

(English)

Ladies and Gentlemen Ministers, Delegate ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honor for MedCités to have been accepted as partners of the Mediterranean Action Plan / Barcelona Convention.

MedCités is an association born in Barcelona, Catalonia, that groups 61 municipalities and unions of municipalities of the three shores of the Mediterranean that works on urban sustainable development. We implement projects and technical assistance activities to the staff and political representatives of the member cities. Mediterranean cities are increasingly, leading actors in the development of the region. In order for them to continue doing so, their technical capacities need to be strengthened to face the daily challenges: collection and treatment of waste, mobility, energy efficiency, water and local economic development, the threats over their marine and land biodiversity, among others. In the global agenda of the 21st century, those areas are of major importance in the fight against climate change.

MedCités has been collaborating with the MAP system for many years. For three consecutive biennials, we have been members of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCCD), in where we have been a part of its Steering Committee for the period 2015-17.

In addition, MedCités played a significant role in the elaboration of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), leading one of its flagship initiatives, the www.medurbantools.com platform which is a toolbox of best practices addressed to cities adapted to the Mediterranean reality.

Finally, MedCités maintains a close cooperation with some of the Regional Activity Centers, working together on different projects. This is the case of Plan Bleu, the PAP / RAC and the SCP / RAC, based in Barcelona.

In addition to this, Ladies and Gentlemen ministers, delegate ladies and gentlemen,

For more than 25 years, we know that there is an increasing climate change, which is now a climate emergency. The studies are certainly necessary; planning too. But the action is urgent and we are running out of time. In binomial economy / ecology can not always the latter be defeated. In fact, both concepts have the same Greek root: oikos (house). The economy is important and life even more. Without economy, life is difficult, and without life, the economy is impossible. It is not about how we take advantage of the consequences of the climate crisis, it is about how we address the causes.

We are here to work and we have the engagement to do it as we have already shown it. We need political and financial instruments to make structural changes in our cities, where the majority of people live in. Because you, all of us, we want to improve the quality of life of our fellow citizens and the territories in which they live. From MedCités we want to ask you to act and to do it together with competencies and financial sources.

MedECC report proved that the Mediterranean region is warming 20% more than the global average and this fact is not something that we can be waiting for.

Next year our region will commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Barcelona Declaration and the beginning of the Euro-Mediterranean process. From MedCités, we also want to contribute to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the reform of the Barcelona Convention. As it has been the case in recent years, the cooperation between the two processes is good for the future of the region and also, for its cities.

I want to thank once again the decision of the COP to accept MedCités as a partner of the MAP, hoping that it can actively contribute, as we did in recent years, fostering synergies between Mediterranean cities and other relevant actors and states of the region.

To conclude, I want to finish by offering you the collaboration and the will of the Mediterranean cities and mayors. You can count on us.

Thank you very much.

(Catalan/Català)

És un honor per MedCités haver estat acceptat com a partners del Mediterranean Action Plan / Barcelona Convention.

MedCités és una associació que agrupa 61 ajuntaments i unions d'ajuntaments de les tres ribes de la Mediterrània que treballa per al desenvolupament urbà sostenible, implementant projectes i donant assistència tècnica al personal tècnic i als representants polítics de les ciutats membres. Les ciutats mediterrànies són, cada vegada més, actors de primer ordre en el desenvolupament de la regió. Per tal que puguin continuar-ho sent, cal reforçar les seves capacitats tècniques de gestió per fer front als reptes que afronten cada dia: la recollida i el tractament de residus,, la mobilitat, l'eficiència energètica, la gestió de l'aigua, el desenvolupament econòmic local, per citar-ne alguns exemples. En l'agenda global del segle XXI, aquests són àmbits que tenen una importància cabdal en la lluita contra la crisi climàtica .

MedCités ha estat vinculat al sistema PAM des de fa molts anys. Durant tres biennis consecutius, hem estat membres de la Comissió Mediterrània per al Desenvolupament Sostenible (MCCD), formant part del seu Steering Committee en el bienni 2015-17. A més, MedCités va tenir un paper rellevant en l'elaboració de l'Estratègia per al Desenvolupament Sostenible a la Mediterrània, liderant una de les seves iniciatives far, la plataforma www.medurbantools.com que és un toolbox adreçat a les ciutats sobre instruments i bones pràctiques de la gestió urbana adaptat a la realitat mediterrània.

Per últim, MedCités manté una relació estreta amb molts dels Centres d'Activitat Regional, treballant conjuntament en diferents projectes. És el cas de Plan Bleu, el PAP/RAC i l'SCP/RAC, amb seu a Barcelona.

L'any vinent, la regió commemora el 25è aniversari de la Declaració de Barcelona i de l'inici del procés euromediterrani. Des de MedCités, volem contribuir a commemorar també el 25è aniversari de la reformulació de la Convenció de Barcelona. Tal i com ja ha passat en els darrers anys, la col·laboració entre les dues dinàmiques és bona per al futur de la regió i, també, per a les seves ciutats.

Vull agrair un cop més la decisió de la COP d'acceptar MedCités com a membre del PAM, en el qual esperem poder contribuir activament, com ja hem anat fent en els darrers anys, ajudant a generar sinèrgies entre les ciutats mediterrànies i d'aquestes amb la resta d'actors i d'estats de la regió.