



Union for the Mediterranean
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3rd MEETING OF ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISTS FROM NEWS AGENCIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Dates: 13 y 14 de November, 2018

Duration: one and a half (1.5) days

Venue: Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean. Barcelona (Spain)

Proposed list of participants: Senior environmental and scientific journalists from the Alliance of Mediterranean News Agencies (AMAN), representatives of professional associations of environmental journalists (eg: APIA and AECC in Spain, FIMA in Italy), and delegates from key Mediterranean environmental organizations (IUCN, WWF-Med, UNEP/MAP). The debate will be open to local and other journalists interested in the event under invitation.

INTRODUCTION

Coinciding with the 10th anniversary of the launch of the Union for the Mediterranean and the 70th anniversary of the International Union for Nature Conservation, both institutions recognize that we are living in a growing momentum to meet ambitious global goals towards sustainable development. As climate change is threatening communities, economies and the ecosystems on which they depend, no government nor organization can correct humanity's course alone.

In these last 10 years, the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) has managed to consolidate its institutional and operational capacity to strengthen regional cooperation and address environmental challenges, including climate change and energy transition. IUCN, through its Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, has promoted sustainable livelihood and biodiversity conservation through cooperation and generation of knowledge to support decision-makers.

This 3rd meeting of the environmental journalists from news agencies in the Mediterranean, hosted by UfM in Barcelona, is the consolidation of a network of environmental institutions and key media, as news agencies are, working together to put environmental reporting at the front. The support of AMAN, the Alliance of Mediterranean News Agencies as well as the collaboration of EFE News Agency, has been vital to make it happen.

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All the participants in this network believe that there is a great need for serious and innovative environmental and scientific journalism, especially in this region that is addressing important social and environmental challenges. These kind of meetings try to provide a discussion forum for learning from each other and enlarge the network of experts and source of information, essential for good environmental and scientific journalism. The Mediterranean societies will gain from the consolidation of the network.

A MEETING WITH EXPERTS

The 3rd meeting of the environmental journalists from news agencies in the Mediterranean will provide the opportunity to analyze and discuss with experts some environmental challenges, including climate change, and the initiatives put in place at a regional scale. Achieving long-term sustainability requires fundamental changes in our society, in particular those related to **energy**, mobility, food, consumption of natural resources. Addressing these challenges requires the transition to a green, circular, low carbon and socially inclusive economy through the adoption of sustainable consumption and production patterns, thus decoupling development from environmental degradation and resource depletion.

Shifting to a non-carbon based economy (decarbonizing electricity generation, shifting from fuel to electricity, focusing on **energy efficiency in all sectors**, preserving and increasing natural carbon sinks) is basic for the ecological transition. All sectors of the economy, not only the energy, must respond to these global agreements (2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Paris accord...). This is particularly the **case for plastic** as well. Today nearly everyone, everywhere, every day comes into contact with plastics. Some reports showed that shifting the plastic sector to a circular model could generate a \$706 billion economic opportunity, of which a significant proportion attributable to packaging.

The meeting will be held on the sidelines of the UfM Meeting of the Working Group on Environment and Climate Change (UfM-WGECC). As part of the UfM strategy to create and promote structured regional dialogue multi-stakeholder platforms on crucial issues for the region, the **UfM - WGECC** is holding its 2nd meeting on 12-13 November. The objective of this meeting is to review the progress in the implementation up to date of the UfM

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Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change ([Athens, 2014](#)) and to provide suggestions for further action and follow up of the UfM activities in those fields.

Journalists could address invited experts in the round tables to continue open discussions on the main two topics: energy transition and the circular economy for plastics. Also journalists will have the opportunity to engage their peers about how the role of environmental and scientific media in fostering public awareness to promote ecological transition in the Mediterranean region.

Side Visit

The “[SwitchMed Connect](#)” event will also be taking place in Barcelona on 13-15 November. 2018 marks the end of the 1st phase of the SwitchMed programme, an UfM-partner regional initiative that supports and connects stakeholders to scale-up social and eco innovations in the Mediterranean. After several years of implementation, many success stories illustrating the transition to the Circular Economy have thrived across the region. In the evening of 13 November we will witness these stories at the launch of the SwitchMed Exhibition on Circular Economy, held in the beautiful venue of Sant Pau, Europe’s largest Art Nouveau site.

The meeting’s working languages will be English.

