

**FIRST GENERAL AGREEMENT
FOR COASTAL ZONE PROTECTION AND ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE
IN THE MEDITERRANEAN BASIN
(BEACHMED-3)**

This First General Agreement (FGA) was launched during the Conference of the European project COASTANCE (MED Programme), held in Montpellier (FR) on January 22nd 2010, as an operative step forward of the “BOLOGNA CHARTER”, which was adopted during the 5th Steering Committee and Conference of the Beachmed-e Regional Framework Operation, held in Bologna on February 22nd -23rd 2007.

Whereas:

- Many of the signatory Authorities have long been committed to co-operating as partners in one of the most important European projects aimed to design coastal protection management tools and to promote the sustainable development of Mediterranean coastal areas, known as “Beachmed-e” Regional Framework Operation (RFO) within the INTERREG III C South (2005-2008) funding programme;
- Other signatory Authorities have participated as observers in this partnership without receiving funds, due to the fact that they are not members of the European Union; and others have showed they are highly interested in it;
- The further extension of this cooperation and the expansion of the current network – also by involving non-EU members in a more operative and steady way – would really be beneficial to the approaching, analysis and solving of this specific problem, as well as to the growth of the Mediterranean cooperation.
- The new funding opportunities such as the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) for the 2007-2013 period or the other innovative opportunities offered by the Union for the Mediterranean are to be taken into due account;
- The research activities carried out in the framework of many European projects led by regional and local Authorities in the area of coastal crisis and protection - such as Beachmed (INTERREG III B Medocc) and Beachmed-e (INTERREG III C South) - have pointed out a series of strategic questions that require new action tools for the Administrations concerned. The main strategic questions include:
 - a. The **STRUCTURAL CHARACTER OF THE COASTAL MORPHOLOGICAL IMBALANCE** which is deeply connected
 - i. to the current land development model (coastal urbanisation and related infrastructures);
 - ii. to several strategic public works adopted for territorial safety (e.g. soil protection, flood protection, etc.), for renewable energy production (e.g. dams for hydro-electrical power generation), for water supply (e.g. dams for reserve guarantee, pumping activities, desalination plants, etc), or for sea transports (ports, piers) and so on;
 - iii. to the sea level rise and increasing storm events, due to climate change.

- b. Briefly, the coastal morphological imbalance is an effect of our current global development model and it is practically impossible to eliminate its causes in a significant way in the short and medium run.
 - c. The extension of these phenomena on the land, which concerns not only the geographical scope of the effects due to the coastal morphological imbalance (physiographical units), but also the interference among territorial competences (Spatial Maritime Planning) and the environmental peculiarities that require a united policy. In order to study this kind of phenomena and to find possible solutions for them, **THE MEDITERRANEAN BASIN LEVEL IS THE MOST SUITABLE DIMENSION**;
 - d. The **MEDITERRANEAN SPECIFICITY**, i.e. the link existing between the coastal morphological imbalance and its unique environmental context, climate conditions, landscape and morphology, as well as the social and economic aspects, which are affecting coastal areas, and which require specific and differentiated approaches.
 - e. The **NEED OF AN INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT (ICZM) APPROACH**, which is increasingly urged by the Protocol of Barcelona /Union for the Mediterranean, and which highlights the true land scale of the coastal crisis problem;
 - f. The **NEED TO HAVE A COASTAL NETWORK OF REGIONAL MONITORING STRUCTURES** that can directly manage the coastal Administration, and that are established either inside the regional/local Authorities or by means of public bodies very close to the Administration's interests and activities;
 - g. The **NEED TO ADEQUATELY KNOW THE SAND RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR BEACH NOURISHMENT** programmes, which must be considered using a strategic and more sustainable approach in view of an active adaptation to climate change medium and long-term effects.
- A First General Agreement (FGA) can be reached about the enclosed proposal for the BEACHMED-3 Framework Project. The former can be considered as a part of the above mentioned purposes, and specifically deals with the marine sand resources assessment and their sustainable exploitation for beach nourishments, in the framework of an integrated coastal adaptation policy to climate change, erosion, subsidence and other phenomena affecting coastal zones. The BEACHMED-3 Framework Project is based on the setting up of adequate integrated planning and monitoring tools and on strategic interventions for coastal sustainable defence.

