

MedCities Annual Conference 2018
Barcelona – 4 and 5 October 2018

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“Mediterranean cities: sustainable and equitable for all!”



The 2018 Medcities Annual Conference “**Mediterranean cities: Sustainable and equitable for all**” took place on 4-5 October at the Saló de Cent of the Municipality of Barcelona.

The Conference brought together mayors and other political representatives from around 40 Mediterranean cities and metropolitan areas, along with representatives of international organisations, other public administrations and NGOs. Among the issues addressed by the participants were the need to integrate the unique perspectives of cities and metropolitan governments with international agendas for urban development and the key role played by city-to-city cooperation in confronting shared challenges and disseminating best practices.

For 27 years, MedCities has operated as a network of cities and metropolitan areas. MedCities works and cooperates for

sustainable urban development and for urban policies, expanding the focus of actions in the fields of waste treatment, water cycle management, improving air quality, fostering sustainability mobility, urban regeneration and strategic planning, with its sights set on the future in order to make Mediterranean cities more liveable and sustainable places.

For all of these reasons, since its creation, MedCities has carried out dozens of projects, training activities and provided technical assistance to the technical and political representatives of Mediterranean cities.

The objective of the annual conference, in which more than 30 cities and around 20 mayors from the network participated, was to define the priorities of municipal leaders, which will guide the direction of the support that MedCities provides in the future.

Opening speeches:



Ada Colau

Mayor of Barcelona and
President of the Barcelona
Metropolitan Area

Welcome to the General Assembly of MedCities, a network made up of 57 cities and metropolitan areas on both shores of the Mediterranean.

Barcelona, a quintessentially Mediterranean city, has supported MedCities ever since it was created. In 2013 we hosted a General Assembly, and in 2016 we participated in its 25th anniversary. For the past 27 years, MedCities has operated as a working network and has cooperated on sustainable urban development and urban policies by expanding the focus of its actions in the field of waste treatment, water cycle management, improving air quality, fostering sustainable mobility, urban regeneration, the empowerment of women and strategic planning, always with its sights set on the future in order to make Mediterranean cities more liveable and sustainable places.

We are keenly aware that cities have to be at the fore of this shared cooperation agenda in the Mediterranean region.

Throughout history, the Mediterranean has faced major challenges: it is a melting pot of cultures, a melting pot of many different countries, it is also a region with conflicts, yet it is a region full of life. For this reason, I must mention that in recent years, because of Europe's border policies, the Mediterranean has unfortunately become a common graveyard of thousands of people who have drowned: boys, girls, men, women... Every single one of them matters to us, and they should not have perished.

Migrating is also a human right, and we want the Mediterranean to remain a source of life and, therefore, Barcelona as a city, and a European one, also vociferously decries this European policy, which condemns thousands of people to death, and we pledge to do everything within our power to change this border policy and help generate a fair migration policy which guarantees safe passage for the people who are emigrating. After all, no one else should have to drown in this Mediterranean Sea which we love so much.

Opening speeches:



Xavier Tiana
Secretary General
of MedCities

Two years ago, we celebrated in this magnificent hall the 25th anniversary of Med-Cities, a network which was founded in 1991 and has gone on to grow, which has gone through the process of becoming an association, independent of its parent organisation, namely the Barcelona Metropolitan Area. Furthermore, this conference dovetails with the end of the current mandate, and tomorrow the MedCities General Assembly will elect a new board of directors for the upcoming four-year mandate.

Today we have among us representatives from more than 30 cities of the network and around 20 mayors, and now is the time to showcase the work we have done over these years.

In these four years, MedCities has worked within the framework of city strategies, such as the Madinatouna project in Tunisia, which served to design eight urban strategies in eight Tunisian cities, working in partnership with the association of Tunisian municipalities, Dutch development cooperation, German development cooperation, Cities Alliance and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) funding. Indeed, this is a strategic project for the country.

We have also carried out thematic projects, such as the ACCESTT project, with funding from the Municipality of Barcelona. This is a project on the urban public space in Tétouan and Tangier, and we are working together with their associations to make the urban public space more accessible by creating policies at the city level.

Finally, we have also opened up to other areas of work on today's most pressing matters. For example, in 2014 – 2015, MedCities carried out a mission to Lebanon to identify the needs of a country that is currently hosting more than a million and a half Syrian refugees. A series of projects were identified there with Catalan development cooperation, including a project which is currently underway to improve waste management in the Municipality of Tripoli along with the Al Fayhaa Urban Community.

With the financing of the Med Programme of the European Commission, we have also been working on projects in the field of urban and metropolitan agriculture in the Barcelona Metropolitan Area, in Marseille, Tirana and Montpellier.

These are just a few highlights of the 15 or so projects that MedCities has spearheaded in the past four years. Alongside these projects, more than 20 technical assistance missions were carried out, along with around 30 training activities with the participation of more than 1,000 people, and most importantly with attention tailored to the needs of cities.

We believe that MedCities is a useful, consolidated working instrument, the success of which lies in the trust that cities have in us. Without the trust of the mayors, MedCities would not work. Yet I say this without ignoring a highly professional and committed technical team, and particularly the highly specific support of institutions like the Municipality of Barcelona and the Barcelona Metropolitan Area, and institutions such as the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation.

Opening speeches:



Mohamed Idaomar

Mohamed Idaomar, Mayor
of Tétouan and President
of MedCities

Welcome. I would like to stress my thanks to Mayor Ada Colau for continuing to support MedCities. Now more than ever, we have to continue to make a steadfast effort on behalf of this network.

