



PRESS INFORMATION

The Blue Plan publishes a study on climate change and energy in the Mediterranean

Sophia-Antipolis, 15 September 2008 - The Blue Plan announces the publication of a new regional study conducted with EIB support on « Climate Change and Energy in the Mediterranean ».

According to the latest IPCC report, the Mediterranean, its Southern and Eastern banks in particular, will be more seriously affected by climate change during the 21st century than many other regions of the world. The impact of higher temperatures, less rainfall, more frequent and intense extreme events and the possible rise in sea levels all add up, intensifying the human-activity related pressure which is already being exerted on the natural environment.

Energy lies at the very heart of the climate change issue. On the one hand, it is the sector which emits most greenhouse gases. On the other hand, production is constrained by the climate. And finally, energy demand is shooting up. But uncontrolled growth in energy demand and CO₂ emissions are not inevitable. Investing in energy efficiency and renewable forms of energy today will present a real economic advantage by 2015, whilst helping to mitigate the effects of climate change.

This is what is evidenced by the study which is now available on the EIB and Blue Plan websites (http://www.planbleu.org/themes/etude_bei_pb_chang_clim.html), providing a complete picture of the issues and challenges to be faced by the Mediterranean states.

About the Blue Plan

The Blue Plan, a think tank and Mediterranean Observatory for the Environment and Sustainable Development, is one of the United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) Regional Activity Centres, set up, financed and run by the riparian states and the European Community. 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. 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 (MCSD).

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