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## The Mediterranean Eco-region: the first firm steps towards Sustainability

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*Mediterranean Event for the Johannesburg Summit 2002  
(Round Table/Panel discussion)*

**The Water Dome**

**02 September 2002  
12:15-14:15**

**Co-organised and supported by:**

		
MEDITERRANEAN INFORMATION OFFICE for Environment Culture and Sustainable Development	HELLENIC MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, PHYSICAL PLANNING AND PUBLIC WORKS	Coopération Internationale Pour l'Environnement et le Développement PRINCIPALITE DE MONACO

**Also sponsored by:**



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**With the support of:**

- the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- the Danish Ministry of the Environment
- the French Ministry for the Environment
- the European Environmental Agency (EEA)
- the Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED)
- the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med)
- the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)

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### *Mediterranean Event for the Johannesburg Summit 2002 (Round Table/Panel discussion)*

**Date:** 02/09/02  
**Location:** The Water Dome  
**Proposed time:** 12:15 – 14:15 (lunch included)  
**Expected turnout:** around 150 people

#### **Objective and justification:**

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MIO-ECSDE, with the moral and financial support of the above mentioned partners is in the process of organising a side-event at the Johannesburg Summit 2002 aiming to present the Mediterranean region as an eventually promising example of partnership and governance towards achieving sustainable development in an eco-region.

The Mediterranean eco-region is characterized by a number of initiatives and institutions which are the direct follow-up of Rio and Agenda 21:

1. In 1996 the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD), a globally unique body, was formed within the framework of UNEP/MAP and has produced a series of outcomes and proposals on priority

Mediterranean issues such as awareness raising, water demand, tourism, industry, free trade and the environment, urban management, sustainable development indicators, etc. It has also published the *Strategic Review for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean Region* which lays the groundwork for the under preparation *Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development*.

2. In order to support the Non-EU members of the Mediterranean and particularly those of the South and East, the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership was formed (15 EU and 22 Non-EU States) and a supporting fund (MEDA) was established. Recently, at the Vth Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Foreign Ministers (Valencia, April 2002), the Ministers re-affirmed that sustainable development should be included among the guiding principles of the Barcelona Process.

3. Since 1998 a regional partnership of competent institutions/organizations was formed under the umbrella of the Global Water Partnership (GWP). This partnership (GWP-Med) moderates a number of programmes in order to promote IWRM and the sustainable use of water in the region.

4. A number of regional networks of NGOs, institutions, etc. have developed sustainability plans and programmes on education, public awareness, civil society participation, etc.

5. Various initiatives of certain critical economic sectors (such as tourism, oil/transport and industry/metal, etc.).

The main outcomes of the latest initiatives of this eco-region that have focused on the Summit itself and on the overall aim to achieve sustainability are the following:

- the MCSD recommendations and proposals for actions and the *Strategic Review for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean Region*;
- The Mediterranean Ministerial Declaration for Johannesburg agreed in Monte Carlo (November 2001);
- the Mediterranean NGO Declaration for Johannesburg elaborated in Nice (January 2002), the Arab-Mediterranean Workshop on Solidarity for Sustainable Development held in Tunisia (March 2002).
- the outcome of the MCSD Major Groups Meeting that took place in Antalya (March 2002);
- the Presidency Conclusions of the Vth Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Foreign Ministers (Valencia, April 2002);
- the NGO Declaration of the Valencia Civil Forum (April 2002);
- the *Athens Declaration of the Euro-Mediterranean Ministers for the Environment*, adopted at the 2nd Ministerial Conference of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership on the Environment (8-10 July 2002) which included a framework for a *Euro-Mediterranean Strategy for Environmental Integration*.

**Provisional Programme of the event:**

<b>Objectives of the event, contributors to the event, etc.</b>	Prof. M. Scoullos, Chairman of MIO-ECSDE	<u>confirmed</u>	5 min
<b>Official opening by:</b>	- H.S.H. Prince Albert Hereditary Prince of Monaco	<u>confirmed</u>	3 min
	- Mrs. Vasso Papandreou, Minister for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works (Greece)	<u>confirmed</u>	3 min
<b>Brief address by:</b>	- Mr. Hans Christian Schmidt, President of the EU Environment Council, Minister of the Environment (Denmark)	<u>confirmed</u>	3 min
	- Dr. Veerle Vandeweerd, Coordinator of the UNEP Global Programme for Action, on behalf of Dr. Klaus Toepfer, Executive Director of UNEP	<u>confirmed</u>	3 min
<b>Brief presentations of the Mediterranean achievements and initiatives towards sustainable development:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The results of the Euro-Med Ministerial Conference for the Environment (July 2002)</li> </ul>	Mrs. Vasso Papandreou, Minister for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works (Greece)	<u>confirmed</u>	5 min
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Mediterranean Declaration for the WSSD</li> </ul>	Mr. Bernard Fautrier, Ministre Plénipotentiaire chargé de la Coopération Internationale pour l'Environnement et le Développement (Monaco)	<u>confirmed</u>	5 min
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Agenda Med-21</li> </ul>	Mr. Mohamed Ennabli, Minister for the Environment and Land Planning (Tunisia)	<u>confirmed</u>	5 min
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Nice and Tunis Statements of Mediterranean NGOs</li> </ul>	Dr. Emad Adly, President of the Arab NGO Network for Environment and Development (RAED), representative of Mediterranean Environment and Development NGOs	<u>confirmed</u>	5 min
<b>Brief overview of the main initiatives for Sustainable Development in the region and the first results undertaken in the region under various frameworks</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership</li> </ul>	Mrs. Margot Wallström, EU Commissioner for the Environment	<u>confirmed*</u>	5 min
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD)</li> </ul>	Mr. Lucien Chabason, Coordinator of UNEP/MAP	confirmed	5 min
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean</li> </ul>	Prof. M. Scoullos, Chairman	confirmed	5 min
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local initiatives</li> </ul>	Medcities	<u>confirmed</u>	5 min
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enterprises</li> </ul>	Mr. Claude Fussler, Director of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)	<u>confirmed</u>	5 min
<b>Round Table of Mediterranean Ministers followed by interaction with the plenary (time permitting) on: "Governance in the Mediterranean with emphasis on water and tourism"</b>	Chair: Mme. Tokia Saifi, Secretary of State for Sustainable Development, France	<u>confirmed</u>	30 min

\* in case of conflict with binding obligations that may arise this speaker may have to be replaced at the event by another official

**At the closing of the meeting Mrs. Rodoula Zisi, Deputy Minister for the Environment, Greece, will launch the Type II initiative "MEDIES" and present the educational package entitled *Water in the Mediterranean* which aims to facilitate Education for Environment and Sustainability and promote Integrated Water Resources Management.**