

Malta's experience with participatory processes during the review of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development

**Thematic session on the promotion of the principles of the
Convention in international forums**

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1. Introduction

- ▶ The body tasked with revising the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) was the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD).
- ▶ The Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution was agreed in 1976, and was the United Nation's first Regional Seas Convention. The mandate for the MSSD lies in the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) II agreement of 1995.

The concerns of sustainable development, highlighted by UNCED and resulting from the complex links between socio-economic development and the environment, must be fully clarified to allow a Mediterranean strategy, as well as national strategies on sustainable development, to be defined.
- ▶ The review of the MSSD took place between 2013 and 2015 as per Decision IG.21/11 of COP18
- ▶ Malta held the Presidency of the Steering Committee of the MCSD in this period and hosted the 15th Meeting of the MCSD in June 2013

2. Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development

- ▶ Advisory body to the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention, created in 1996, as part of the response of the UNEP MAP to 1992 Rio Summit (UNCED)

The Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development is established in the framework of MAP. It constitutes a forum for open dialogue and consultation with all relevant partners on policies for promoting sustainable development in the Mediterranean Basin on the basis of activities and contributions identified by MAP Phase II and implemented by Parties and the MAP in line with Agenda MED 21. It advises on activity programmes and formulates the necessary recommendations for Contracting Parties. (MAP II agreement, Section 1(1), p.3)

- ▶ Unique structure: representatives of the 22 Contracting Parties as well as 18 rotating representatives from local authorities, the business community, NGOs, scientific community, intergovernmental organisations and eminent experts
- ▶ The MCSD coordinated the preparation of the MSSD in 2005, and again in 2016

3. MSSD Review Methodology

- ▶ February 2014: MSSD Review officially launched in Malta
- ▶ April-May 2014: Online consultation based on a Consultation Document
- ▶ 11-12 June 2014: MCSD Steering Committee Meeting held in Malta - structure and vision agreed
- ▶ Stakeholder News Brief 1 - MSSD Review process, July 2014
- ▶ July-November 2014: Thematic Working Groups (+450 participants) - online consultations and participatory workshops (Marseilles and Sophia-Antipolis, France)
- ▶ January 2014: First draft of MSSD 2016-2025 delivered
- ▶ Stakeholder News Brief 2 - MSSD Review process, February 2015
- ▶ 7-18 February 2015: Conference on the Review of the MSSD held in Malta - key stakeholders' comments and feedback, plus written comments received by non-participants-
- ▶ 9-11 June 2015: 16th MCSD Meeting held in Morocco - draft revised MSSD endorsed
- ▶ 9-12 February 2016: Adoption of the MSSD 2016-2025 at COP19 held in Greece
- ▶ Stakeholder News Brief 3 - MSSD Review process, March 2016



Consultation workshops - November 2014



4. Outcomes and lessons learned

- ▶ During 2014 stakeholder consultation on issues, detailed responses were received from 60 organisations and individuals, which included key stakeholders from the region
- ▶ Over 450 individuals and organisations took part in the online consultations and thematic workshops to draft the sections of the strategy
- ▶ In February 2015, over 100 persons attended the stakeholder conference in Malta
- ▶ Some challenges:
 - ▶ involving business and industry and individual citizens in regional processes
 - ▶ language and translation (EN, FR)
 - ▶ taking into account so many different countries and socio-economic conditions, including situations of conflict

4. Outcomes and lessons learned

- ▶ Good practice:
 - ▶ usefulness of standing stakeholder bodies, such as the MCSD, to foster goodwill and cooperation between stakeholders
 - ▶ Various stages of consultation (issues, thematic workshops, conference, MCSD meeting, MAP Focal Points, COP)
 - ▶ Stakeholder conference where NGO places were supported (as is practice for MCSD)
 - ▶ Inclusion of 11 flagship initiatives that exemplify the integrated approach of the MSSD, where stakeholders can focus their attention

Thank you!

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