



Transport Malta



XXth Mediterranean and Black Sea Hydrographic Commission Montenegro – 4 July 2017 to 6 July 2017.

The Malta Hydrographic Office would like to bring to the attention of the Mediterranean and Black Sea Hydrographic Commission the various initiatives currently being undertaken by organisations handling ocean matters in the Mediterranean and Black Sea. Some of these are the following,

EU-MED Programme

The Med-Maritime Integrated Projects establish a new relevant partnership that will contribute to implement the Med Cooperation Programme 2014-2020. 14 projects sorted by four priority axes Maritime innovation and Economic Development, Environment Protection, Transport and Accessibility, Governance and policy response for the Mediterranean as a dynamic socio-economic area.

<http://www.programmemed.eu/en>

European Neighbourhood Policy

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) was set up in 2003 as a new model of political partnership and economic integration with the EU's 16 immediate neighbours, which was due to incorporate 10 new partners in 2004, thus displacing its borders towards the east. Its legal basis lies in Article 8 of the Treaty on European Union, and seeks "to develop an area of prosperity and good neighbourliness, founded on the values of the Union and characterised by close and peaceful relations based on cooperation".

In order to achieve its aims, the ENP has its own financial instrument, the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI), with a provision of 15.4 billion Euros for the period 2014-

2020 and is based on the experiences and achievements of the former European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI). The vast majority of the ENI's funds are bilaterally channelled with the aim of financing reforms and priorities reached by mutual agreement with each partner in its respective Action Plans. Furthermore, the ENI also finances regional programmes in the east and south, cross-border cooperation programmes and programmes for the whole neighbourhood, noteworthy of which are the institutional cooperation programmes (tools or 'twinning' and technical assistance and the exchange of information – TAIEX). There is also a flexible umbrella with funds allocated to those countries that have best complied with the agreed reform programmes.

https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/330/european-neighbourhood-policy-enp_en

The 5+5 Dialogue

The Forum for the Dialogue in the Western Mediterranean, also known as 5+5 Dialogue, is an informal political dialogue that brings together ten riparian countries in the Western basin of the Mediterranean: five countries from the Arab Maghreb Union (Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia) and five members of the European Union (Spain, France, Italy, Malta and Portugal). This initiative was created in Rome on 10 December 1990 with the aim of reinforcing and enriching the political, economic and cultural dialogue between the two banks of the Mediterranean.

The 5+5 Dialogue has a flexible and informal character, over the years its character has changed from the merely political, becoming a forum for a strengthened regional and multidisciplinary cooperation in the Western Mediterranean. Originally just a political compromise between Foreign Ministers, it later expanded to include other spheres, such as education, the environment and renewable energies, as well as home affairs (since 1995), migration (since 2002), inter-parliamentary relations (since 2003), defence (since 2004), tourism (since 2006) and transport (since 2007) Education (2009) and Environment (2010). Due to its practical and operational nature, it is an ideal forum for the exchange of ideas and the launch of new initiatives.

High-level conferences have taken place involving sectorial issues such as Migration, Defence, Transport, Tourism, Education, or Environmental Issues and Renewable Energy, among others. Why not a conference around security of navigation?

<http://westmediterraneanforum.org/documents/>

Bluemed Research and innovation initiative for blue jobs and growth in the Mediterranean area

The **BLUEMED** project is a Coordination and Support Action, funded by the European Commission within the H2020 framework programme with 3 M€, aimed at supporting the implementation of the **BLUEMED Initiative**.

The **BLUEMED** initiative offers a shared strategic framework for working towards a healthy, productive and resilient Mediterranean Sea that is better known and valued. It is designed to tap the full potential of the marine and maritime sectors, structuring transnational cooperation to create new 'blue' jobs and to promote and improve social wellbeing, sustainable prosperity and the environmental status of the region and its surroundings. **BLUEMED** is the result of joint efforts by Cyprus, Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain, with the support of the European Commission.

BLUEMED'S AIMS According to the Vision Document presented at the EU Competitiveness Council of 5 December 2014, **BLUEMED** pursues the following objectives:

- developing innovative marine-based technologies, methodologies and approaches with a view to boosting the sustainable economic growth of the European maritime sectors and the conservation and upgrading of the marine environment, resources and cultural heritage;
- fostering innovative multidisciplinary research and cooperation activities addressing the relevant Mediterranean challenges;
- providing knowledge-based support for the implementation of EU policies and directives on marine and maritime issues in the Mediterranean;
- creating an interoperable, fully integrated observing and forecasting system to promote continuous long-term observation based on open data structures to guarantee easy access;
- promoting public awareness and understanding of how important sustainably prosperous resources of the Mediterranean Sea for the surrounding countries and for Europe as a whole;
- training a new generation of scientists, professionals, technicians and entrepreneurs able to tackle complex ecological, economic and societal challenges in a holistic way, thus creating new and qualified 'sea-based' jobs.

