards widely sharing and widening the benefits of globalisation while effectively addressing any eventually adverse side-effects on social cohesion, environmental quality or cultural identity.</i></p> <p><i>Mediterranean countries are determined to work closely together and with the EU Community, within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, in order to effectively address any adverse impacts of trade liberalization and globalization in the region and transform it into a region sharing mutual benefits.</i></p>
<p>Education, science and technology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Countries must commit to enhancing scientific knowledge and to improving the processes of generating, sharing and using science for sustainable development and also expand scientific and technology cooperation to address new and emerging risks and challenges to human health and environment,	<p>Education, science and technology:</p> <p><i>The region needs to invest in capacity building and empowering its young population. Mediterranean countries are committed to review, reform and/or develop sound educational and appropriate information, communication and training strategies and policies to effectively manage human resources,</i></p>

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<p>promote broader technology transfer and capacity building. <i>(UN ECE Ministerial)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The development and transfer of appropriate technology will make a significant contribution to the achievement of sustainable development. <i>(UNEP/ROWA, ESCWA, CAMRE – Bahrain)</i>- Countries are encouraged to review and develop educational and training strategies and policies. <i>(UNEP/ROWA, ESCWA, CAMRE – Bahrain)</i>- The region needs to invest in capacity building and empowering its young population. Sound education, proper training and proper management of human resources are required to produce the type and quality of human capital needed to fuel sustainable development. Scientific research and technology development should address the priorities of the region and serve achieving sustainable development. <i>(UNEP/ROWA, ESCWA, CAMRE – Bahrain)</i>	<p><i>empower the poor and produce the human capital needed to fuel sustainable development. Access of all people to general education should be secured while Education for Environment and Sustainability (EfES) will be systematically promoted at all educational levels, as appropriate.</i></p> <p><i>Countries commit themselves to generate, enhance and share scientific knowledge for achieving sustainable development and promote the efficient transfer of traditional and new cleaner and appropriate technologies.</i></p>
<p>Integration of policy and law for SD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Sustainable development decision-making must be integrated in all policy areas and at all levels, and made central to all environmental, social and economic planning and law. To rectify current imbalances, international sustainable development law must be strengthened and integrated into all national, regional, and global legal instruments <i>(UN ECE NGO)</i>- An Arab Sustainable Development Council with the participation of the private sector, civil society and academia should be established to provide an umbrella setting for policy frameworks, regional cooperation, coordination and integration in the global frameworks. The council composition should reflect in a balanced way the three dimensions of sustainable development (society, development and environment). <i>UNEP/ROWA, ESCWA, CAMRE – Bahrain</i>- Develop national strategies and doable action plans with specific targets, financial and human commitments.	<p>Integration of policy and law for SD:</p> <p><i>Concerted efforts will be invested in order to secure that sustainable development decision-making is integrated in all policy areas and at all levels, and made central to all environmental, social and economic planning and law.</i></p>

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<p>Production and Consumption:</p> <p>- Economic growth must be decoupled from environmental degradation, a step that involves developing comprehensive policy frameworks on sustainable production and consumption. (UN ECE NGO and UN ECE Ministerial). This must be based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• remaining within the limited carrying capacity of nature;• equal opportunities for all people in the world related to consumption and access to sustainable livelihoods;• maintaining and improving the quality of biodiversity; and the right of people for a clean and healthy environment. <p>- The implementation of the precautionary principle is essential in all relevant policies (UN ECE NGO)</p> <p>- Unsustainable consumption patterns that are practised in the developed countries play a significant impediment to sustainable development, exacerbating poverty and debt burden in developing countries. (UNEP/ROWA, ESCWA, CAMRE – Bahrain)</p> <p>- Unsustainable consumption patterns that are practiced in the developed countries play a significant impediment to sustainable development, exacerbating poverty and debt burden in developing countries. (UNEP/ROWA, ESCWA, CAMRE – Bahrain)</p> <p>- Unsustainable patterns of production and consumption of goods, services and natural resources are urged to change. All stakeholders (governments, private sector, media, educational institutions and civil society groups) must participate in this effort. Consumer protection societies and women are crucial elements in the process of change. (UNEP/ROWA, ESCWA, CAMRE – Bahrain)</p>	<p><i>Production and Consumption:</i></p> <p><i>Economic growth must be decoupled from environmental degradation, actively promoting sustainable production and consumption</i></p> <p><i>Effort should be made in the region to encourage the transfer of appropriate technologies, cleaner production and increased eco-efficiency in collaboration with the relevant regional centres.</i></p> <p><i>The implementation of the precautionary principle is essential in all relevant policies</i></p>
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<p>Peace and Human Rights:</p> <p>- Peace and security has had and will continue to have significant impacts on the progress to achieve sustainable development in the region. (UNEP/ROWA, ESCWA, CAMRE – Bahrain)</p> <p>- The new millennium presents us with major challenges and opportunities that require enhanced international cooperation and global solutions. Technology advancement and increased economic activity have produced unprecedented changes in the world. Many have benefited as diseases have been cured, education and information availability has improved and economic opportunity has increased. However, in many parts of the world, severe and widespread poverty persists. People are threatened by conflict, terrorism and violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The environment and natural resource base that support life on earth continue to deteriorate at an alarming rate. And the scourge of HIV-AIDS is a worldwide challenge. All of which undermines the potential for sustainable development. (UN ECE NGO)</p>	<p><i>Peace and Human Rights:</i></p> <p><i>Large groups of people in the region are threatened by conflicts, terrorism, social exclusion and violation of human rights and of fundamental freedoms inhibiting thus their sustainable livelihoods. Every possible effort will be invested at all appropriate levels in removing the root causes of these problems.</i></p>
<p>Other (Heritage, Health, Disasters and Chemicals):</p> <p>- The role of cultural heritage should be emphasised in pursuing sustainable development tracks. (UNEP/ROWA, ESCWA, CAMRE – Bahrain)</p> <p>- It has become evident that the culture heritage of the region has been under-utilised, especially as a tool for development. With its unmatched heritage, the region has a great opportunity that should be given priority and be used in an economic as well as cultural sense. (UNEP/ROWA, ESCWA, CAMRE – Bahrain)</p> <p>- Health development and the wise use of healthcare resources are essential to advance sustainable development in the region (UNEP/ROWA, ESCWA, CAMRE – Bahrain)</p>	<p><i>Other (Heritage, Health, Disasters and Chemicals):</i></p> <p><i>Cultural heritage is one of the paramount capitals of the Mediterranean region, closely linked to cultural identities and education. This capital is recognised as a major asset for the development of tourism. Programmes for the integrated protection of natural and cultural heritage will be developed and implemented as essential tools for achieving sustainable development.</i></p> <p><i>Health protection and development and the wise use of healthcare resources will be promoted as essential to the sustainable development of the region</i></p> <p><i>Countries will address systematically the issue of natural and technological risks adopting prevention measures at regional, national and local level ensuring</i></p>

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	<p><i>safety for people, their property and the environment.</i></p> <p><i>Further policies will be elaborated and implemented to effectively address the efficient handling of chemicals in the region</i></p>
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Additional points raised:

- The issue of environmental security for the Mediterranean in relation to conflicts and the needed cooperation.*
- The issue of mines and the need to elaborate programmes for their removal, applying a wider interpretation of the 'polluter pays' principle.*
- Due attention to particular policies will be elaborated to address the issue of sustainable development in vulnerable areas including islands.*