



PRESS INFORMATION

The Blue Plan publishes a new analysis of sustainable development to feed debate at the Paris Summit for the Mediterranean on 13th July, 2008

Sophia-Antipolis, 10 July 2008 - The Blue Plan announces the publication of a new analysis of sustainable development in the Mediterranean. The document, which draws on the work conducted by the Blue Plan since 1977, will be submitted to all those participating in the Paris Summit for the Mediterranean on 13th July 2008.

The document is based on the Blue Plan's work on the environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean, aimed at reflecting the developments which have come about over recent decades. Its aim is to warn of the main risks related to the persistence of current trends and to invite action through the proposal of strategic guidelines to better reconcile environment and development and strengthen solidarity between the shores.

The first section of the report deals more specifically with the economic, social, environmental and political aspects which will affect the path of development up to 2025. The second part documents seven major sustainable development stakes for the Mediterranean in precise terms. For each issue at stake, the Blue Plan analyses the trends and proposes alternatives.

The seven major stakes are as follows:

- Better managing water demand to avoid shortage and crises
- Making rational use of energy and promoting renewable forms of energy
- Changing modes of transport and « uncoupling » mobility and economic growth
- Providing a framework for continued urbanisation and containing urban sprawl
- Integrating agricultural and rural activities into land development objectives
- Ensuring the balanced development of the coasts and checking their on-going degradation.

Finally, the last section provides a summary of the conclusions and proposals for making the Mediterranean an area of cooperation towards sustainable development. These are:

- Developing a Mediterranean approach to sustainable development
- Anticipating climate change
- Managing land in a sustainable fashion
- Reconciling economic growth and the environment
- Enjoying strong political impetus at the highest level
- Rolling out regional guidelines at national and local level
- Expressing guidelines in action
- Strengthening partnerships

About the Blue Plan

The Blue Plan acts as a think tank and Mediterranean Observatory for the Environment and Sustainable Development and since 1977 has been a United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) Regional Activity Centre, set up, financed and run by the twenty one riparian states and the European Community, which are all Parties to the Barcelona Convention on the protection of the marine environment and coastal region of the Mediterranean. Its aim, as defined by the inter-governmental conference held in Split in 1977, is to develop regional cooperation in order to build up and make available a fund of knowledge intended to facilitate the implementation of sustained and environmentally friendly development. Under MAP's aegis, the Blue Plan produces prospective analyses on the environment and development, acts as a Mediterranean sustainable development observatory and is the main support centre for the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSO).

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