MedCities was founded in 1991, and one of its essential cornerstones was the struggle against pollution; after some time, we shifted our focus to city governance and management by mayors. Thus, I wish to state how important is this network, which works on current issues and has as its aim to share between the cities of the Mediterranean the issues which directly affect the problems of our fellow citizens.

It is essential to work on decentralisation and to give more power to mayors, who can hear their citizens and who know their concerns first-hand. In this sense, MedCities' forthcoming line of work runs in this direction: how to decentralise and, therefore, to recognise the capacity of the mayors of the Mediterranean to manage our cities' problems.

I would like to thank you all for coming, for sharing your ideas over the course of these days, since these experiences place the citizen at the forefront of our policies.

Opening panel. **Mediterranean cities: shared challenges and shared solutions**



Moderator:

Emilia Saiz, Secretary General of United Cities and Local Governments

To the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) network, MedCities is a sister network because it is part of the movement, and to UCLG it is very important that we strengthen each other and ensure that our agendas are complementary, because to us MedCities represents action and technical expertise.

To UCLG, the Mediterranean space is a space where many of the global challenges we are facing can be found, and we believe that important solutions can be found here, not only for those of us living around this sea that joins us, rather than separates us, but for the entire world.

Mediterranean Cities: shared challenges and shared solutions

Speakers:



Eng. Ahmad Kamareddine,
President of the Al Fayhaa Urban Community and Mayor of Tripoli, Lebanon



Mr. Philippe Saurel,
Mayor of Montpellier and President of the Montpellier Mediterranean Metropolis



Ms. Souad Ben Abderrahim,
Mayor of Tunis



Ms. Ada Colau,
Mayor of Barcelona and President of the Barcelona Metropolitan Area

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Opening panel. Mediterranean cities: shared challenges and shared solutions



Ahmad Kamareddine, President of the Al Fayhaa Urban Community and Mayor of Tripoli, Lebanon



Al Fayhaa is a union of four municipalities, Tripoli-Mina-Baddawi-Qalamoun, located in a key geographical location which makes it a nexus between the Mediterranean and the Middle East.

Even though we are on the other side of the sea, it is important to remember that we are all part of the same Mediterranean and that we share the problems that we suffer from and that affect all of us.

Tripoli has always been developed as a key, important economic agent in northern Lebanon, and it plays a major role in areas like economics, culture, healthcare and administration. However, this changed with the start of the civil war in Lebanon, which led to a break with the closest regions and downgraded our role as a regional attraction.

“ We believe decentralisation is necessary in order to provide municipalities with more tools in the struggle against their problems. ”

As a result of this, Tripoli has witnessed its loss of importance in the aforementioned areas, and it has watched as new bonds have formed between the closest regions and the centre of

the country. Furthermore, the conflict in Syria has had other harmful effects in our town; many residents have lost their homes, and we are hosting a large number of refugees.

“ Social inclusion from municipalities offers opportunities to fight against poverty and provide education and health and other basic services to improve people’s lives; by supplying infrastructures, quality public services and local economic development policies ”

In terms of our cities, the main problem – along with those just mentioned – is immigration, a phenomenon we have to focus on in MedCities in the near future. To do so, we believe decentralisation is necessary in order to provide municipalities with more tools in the struggle against their problems, since they are ones that suffer from them the most directly.

We are advocating the addition of municipalities onto the global agenda of MedCities and any other organ-

“ We are all part of the same Mediterranean. ”

isation in order to contribute to solving problems, since such important phenomena as the ones just mentioned must be dealt with and solved at many levels

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Opening panel. Mediterranean cities: shared challenges and shared solutions



Philippe Saurel, Mayor of Montpellier and President of Montpellier Mediterranean Metropolis



Montpellier

has 279,845 inhabitants, making it the 20th largest city in France. Its area is 56.88 km².

Today we are witnessing a global revolution in governance which has given cities the chance to speak with each other, to improve beyond the power of states. This is because 70% of people live in cities; they are the ones who move the world forward, not states. It is because cities are where jobs are created, because cities are where the vast majority of scientific knowledge

“It is easier to gather the mayors of Tiberias and Bethlehem around the same table than the representatives of the states of Israel and Palestine.”

is disseminated. Cities also embody cultural excitement and, in this sense, there are two ways of envisioning democracy: the official diplomacy conducted by states, and the grassroots diplomacy conducted by cities. Both are complementary, but the diplomacy conducted by cities is essential because mayors speak the same language and have the same problems: climate change, migration, housing,

public space, water policy, sanitation, etc. Relations among mayors are always easy, even when there are no state-to-state relations. Montpellier is twinned with Barcelona, Fez, Tlemcen, Tiberias, Bethlehem, Palermo and the island of Kos. It is easier to gather the mayors of Tiberias and Bethlehem around the same table than the representatives of the states of Israel and Palestine. For this reason, part of the future of the world depends on cities, and precisely for this reason, mayors have a great deal of power and a great obligation.

“70% of people live in cities; they are the ones who move the world forward, not states.”

With regard to Montpellier, we can contribute our own grain of sand at different stages. The first is urban agriculture and the conservation of agricultural spaces. We have devised development plans precisely to protect these spaces, which have a huge potential, as the Milan Pact states. The second point is that we have created a reference framework, a document

which discusses sustainable development in home building and neighbourhood organisation. This programme has been validated by the Ministry of the Environment, and it bears in mind the quality of the materials, the buildings' orientation and especially the water policy, the multiculturalism of neighbourhoods, publicly-subsidised rentals, and the accessibility of housing for youths.

The third point revolves around culture, because this is where we share common languages. We have decided, through numerous cultural actions, to bring together all the cultures of the Mediterranean in areas like music, contemporary art and especially cinema by organising a major festival: the Mediterranean Festival. Without the shadow of a doubt, we are facing problems related to democracy, and I share Ms Colau's position that we have to integrate democracy and democratic practice into the sustainable development goals.

