

The MCSD-the MSSD

The Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) is a forum for dialogue and proposals for the Contracting Parties, for defining a Mediterranean strategy for sustainable development. As a MAP advisory body, the MCSD's membership comprises representatives of the Contracting Parties as well as Civil Society, that is to say:

- 22 experts appointed by the riparian states (Albania, Algeria, Bosnia Herzegovina, Cyprus, Croatia, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Monaco, Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey) and the European Community,
- 2 local authority representatives (MEDCITES Network and the Italian Coordination of the local Agendas 21),
- 2 representatives of economic society (APO- Environment protection services and UMCE- Union of Mediterranean Confederations of Entreprises),
- 5 NGO/IGO representatives (ENDA MAGHREB, FoE/Mednet-Friends of the Earth, MOI-ECSDE, RAED and WWF),
- 14 alternant members representing the scientific community, inter-governmental organisations active in the sustainable development field and experts.

Since the outset, the MCSD has structured its work around eight priority themes:

- Sustainable management of the coastal regions;
- Water demand management;
- Indicators for sustainable development in the Mediterranean;
- Tourism and sustainable development in the Mediterranean;
- Industry and environment;
- Awareness raising and information;
- Free trade and the environment in the Euro-Mediterranean context;
- Urban management and sustainable development.

Each theme is entrusted to a working group, which is usually led by two task managers (MCSD members), with technical support provided by MAP and the Regional Activity Centres, mainly the Blue Plan and the Priority Actions Programme.

Apart from these thematic activities, the MCSD has drawn up a **Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development**, which was adopted at the 14th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Slovenia, November 2005.)

The Blue Plan was responsible for the technical coordination and drafting of this strategy under the authority of the MAP Coordinator and with the participation of MAP's other Regional Activity Centres.

The Mediterranean Strategy calls for action to commit the region towards sustainable development in order to consolidate peace, stability and prosperity. It takes account of the weaknesses and the threats hanging over the Mediterranean world, but also the plus points and opportunities. It also takes account of the major differences between the situation of developed countries and those of developing ones and stresses the need to support the transition of countries in the Eastern Adriatic

and to the South and East of the Mediterranean with appropriate funding. The point is for the riparian states as a whole to draw collective benefit from this in terms of human and economic development and protection of the environment.

The Strategy hinges on **four objectives and seven priority action areas**. Thirty four indicators are annexed thereto to permit follow-up to the Strategy. Every two years it is revisited by the MCSD, and a revision takes place every five years.

The four main objectives are to:

1. Contribute to economic development,
2. Reduce social disparity and strengthen cultural identity
3. Change non-sustainable production and consumption patterns and ensure the sustainable management of natural resources,
4. Improve governance.

The seven priority action areas are: water demand management, energy and climate change, transport, tourism, coastal zone management, rural areas and urban development.