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TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

(subject to changes upon confirmation of speakers)

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Arrival to Barcelona	
	Arrival of participants and check-in at selected Hotel
13 November	
13.45 - 14. 00	Reception and registration of participants
14.00 - 14. 30	<p>Welcome address and opening remarks by key local and regional institutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nasser Kamel – Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean ▪ Antonio Troya - Director, IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation ▪ George Penintaex - Secretary General, Alliance of Mediterranean News Agencies (tbc) ▪ Fernando Garea – President of EFE Agency (tbc)
14.30 – 15.30	<p>Overview of Union for the Mediterranean work on sustainable development</p> <p>To enhance regional cooperation, dialogue and the implementation of concrete projects and initiatives with tangible impact in the region, the UfM has developed a methodology composed of three components: political fora, dialogue platforms and regional projects – named the “The 3 P’s”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Miguel García-Herraiz - UfM Deputy Secretary General in charge of water, environment and blue economy ▪ Jorge Borrego - UfM Deputy Secretary General in charge of energy and climate action

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	Chairperson: Khaled Ghobashy , Deputy Editor-In-Chief Middle East News Agency (MENA)
15.30 – 15.45	Coffee break
15.45 – 17.15	<p>Round Table 1: Energy transition challenges in the Mediterranean region</p> <p>Discussion on the most critical issues of the energy transition in the Mediterranean region by looking at the role of renewable energies and energy efficiency in the aftermath of the Paris Agreement and the social and environmental impacts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wolfgang Cramer, MedECC Network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change - Science update on energy resources in the Mediterranean (past trends, current situations, vulnerabilities and risks). ▪ Naguib Amin, Human Dynamics. “CLIMA MED” – Presentation of the EU for Climate Action project in the Mediterranean southern countries. ▪ Olgu Okumus, Union for the Mediterranean - Presentation of the SEMED Private Renewable Energy Framework (SPREF) that aims to stimulate private renewable energy markets in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. <p>Chairperson: Nehal Hassan El Kouesny, Communication Expert</p>
17.45-21.00	Visit to SwitchMed Presentation & Exhibition on Circular Economy
14 November	
9.00 - 10.30	<p>Round Table 2: Initiatives for curbing plastic pollution within a circular economy approach in the Mediterranean Sea.</p> <p>According to the European Environmental Agency (EEA), the average amount of municipal solid waste produced in the EU is 520 kg per person/year and is projected to increase to 680 kg per person/year by 2020. While solid waste generated in non-EU Mediterranean countries is still approximately half the per capita level in the EU, waste generation in the southern Mediterranean region has grown approximately 15 % over the last decade; mostly due to a growing population and increased consumption. An array of initiatives and organizations look for solutions in the region. Are we adopting the right actions to tackle the problem?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Patrick Wegert, European Commission/DG ENV - A European strategy

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	<p>for plastics in a circular economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Cristina Fossi, Professor of Ecology and Ecotoxicology at the University of Siena (Italy). UfM-labelled Project Plastic-Busters for a Mediterranean free from litter▪ Anis Ismail, Senior Environmental and Solid Waste Expert▪ Marie-Aude Sevin – IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation. The IUCN marine programme on plastics▪ Lucile Courtial, Fondation Prince Albert II de Monaco - <i>Beyond plastic Med</i> <p>Chairperson: Rana Hajj, Lebanese National News Agency (NNA) NNA</p>
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee break
11.00 – 12.30	<p>Round Table 3: Policy-makers, consumers and plastic industry: a word to say on plastic.</p> <p>The amount of plastic marine litter in oceans and seas is growing, to the detriment of ecosystems, biodiversity and potentially human health, and causes widespread concern. At the same time, valuable material that could be brought back into the economy is lost, once littered. Plastic makes up 80-85% of the total number of marine litter items, measured through beach counts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Doumi El Hassane, Head of Department of Bilateral Cooperation at the Secretariat of State for Sustainable Development (Morocco).▪ Muammer Berger - Turkish Consumer right organisation, Tüketici Hakları Derneği▪ Plastic Association - European plastics production, demand and waste data▪ Jesús Iglesias – International coordinator of Ecopreneurs for the Climate <p>Chairperson: Isabelle WESSELINGH, Agence France-Presse (AFP)</p>
12.30 – 13.30	Networking Lunch
13.30 – 15.00	<p>Round-table 4: Presentation of different initiatives and new tools on environmental and scientific journalism across the region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Verdrana Simicevic, Editor and science journalist at Novi list (Croatia), and board member of the Balkan Network of Science Journalists.▪ Elisabetta Tola, Tech data journalist, founder of datajournalism.it.▪ Rocío Pérez Benavente, scientific journalist, coordinator of <i>Maldita Ciencia</i>.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Raul Toran – President of Associació Catalana de Comunicació Científica (TbC) <p>Animator: Ignacio Bayo, Vice-president of the Scientific Association of Journalist in SPAIN.</p>
15.00 – 17.00	<p>Talk-Café: Discussion among journalist on How to improve the cooperation among the AMAN network</p> <p><i>First year of experience with the Medgreenjournalism platform. Mediterranean Platform for Environmental Journalism is an online platform to support information exchanges between journalists and environmental organisations in the Mediterranean region.</i></p> <p>Open discussion on the role of environmental and scientific media in fostering public awareness to promote ecological transition in the Mediterranean region: opportunities and barriers.</p> <p>Next steps for potential collaboration.</p> <p>Animators: Lourdes Lázaro, IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation and Ignacio Bayo, Vice-president of the Scientific Association of Journalist in SPAIN</p>
17.00 – 17.30	Conclusions and closing remarks
20h00	Official Dinner

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