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Opening panel. Mediterranean cities: shared challenges and shared solutions



Tunis is the capital of Tunisia and also the political, economic and cultural capital of the country, with more than one million inhabitants. It is located in northeast Tunisia on the Mediterranean coast.

I am pleased to note that this is the first time a woman is serving as the mayor of Tunis, after 160 years. The election of last July will go down in the history of the Arab world as an exemplary breakthrough. This juncture embodies both the expression of confidence in governance by women and a desire to change established customs. We women represent the hope for a better political world, free of the traces which we attribute to the traditional political world. To us, the major challenge is decentralisation and we have dreamed about the decentralisation of our city. We are convinced that centralisation is at the root of the dictatorship which we have lived through.

Our current objective is to achieve more competitive cities, since the future of the Mediterranean will be played out in cities. Nothing can be accomplished today if we do not mobilise, and this is particularly true in the case of Tunis. Only by working together will we be able to stimulate economic development, expand our businesses and create new ones, and attract new investors. Only by working together will we be able to create a favourable business climate that is favourable so companies can focus on

the appropriate sectors with proactive initiatives, stimulating economic development with the government but also with business leaders. Only together will we be able to preserve our heritage with a clear association with modern, transparent, participative governance that is respectful of the differences comprising our society. We are aware that the administrative boundaries inherited from the recent past are holding us back; they are not the reflection of our millennia-old history and they have to be overcome. This is our primary challenge, and it is a political one.

“We have to invent new forms of regional governance in order to develop and be present in the international arena”

We have to invent new forms of territorial governance in order to develop and find our place on the international stage. Another challenge is what our response should be to matters of internal and external immigration. The unique feature of Tunisia in terms of

housing is the fact that almost the entire population owns their own homes. Some consider this to promote social stability, but we see it differently: how

“Only together will we be able to preserve our heritage with a clear association with modern, transparent, participative governance that is respectful of the differences comprising our society”

can we resolve the problem of accommodation for the newly arrived? Mayors must have the necessary powers and means to avoid overcrowding in housing. Another of the challenges which we are facing as a city is waste management. Through public-private partnerships we must work towards renewable energy. We benefit from 8 months out of 12 of sunshine, but no project has been implemented and we are facing serious energy management problems.

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Opening panel. Mediterranean cities: shared challenges and shared solutions



Barcelona is the capital of Catalonia and the second largest city in Spain, with 1,620,809 inhabitants. It is recognised worldwide for its importance in culture, finance, trade and tourism, as well as for its transport infrastructure, home to one of the most important ports and airports in the world.

Our city is proud to have been made the headquarters of the Barcelona Declaration 25 years ago, and also to once again welcome the MedCities Annual Conference today.

Despite all the efforts, in the Mediterranean we must be aware that we have not achieved everything we set out to do two decades ago, often because states' Mediterranean policies were viewed as a form of risk-containment, not as a space for opportunities through cooperation among cities.

“ We have to make young people see urban areas as places where they can build a life and develop their capacities. ”

Barcelona has always been committed to this idea, and now more than ever since we believe that cities have become more and more prominent not only because we are the home to the vast majority of the population, but also because we are the site of the vast majority of global challenges, solutions and opportunities.

We believe that states have to understand that cities are not solely tools of public management but political actors that can provide solutions to the most pressing problems, such as migration, climate change and waste. As a result of this fact, we have to find a new impetus and generate spaces of creativity and encounters, all of us together.

“ Cities are becoming more and more prominent not only because we are the home to the vast majority of the population, but also because we are the site of the majority of the global challenges, solutions and opportunities ”

In parallel to all of this, we have to make young people see urban areas as places where they can build a life and develop their capacities. By this we mean creating opportunities and putting the right to the city on the urban agenda so that there are no longer any first- and second-class citi-

zens because of background or social class.

To achieve this, we must employ an intercultural policy in which all citizens become first-class and all their visions are opportunities, and in which everyone is recognised as actors defining Barcelona.

One of the other major issues to lay on the table and fight against is related to economic inequalities, primarily the speculation that is threatening our city; this means a safe bet for investors which generates processes of exclusion and expulsion from housing. One of the challenges for the network to work on is therefore ensuring that no one has to leave their homes or their land because of economic conditions.

Round table 1. Mediterranean cities: sustainable development and the environment



Moderator:

Sandrine Capelle-Manuel, Lead Urban Specialist, Cities Alliance

The main topic of this round table is the sustainable development of Mediterranean cities. It is a known fact that this topic is one of the cornerstones of the urban agenda. The first question is: What are the main challenges facing your city in terms of sustainable development, and could you provide us with some examples? .

Mediterranean cities: sustainable development and the environment

Speakers:



Mr. Khaled Khshman,
Mayor of As-Salt



Mr. Arbjan Mazniku,
Deputy Mayor of Tirana



Mr. Andreas Viras,
Mayor of Larnaca



Mr. Mounir Elloumi,
Mayor of Sfax

Reactions:



Ms. Neus Truyol,
Deputy Mayor of Palma

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Round table 1. Mediterranean cities: sustainable development and the environment



Khaled Khshman,
Mayor of As-Salt



As-Salt is the administrative centre of the central-western part of Jordan. As-Salt is the capital of the Jordanian region of Balqa, its area measures 154 km² and it has a population of around 168,000 inhabitants.