The signatory Authorities agree upon the following:

Article 1: PREMISES

The above-mentioned STRATEGIC QUESTIONS are fully agreed upon; they will be dealt with by promoting as many Mediterranean cooperation initiatives as necessary to fully pursue them.

Article 2: OBJECTIVE

The OBJECTIVE of the BEACHMED-3 Framework Project (whose enclosed brochure is an essential part of this FGA), is to reach an adequate knowledge of the marine sand resources in the Mediterranean basin through surveys and monitoring, in order to assess their exploitation problems (environmental, technological, legal problems, etc.), to pinpoint and promote their sustainable use by using planning tools, and launch some priority pilot experiences.

Article 3: ACTIVITIES

The ACTIVITIES of the BEACHMED-3 Framework Project can be summarised as follows:

1. research and characterization of marine sand resources in the Mediterranean basin (RESEARCH)
2. environmental and strategic assessment of the exploitation of these resources (SEA)
3. juridical and legal arrangements necessary for Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP)
4. Mediterranean general and local plans for coastal integrated management and climate change adaptation (ICZM PLANS)
5. Implementation of priority protection/adaptation works by means of beach nourishments (INTERVENTIONS)
6. survey and monitoring before, during and after the different activities (MONITORING).

Article 4: IMPLEMENTATION PHASES

The first IMPLEMENTATION PHASES for the launching of the BEACHMED-3 Framework Project can be described as follows:

- I. Presentation of the First General Agreement to the partnership (signing of the letter of agreement, enclosing the brochure of the BEACHMED-3 project)
- II. Establishment of the first group of partners
- III. Promotion of the FGA before each national structure in charge of special funding programmes (such as the Union for the Mediterranean, ENPI, etc.)
- IV. After the positive opinion expressed by national structures (or by a sufficient number of them), sending of the official proposal to the EC structures (DG Environment, DG Regio, DG Relex, etc.) the secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (if by then created and operational), to the UfM Mission in Paris, to INFRAMED, to the IMC-CPMR and to any other established and competent body, in order to obtain their support for the proposal.

- V. Preparation of a project to be presented in the context of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument program (next call, Cross Border or Bilateral Cooperation), and verification of the fully adhesion of each Beachmed-3 partner to the ENPI agreement rules.

Article 5: FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Provided that this FGA is absolutely not binding for the signatory Authorities as concerns the financial aspects, and that any step in this regard shall be subject to a new and specific procedure consistent with the national legislation, it is possible to outline the following points concerning the possible FINANCIAL RESOURCES (subject to changes in relation to the conditions) that could be activated for the launching of the Framework Project:

- a. The first 4 starting phases should be self-financed and partially covered by private partners, if any. Each partner shall, in full autonomy, decide the extent of its engagement in this phase.
- b. The funds of the first Draft project in the framework of the ENPI programme (approximately 2 to 4 million euros, according to the thresholds of the programme) should be sufficient to finance the launch of the first two specific activities (RESEARCH AND SEA) with a first group of 5-7 partners representing at least 5 nationalities. This phase is expected to last about 2-3 years.
- c. The budget necessary to fully complete the first 2 specific activities (RESEARCH AND SEA), and to deal with the specific phases no. 3 and 4 (SMP and ICZM PLANS), as well as part of the specific activity no. 6 (MONITORING), should attain roughly 10-15 million euros and be allocated in about 2-3 years (partially overlapping previous activities). This part should involve also other partners, in addition to those of the first group, at different levels of participation (full-fledged partners, observers, etc.).
- d. The budget necessary for the completion of the BEACHMED-3 project - i.e. the specific activities no. 5 and 6 - should attain around 300-500 million euros, and be allocated in 3-4 years (partially overlapping previous activities); it should regard something like 30-40 Mediterranean coastal zones amongst the more exposed to flood risks.

The phases and the financial aspects may be subject to changes according to future events and opportunities. The financial aspects described are not binding and concern only the possible scheduling of the funds necessary to the launching and completion of the Framework Project.

Made in Montpellier, on the 21st January 2010

In witness whereof,

SIGNATURES by the Authorities' representatives:

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