<http://www.bluemed-project.eu/bluemed-research-innovation-initiative-blue-jobs-growth-mediterranean-area/>

Maritime Transport Strategy 2018



January 2009

In this Communication the Commission presents the main strategic objectives for the European maritime transport system up to 2018. The Strategy identifies key areas where action by the EU will strengthen the competitiveness of the sector while enhancing its environmental performance.

While the Communication looks at the long term (10-years) horizon, the current economic context and the characteristics of shipping market cycles have been taken into account. It is set in the broader context of the EU Transport Policy, but also aims at supporting other relevant policies, in particular the EU's integrated maritime policy.

In broad terms, the strategic goals and recommendations of the Commission Communication refer to two main issues:

- The ability of the maritime transport sector to provide cost-efficient maritime transport services adapted to the needs of sustainable economic growth of the EU and world economies and
- The long-term competitiveness of the EU shipping sector, enhancing its capacity to generate value and employment in the EU, both directly and indirectly, through the whole cluster of maritime industries.

The Communication itself is divided into six chapters: (i.) shipping trends & business conditions, (ii.) human resources, (iii.) quality shipping, (iv.) international scene, (v.) short-sea shipping and (vi.) research and innovation.

https://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/strategies/2018_maritime_transport_strategy_en

The Valletta Declaration

Priorities for the EU's Maritime Transport Policy until 2020: Competitiveness, Decarbonisation, Digitalisation to ensure global connectivity, and efficient internal market and a world-class maritime cluster (Valletta Declaration)

https://www.eu2017.mt/en/Documents/Valletta_Declaration_on_the_EU_maritime_transport_policy.pdf

The CPMR

The Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions brings together some 160 Regions from 25 States from the European Union and beyond.

Representing about 200 million people, the CPMR campaigns in favour of a more balanced development of the European territory. It operates both as a think tank and as a lobby for Regions.

Through its extensive network of contacts within the EU institutions and national governments the CPMR has, since its creation in 1973, been targeting its action towards ensuring that the needs and interests of its Member Regions are taken into account in policies with a high territorial impact.

It focuses mainly on social, economic and territorial cohesion, maritime policies and blue growth, and accessibility. European governance, energy and climate change, neighbourhood and development also represent important areas of activity for the association.

<http://cpmr.org>

InterMediterranean Commission

The InterMediterranean Commission was also set up in 1989 and focuses on the development of the EuroMediterranean dialogue and Territorial Cooperation, concentrating its efforts on Transport and Integrated Maritime Policy, Economic and Social Cohesion, Water and Energy.

Today, it is calling for a macro-regional strategy for the Mediterranean and fostering the emergence of Mediterranean citizenship – also on migration policies – mobilising partners from the south of the basin too.

<http://cpmr-intermed.org/>

The Balkan and Black Sea Commission

The Black Sea and Balkans Commissions were created in 2002 and 2003 respectively. They merged in 2004 in order to develop joint projects.

Today, the objective of the Balkan and Black Sea Regional Commission is to encourage dialogue and cooperation with a view to stepping up the relations between EU and non-EU Regions in the South-Eastern neighbourhood. It contributes towards peace and stability in the area, promotes regionalisation and encourages the application of the principles of subsidiarity.

An Adriatic-Ionian Task Force was launched in 2012 following the request of Member States to design a macroregional strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Area (EUSAIR). This Task Force is composed of members from the InterMediterranean and Balkan-Black Sea Commissions.

It aims at helping the European Commission and the eight concerned Member States to take into account the priorities of Regional Authorities in its four pillars: Maritime Issues, Transport, Environment and Tourism. The Task Force allows Regional Authorities from non-EU Members to prepare their future accession.

<http://cpmr-balkan-blacksea.org/>

CIESM – The Mediterranean Science Commission

The Commission, with headquarters in Monaco, has grown from the eight founding countries of its origin to 23 Member States today. These support a network of several thousand marine researchers, applying the latest scientific tools to better understand, monitor and protect a fast-changing, highly impacted Mediterranean Sea. Structured in six committees and various taskforces, CIESM runs expert workshops, collaborative programs and regular congresses, delivering authoritative, independent advice to national and international agencies.

The Commission integrates a broad spectrum of marine disciplines, encompassing geo-physical, chemical and biological processes, along with high-resolution mapping of the sea-bottom. Today, changes are occurring at a fast, unprecedented pace in the Mediterranean Sea. CIESM tracks and analyses these changes at the scale of the whole Basin, from the impact of global warming on sea-level and water masses to changes in marine biodiversity; from morphological changes in coastlines to the accumulation of trace metals in marine food chains.

CIESM involves researchers from all shores of the Basin in its activities. This is a proud, century-long legacy which not only fosters the exchange of scientific standards and ideas, but maintains a constructive, peaceful dialogue among populations divided for too long by historical conflicts

<http://www.ciesm.org/>

The next EU Maritime day will be organized on 20th May 2018 in Burgas, Bulgaria. Occasion for next meeting for MBSHC?

The Mediterranean and Black Sea Hydrographic Commission is invited to look into these projects and initiatives and involve/invites the MBSHC HOs in participating in projects that promote the environment and mapping of the Ocean.