The most important challenges facing Jordan are energy, waste management, climate change, transport, air quality, immigration and violence. Locally, if we are just focusing on the city of Salt, our problems are energy, waste management, transport and violence, because there was a terrorist attack in the city two months ago. As-Salt is located 28 km from Amman and is nestled amidst three hills. From the city council we are trying to get UNESCO to nominate As-Salt to the World Heritage list.

“Every year there are 2,000 new cars circulating on the streets in the historic city centre. Therefore, we are planning a project to decongest the centre”

Only by working together will we be able to stimulate economic development, expand our companies and create new ones, and attract investors. Only by working together will we be able to create a climate that is favourable so companies can focus on the appropriate sectors with proactive

initiatives, stimulating economic development with the government but also with business leaders.

Waste management is very complicated in my city because of the topography of the land, and this proves to be a real obstacle to waste collection and transport. However, we are working to solve it with door-to-door collection, and working to improve the landfill.

We also have a problem with energy; in my city, and in Jordan in general, the price of energy is very high. For this reason, we have spearheaded a programme to create our own solar energy, which we will begin to implement in 2019.

Another problem related to transport is that every year there are 2,000 new cars circulating on the streets in the historic city centre. Therefore, we are planning a project to decongest the centre. We have 6 new car parks on the outskirts of the city, and we have implemented a shuttle bus to transport people from the outskirts to the centre to prevent everyone from entering the city centre with private vehicles.

As I said, we also have a problem with violence, which is a consequence of the

war in Afghanistan. Many people who participated in this war came back to our cities with very extremist ideas. In the city council, we began to work to keep these ideas away from our youths. For this reason, we are providing economic and administrative support to all the youth organisations that fight against these extremist ideas.

“The city of As-Salt is a symbol of harmony between Muslims and Christians, between Jordanians and Palestinians”

The city of As-Salt is a symbol of harmony between Muslims and Christians, between Jordanians and Palestinians, and I think that we will be successful because the majority of people in my city are against extremism and against violence. I hope that the cities both in Jordan and outside Jordan will be capable of fighting against these extremist ideas.

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Round table 1. Mediterranean cities: sustainable development and the environment



Tirana is the largest city and the capital of Albania, with a population of around 800,000 inhabitants. It is also one of the most important regions in the Balkan Peninsula.

The main challenges facing our city are related to the consequences of climate change and global warming, especially in the past few years.

Last autumn, we suffered from a serious drought, which had not happened for over a decade. In the winter, the temperatures dropped beneath nine degrees below zero. And with the arrival of summer, the climate shifted once again and the temperatures reached 40 degrees on average, while we went 192 days without rainfall, which led to the spread of fires. Generally speaking, the records for rainfall, cold temperatures and drought have been beaten, which proves that the climate is becoming more extreme as the outcome of climate change. We in Tirana are keenly aware of the strong likelihood that these phenomena will occur again in the near future, and this is why we have developed a series of specific projects and initiatives.

One of the mainstays of our plan is to raise the people's awareness of the need to stop urban growth in the suburbs near Tirana, because in the past ten years our population has multiplied by almost five. This makes it difficult to create green zones, spaces and

nature parks, which improve the quality of life of the inhabitants of Tirana.

“The action we planned asked each family to plant a tree while celebrating each child's birthday. By this means, more than 100,000 trees were planted during the months of October and February”

This is why we initiated the creation of an orbital forest, also known as Tirana's fifth ring, a green wall made up of almost 2 million trees surrounding the city and connecting more than 14,000 hectares of parks, croplands, forests and other kinds of vegetation around the city. The goal was to revive ecosystems and stop the effects of global warming; however, the infrastructures needed to carry out this policy were pretty much unaffordable for us (opening spaces, transporting materials, maintenance, etc.). The solution to the problem was to get society involved, and the response was incredible.

The action we planned asked each family to plant a tree while celebrating each child's birthday. By this means, more than 100,000 trees were planted during the months of October and February. Despite this, the constant droughts made it difficult for these new green spaces to grow, and their maintenance and planting exceeded the administration's capacity to defray their cost.

Therefore, we decided to go back to the citizens and work together to bring this idea to fruition. Thus, all the inhabitants who lived near the zones where the trees were planted decided to take charge of them alongside the city council.

Another of the major proposals was located in the city's central square, which was turned into a large pedestrian zone which could serve as both its lungs and to store large amounts of water via tanks for when it is needed.

With all of this we have managed to create an ecosystem of different plants and trees in the central and busiest zone of Tirana.

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Round table 1. Mediterranean cities: sustainable development and the environment



Larnaca is the third largest city in Cyprus. It is located on the southeast coast of the island and has a population of almost 144,000 inhabitants. It is the home to the most important airport and second most important port in the country.

Ever since it was founded, our city has suffered from problems with the geography and topography because it is quite narrow and bounded by the coast. These factors condition the mobility, and they are only aggravated as a result of climate change, with winters under 20 degrees and occasional rain once or twice a month.

The only forms of public transport are the bus lines in addition to private transport and this is why we wanted to create a mobility with both soft and hard measures that could solve citizens' real problems.

The more minor actions we have carried out include creating historical routes – which can be taken on foot or bicycle – as well as creating group activities to encourage the use of bicycles and promote public transport and participation within the main European mobility programmes.

These are just some of the measures we describe as soft, which, along with the hard ones, have enabled us to be ranked among the top European cities in terms of public transport and mobility for 5 years in a row.

The more important measures seek to shift the focus, putting cars in the background so that people can be foregrounded. For this reason, we have transformed much of the city centre into a pedestrian zone, where bicycles are allowed, by promoting areas where they can be ridden and requiring the public carparks in the city to have a certain percentage of bicycle parking places.

