

Joint Declaration

On the establishment of The Mediterranean Climate Change Initiative

Today, the 22 October 2010, the participants to the meeting held in Astir Palace in Athens, Greece for the launching of the Mediterranean Climate Change Initiative:

Recalling the inaugural announcement of a Mediterranean Climate Change Initiative by the Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic on the 3rd Mediterranean Sustainable Energy Summit in Athens on 18th and 19th May 2010,

Taking into consideration that participating countries that are also member states of the EU, are committed to implement European Legislation to all policies pertaining to Climate Change,

Acknowledging that the Mediterranean region has been identified by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as being especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change,

Taking into account that many of these impacts such as increased risk of drought, longer fire season, reduction in crop productivity, are common across the Mediterranean region,

Recognising that, despite the Copenhagen Accord, a legally binding international agreement on climate change remains to be secured,

Acknowledging that it is imperative that the Mediterranean presses ahead with action now, sharing best practice, experience and tools to adapt to changes already being observed and seek solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions,

Stating that opportunities for common low carbon development strategies in the Mediterranean should be pursued,

Noting that the Mediterranean region has an unrivalled potential to become a major hub of renewable energy generation for domestic and neighbouring markets,

Acknowledging that this potential implies increasing the technical strengths to exploit available resources and the creation of finance mechanisms as well as intensifying collaboration, including in the field of grid interconnections, which the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) is fostering through the Mediterranean Solar Plan,

Taking into consideration that large scale renewable energy projects, the development of both climate adaptation and other mitigation solutions could bring significant new opportunities for a ‘green economic boost’ to the Mediterranean,

Noting that the potential for the creation of new local businesses and jobs arising from demand side measures in cities, buildings, transport, industry and tourism have yet to be fully explored,

Acknowledging that the emergence of a strong, action oriented Mediterranean voice would contribute to global efforts to tackle climate change through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process and will also ensure that issues relating to adaptation measures and low carbon development opportunities for the region are explored at the international level,

Hereby jointly declare the launching of a “Mediterranean Climate Change Initiative”.

The Mediterranean Climate Change Initiative will aim at contributing to the emergence of low carbon, resource efficient and climate resilient economies in the Mediterranean and its objective will be to undertake strategic policy development work on climate change adaptation and low carbon development relevant to the entire Mediterranean region. The Initiative will seek to contribute to addressing the specific challenges faced by the Mediterranean region. The Mediterranean Climate Change Initiative will aim at developing convergent Mediterranean positions on climate change demonstrating leadership and strong commitment to action in the international arena.

The participants envisage the Mediterranean Climate Change Initiative as both an autonomous Mediterranean political initiative aiming at strengthening international and regional agreements through common policy positions and concrete actions, as well as a projects-based initiative to be eligible for the UfM branding. The Mediterranean Climate Change Initiative aims to strengthen collaboration on convergent challenges and opportunities across the Mediterranean and place a greater focus on the implementation of UfM projects in the Mediterranean region. The Mediterranean Climate Change Initiative will also collaborate with other initiatives in the Mediterranean where value can be added through joint working.

The participants also state that they are equal partners in the Mediterranean Climate Change Initiative and that any other interested parties in the region can eventually be active and become equal partners in the Mediterranean Climate Change Initiative.