“This strategic plan will be our logbook, our guide, to transform and improve our city”

The project has been supported by the creation of more reliable public transport lines in recent years. Another area the local administration is targeting is the use of electric vehicles and has provided 2 free charging stations in the city and also has a no parking fee policy for electric cars.

Another area that the municipality is exploring with regards to mobility is the connection of key coastal locations through the water with

bus-boats especially in the summer months. This alternative will reduce the number of vehicles in the main roads and will enable an enjoyable ride for locals and visitors.

These projects have won awards from different associations, which have recognised the importance that we administrations want to convey in the quest for a healthy and sustainable city, turning us into a benchmark with the European Union.

We wish to highlight the importance of sound policy applied to real needs and backed by reports, such as the one on turning the seafront into a pedestrian zone, which will allow a host of effects, all of them positive, to emerge from a single project.

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Round table 1. Mediterranean cities: sustainable development and the environment



Mounir Elloumi,
Mayor of Sfax



Sfax is the second largest city in Tunisia and a major port and industrial hub located 270 km southeast of Tunis. The population of Sfax is 955,422 inhabitants.

The geographic location of Sfax in relation to the rest of the country means that it occupies a strategic position in terms of economic activity. Nonetheless, because of the centralisation carried out for decades, Sfax has suffered from an economic downturn which we have started to reverse thanks to the May 2018 elections, since which we have a local governance which is beginning to gel. One of the effects of the degradation we have suffered still persists; one example of this is the phosphate chemical treatment factory located 3 km from the city centre.

“Thanks to the MedCities collaborative network, we have been able to develop a strategy that allows us to integrate new and more ambitious environmental objectives”

It was built there more than 50 years ago, but despite the complaints from civil society and the serious degradation it causes our coastline, it remains in operation and today poses one of

the most serious pollution problems in our city. We have created a public company which is working on isolating the phosphate deposits. These deposits have been treated so they could be turned into an urban park

“Phosphate chemical deposits have been treated so they could be turned into an urban park measuring 55 hectares in area, which currently offers a play area and botanical garden. The land reclamation area totals 420 hectares, which has been prepared as land that can be urbanised”

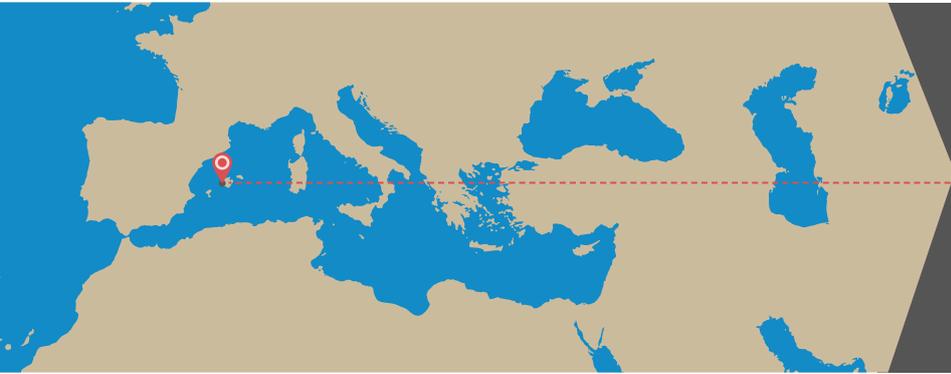
measuring 55 hectares in area, which currently offers a play area and botanical garden. The land reclamation area totals 420 hectares, which has been prepared as land that can be urbanised. In Sfax, just as in many large cities, the pollution caused by private cars is a serious problem. What is more, there has been a downturn in the use of public transport, which today only accounts for 13% of all commutes.

The action plan in favour of lasting energy (the PAED) is a strategic document established within Sfax's commitment to the Covenant of Mayors. It contains an inventory of greenhouse gases for reference year 2010 and an action plan that will allow for a 20% reduction in emissions by 2020. In terms of waste management, the city of Sfax has developed a communal management plan.

Through a partnership, our city has commissioned a feasibility study on launching a photovoltaic power plant to power the municipal buildings. This is our approach to solving our city's environmental challenges associated with pollution.

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Round table 1. Mediterranean cities: sustainable development and the environment



Palma is the capital of the autonomous community of the Balearic Islands. It measures 208.63 km² in area, and with 400,578 inhabitants it is the most populous city on the island and the 20th largest city in Spain.

We at Palma want to get involved and be part of the MedCités Mediterranean network in order to achieve spaces of justice, peaceful social coexistence and life, and especially more sustainable regions.

We believe that one of the main challenges we are facing is climate change. To overcome it, we should stress the need for more widespread social engagement.

“The government of the Balearic Islands is processing a law to lower the waste we generate by 10% by 2020 and to ban any plastics that are not compostable or reusable.”

This is why we are launching a proposal for cooperation, from both our city and towards others, in order to attain all the objectives that fall outside our authority.

We are in the midst of an environmental emergency, bold actions are

needed both locally and globally, and we want to contribute one of the common spaces which affects us first-hand where we can participate and collaborate: the problem of plastics, especially single-use items, in the sea.

“One of the main challenges we are facing is climate change. To overcome it, we need to stress the need for more widespread social engagement.”

Plastic production has increased more than 50% in the past decade. To deal with it, and to see the global approach we are offering, Palma sought to consider banning single-use plastic bags, but the proposition was denied by a Court since the city does not have the authority needed to enforce this policy. Therefore, it is essential to work as a united front to generate a greater environmental impact.

As a counter-response, the government of the Balearic Islands is processing a law to lower the waste we generate by 10% by 2020 and to ban

any plastics that are not compostable or reusable. This law was approved by the Parliament of the Balearic Islands last 29 January.

“We are in the midst of an environmental emergency, bold actions are needed both locally and globally.”

Joining MedCités will help us overcome problems like the high regulatory costs and barriers in terms of authority, as well as the difficulty communicating and cooperating in a network which comes from being an island.

Round table 2. **Mediterranean cities: economic development and inequality**



Moderator:
Mr. Antoni Segura, President of CIDOB

The topic of this round table refers to sustainable and equitable economic growth for everyone. We will address a topic which I believe is crucial to attaining the benchmark goals in the relationship between economic growth and the possible generation of inequalities which upset the social equation, foster the appearance of xenophobic movements and the exclusion of others and, in turn, feed speculation and environmental degradation.

I would like to recall that the Barcelona Declaration was approved 25 years ago, by which the countries on the shores of the Mediterranean pledged to promote sustainable economic development, improve the living conditions of their citizens, increase employment levels, lower development disparities in the Euro-Mediterranean region and foster cooperation and regional integration.

Mediterranean cities: economic development and inequality

Speakers:



Ms. Jelka Tepsić,
Deputy Mayor of
Dubrovnik



Mr. Raúl Jiménez,
Deputy Mayor of
Málaga



Mr. Khalil Harfouche,
President of the Union
of Municipalities of
Jezzine



Mr. Mohamed Idaomar,
Mayor of Tétouan

Reactions:



Mr. Mohammad Seoudi,
Mayor of Saida

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Round table 2. Mediterranean cities: economic development and inequality



Dubrovnik is a Croatian city located on the Adriatic Sea in the region of Dalmatia. It is one of the most important tourist destinations in Europe and was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1979. Its population is 42,615 inhabitants.

Over the last few years, in the summer months the city hosted more than 10,000 visits a day, with an average of between 2 and 3 cruise ships leaving their passengers there (for a total of 100 per year), visiting the Old City, which has become overcrowded and conditions for inhabitants to live within the walls has become almost impossible, and where the number of Croatian residents has dropped drastically in recent years.

“ We are working on behalf of sustainable tourism, since this is one of the cornerstones of the city of Dubrovnik ”

Considering this issue, in the city council we have sought and developed different plans, under the project “Respect the City”, which we shall outline next, with the goal of achieving tourism that is both economically profitable and, more importantly, sustainable. The first of the measures, whose purpose is to convey respect for the city, is targeted at two different groups: the Croatian population and tourists. It seeks to make them aware of the problem generated as a result of overpopulation in the zones.

In parallel, we have also applied a parking policy to address one of the most serious problems for the residents of Dubrovnik, as well as new circulation routes.

“ One of the measures we have developed has been to limit the number of cruise ships visiting Dubrovnik harbour. So per morning, or per afternoon, only up to 4,000 tourists from cruise ships can be in the city. ”

However, the main actions have been developed around the large number of visitors that come to the city year after year. In order to halt the negative impact that tourism is having on the local heritage, one of the measures we have developed has been to limit the number of cruise ships visiting Dubrovnik harbour. So per morning, or per afternoon, only up to 4,000 tourists from cruise ships can be in the city. We also started the Dubrovnik Visitor Prediction System which enables us to check number of visitors in future periods.

All actions performed are result of constant negotiations with the Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA), since we are just now finishing up assessing and outlining our project. Even though we do not aim to limit the number of vessels coming to Dubrovnik, we do intend to limit the number of passengers they transport, with a maximum of 8,000 per day.

All of these measures are a reflection of problems which are plaguing the society of Dubrovnik, and the residents of the old quarter and youths are the most directly affected. We have developed housing plans and new housing models for the latter.

Dubrovnik is recognized as the leader in sustainable tourism development, so we are holding a series of lectures to explain the problems of unsustainable tourism that Europe is suffering from and how we are planning to deal with it.



The city of **Málaga** is located in the Autonomous Community of Andalusia, in southern Spain. The city occupies a total of 395 km² and it has 575,000 inhabitants.

The main productive areas in the city of Málaga are tourism and culture, technology and sustainability. In the past two years, the economy of the province has grown 4% despite the fact that the consequences of the economic crisis still linger.

When we talk about sustainability, we usually talk about it in terms of the economy and forget that one of the most important aspects of sustainable development is the social part. In Málaga we have a slogan: that nobody should be left behind. And therefore with this new growth we have been experiencing in recent years since the crisis, we have to learn from our mistakes of the past and ensure that the growth is more sustainable so that everyone can benefit from it. Although it is true that cities do not always have the authority needed to do everything we want to, especially on social matters, it is important to note that we are the government that is the closest to the people, and therefore the one that is the closest to the solutions. For this reason, in 2015 we launched a Social Emergency Plan following the lines marked by the United Nations sustainable development goals, which will allow Málaga to remain a hospitable,

open city, a city where there is no xenophobia or intolerance.

This Social Emergency Plan has three cornerstones. The first seeks to economically palliate the needs of the families facing the greatest difficulties. The second is a job inclusion plan for people who do not have the training needed to join the workforce; in fact, participating in the job inclusion plan is a sine qua non condition for receiving economic aid. Education is crucial because the majority of social problems stemming from economic problems are caused by a lack of education and training.

“When we talk about sustainability, we usually talk about it in terms of the economy and forget that one of the most important aspects of sustainable development is the social part”

Finally, the third cornerstone of the plan is housing. We give three years of assistance to people who have no training and therefore cannot enter the job market and afford to rent a home.

This problem is compounded by the another one found in many cities, which, like Málaga, live primarily from tourism, namely that tourist rentals have led the rental market prices to rise, given that it is more profitable for owners to rent a flat by day to tourists than to rent it to people who will live there all year round. This increase in rental prices primarily affects the people in the most vulnerable economic situations, and this is why we are working to increase the rental assistance from €450 per month to €550. To foster social balance, it is essential to both give and receive, and this is why we ask the beneficiaries to pledge to further their training so they can ultimately join the job market.

In short, even if there is economic growth, we should not forget that the social balance and environmental balance are also extremely important. Mistakes have been made in the past, and we have paid for them, so now, with this new economic growth, we must not forget about the social balance.

**MedCities Annual Conference 2018
Barcelona – 4 and 5 October 2018**

Round table 2. Mediterranean cities: economic development and inequality



Jezzine is a city in Lebanon, the capital of the district of the same name. Surrounded by extensive pine forests, it is the leading tourist destination in the southern part of the country. The city is also famous for its crafts and traditional goods.

When we talk about our region, we are referring to one in which 40% is occupied by green zones, with a predominance of agricultural sectors, which we are trying to protect, especially after a few difficult years.

The civil war in Lebanon (1975-90) and several subsequent conflicts occurring in our region may have had a lower impact there, but they did leave Jezzine desolate, with dire socioeconomic problems.

“ We also launched a project with different French cities to create Jezzine National Park thanks to the network of partners offered by MedCities. ”

However, in 2000, the Union of Municipalities of Jezzine began to rally when we decided to launch a project that brought together 9 different areas with 18 measures. During the process, we developed new socioeconomic indicators which enabled us to see whether we were properly applying our public policies, which ultimately led us to

identify 3 key points where we should act, which could serve as the cornerstone and engine of the region. They were: agriculture, light industry and tourism.

In terms of agriculture and light industry, we carried out projects in association with the private sector from the United States and Europe. Together with them, we developed new brands for our products and developed marketing plans and campaigns.

“ The association with the private sector through the public-private partnership model (PPP model) has been a resounding success for our projects ”

However, we executed the most important point in tourism. We wanted to and tried to change our previous tourism model, in which we were primarily a city through which people travelled but did not stop.

We decided to create campaigns, but we noticed that they were not hav-

ing enough of an effect, so, and once again with the participation of the private sector, we implemented actions such as creating activities related to eco-tourism and especially new slogans to promote the province. By doing all this, we managed to transform the region into one of the most attractive tourist spots in Lebanon.

We also believed it was essential to get young people involved in these projects, and they responded positively by cooperating and participating in different events and festivals focused on tourism around the region.

One of the strong points in promoting this project emerged from the discoveries which pinpointed Jezzine as a region that was formerly populated by dinosaurs, which attracted geologists, historians and archaeologists. To develop this policy, we also had the support of the Lebanese University, which advertised the gathering.

We also launched a project with different French cities to create Jezzine National Park thanks to the network of partners offered by MedCities.

MedCities Annual Conference 2018 Barcelona – 4 and 5 October 2018

Round table 2. Mediterranean cities: economic development and inequality



Mohamed Idaomar,
Mayor of Tétouan



Tétouan is a city in northern Morocco, the capital of the Tanger-Tétouan region. It has a population of more than 400,000 inhabitants.

Given the geographic location of Tétouan, our challenges are quite similar to those of the cities on the southern shore of the Mediterranean. As the first challenge, we would stress youth employment, particularly young people with a degree. University students have many problems finding their place in society and securing jobs.

“ We have to plan the infrastructures needed for the massive, short-term tourism of the summer, in terms of both urban transport and water and electrical supply infrastructures. ”

Our second challenge is tourism. Tétouan is a city that welcomes a great deal of domestic tourists, especially in the months of July and August, when the number of inhabitants multiplies. We have to plan the infrastructures needed for this summer period for this massive, short-term tourism, in terms of both urban transport and water and electrical supply infrastructures. The

problem lies in the fact that these infrastructures are only used for 2 months, which makes city management more expensive. If we compound that with insufficient exploitation of the medina for tourists in the remaining 10 months of the year, we realise that this is a delicate situation in terms of local revenues and spending.

“ I suggest that with the assistance of MedCities, we map the cities’ priorities in order to create centres where experiences can be exchanged and sustainable solutions to problems can be sought ”

On the other hand, the problem of inequality is a state-wide issue that has enabled us to ensure the restructuring of the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods, but not only in terms of basic infrastructures (electricity, sanitation, roads) but also in local facilities (health-care centres, schools, youth homes, women’s shelters).

Another common problem in all Mediterranean cities is poor water manage-

ment. Generally speaking, our cities are hilly, and when there is rain, the vast majority of the water pours into the sea. For this reason, we have had to increase our use of groundwater, which has led to an increase in spending to make it drinkable.

“ The problem of inequality is a state-wide issue that has enabled us to ensure the restructuring of the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods, not only in terms of basic infrastructures but also in local facilities. ”

I suggest that with the assistance of MedCities, we map the cities’ priorities in order to create centres where experiences can be exchanged and sustainable solutions to problems can be sought.

MedCités Annual Conference 2018
Barcelona – 4 and 5 October 2018

Round table 2. Mediterranean cities: economic development and inequality



The city of **Saida**, has 200,000 inhabitants, making it the third largest city in Lebanon. It is located on the Mediterranean coast around 40 kilometres north of Tyre and another 40 kilometres to the south of the capital, Beirut. Saida is also the capital of the South-Lebanon Administration.

We in the government of Saida want to express our gratitude for the invitation and participation of all the speakers, especially those with whom we are sharing not only a table but also issues and solutions.

In terms of the issues discussed, on economics and equality we have taken note of the measures that the different cities have adopted, such as Dubrovnik, to solve the problems of tourist overcrowding and the daily arrival of vessels and cruise ships.

“Regarding Jezzine, our neighbouring city, we are keenly aware of the positive measures that Mayor Harfouche and his government are adopting, since we also benefit from their improvements as a result of the many connections that MedCités provides.”

Regarding Málaga, which focuses on the environment and the social economy, we want to highlight the slogan

“Nobody should be left behind”, which perfectly encapsulates what that city wants to achieve.

And regarding Jezzine, our neighbouring city, we are keenly aware of the positive measures that Mayor Harfouche and his government are adopting, since we also benefit from their improvements as a result of the many connections that MedCités provides. We thus want to highlight their outstanding actions on industrial, tourist and agricultural matters.

“The plans of all politicians, regardless of whether they are presidents or parliamentarians, includes the goal of creating jobs”

And finally, we have Tétouan, with which we share one of our most pressing problems today: job creation. Indeed, the plans of all politicians, regardless of whether they are presidents or parliamentarians, includes the goal of creating jobs. In this vein, we are convinced that the fact that they are an important university city coupled with the proposals they have adopted will solve the problem.

In terms of our zone, Saida, the main problems are also those that have already been shared, essentially the lack of jobs and tourism. All of this is magnified by the influx of almost a million and a half Syrian immigrants, many of whom are being sheltered our city.

We are trying to resolve the issue of jobs, which is more complicated, by planning different programmes, to which we will add all the experiences shared here.

With regard to tourism, Saida is divided into two zones: the old quarter and the new city. The former is where most of the tourist attractions are, such as the two large castles, emblems of our city. Our goal is not only to create a space and connect the distance between the two forts, thus fostering tourism and expanding its area, but also to do so with the two divided zones.

We believe that in this way, tourism will reach all parts of Saida, promoting it and fostering the creation of new spaces and work zones.

Closing speeches:



Alfred Bosch

Vice-President of MedCities and Vice-President of the Area of International Relations and Cooperation of the Barcelona Metropolitan Area

The Union for the Mediterranean is the most important official body that we have in the city of Barcelona, and the fact that this international organisation has its headquarters in the city is neither chance nor fate. This is a Mediterranean city, just like your cities, and for many centuries, ever since the city has existed, we have viewed the Mediterranean not as a barrier but as a route to engage in interaction and exchange with other cities.

For centuries, Barcelona has seen the Mediterranean as a place to trade, a place for all sorts of intercultural and political exchanges, and this is why we believe in the Mediterranean. We are all brothers and sisters in this exchange system which is the Mediterranean.

The level of exchange and interaction that were so intense in past centuries should be equally so now. We have to promote this level of exchange and interaction and make it grow today.

It is not easy for cities to resolve wars or any major conflict because city administrators must spend their time on local problems. This is your job, but we can cooperate to at least make this conflict smaller and to fight against these conflicts with our own authority and capacities.

The Mediterranean is a complex place; it is a place where

there are conflicts – that is a reality. We have a horrible war in Syria, we have problems with refugees, as well as problem with people who migrate from one side of the Mediterranean to the other. This kind of problem cannot be resolved by cities because they do not hold the authority to do so, but they are aspects that cities have to live with and resolve, at least with their local capacities.

In this regard, I am pleased with some of the things achieved in the Barcelona Metropolitan Area: we have organised many missions to Lebanon, Greece and other countries where the issue of refugees has become a major problem.

We are also trying to collectively fight against inequality and both the individual and shared problems that we have. This is part of our job; we have to fight against problems and do so collectively.

But we also share satisfaction and reasons to be pleased to be here all together. We held a meeting with the Commissioner for local administration in the European Union, and we are working towards convincing the European Union that local affairs are global affairs, that cities are increasingly at the fore in the European game and that cities are increasingly at the fore in the Mediterranean region.

We have to recognise cities' capacity to change Europe and to change the Mediterranean; to improve not only our relations but also our realities. The existence of MedCities as a network of Mediterranean cities has proven to be extremely useful. If you go to Tétouan or to Lebanon, for example, you will see that MedCities is at work in the region. We are here to serve people and to improve citizens' lives.

We converse as much as we can, because the problems are enormous, and we have to continue conversing and moving forward. Talking is very useful; it has been proven useful and will become even more so in the future. We never tire of talking, we never tire of gathering, we never tire of crossing the Mediterranean and tightening our bonds. After all, if there are more and more of us and we are increasingly united, societies will probably be so, too. You will never walk alone, you will never navigate the Mediterranean by yourselves, this shared sea, our sea, as it is called in Latin: Mare Nostrum.

Closing speeches:



Nasser Kamel

Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

It is an honour for me to participate in the MedCities annual conference. I have had the pleasure of sitting in on the last session, listening to the mayors of Tétouan, Saida, Jezzine, Málaga and Dubrovnik – where I was a month ago and where I saw a minor water crisis that the authorities resolved in an extremely professional and transparent way. I was impressed by the city's communicative capacities in the throes of the tourist season.

The quality of the discussion I heard convinces me even more of the importance of dialogue among the local authorities in this Mare Nostrum.

I believe that the exchange of experiences to learn from past mistakes is extremely important. We live in a region which is facing many environmental challenges; we have different levels of economic development; we have tried to solve problems, some successfully and others unsuccessfully. In this sense, MedCities is a good platform for learning, for shared experiences; it is a flagship, a success story.

This is my first official speech in Barcelona. I am extremely proud to be here at this conference and in this city which is hosting us. Not only that, I would not be exaggerating if I said that Barcelona is a fantastic example of sustainable urban planning in the Mediterranean, and that we have – and I am

saying this as an Egyptian – a lot of learn about how Barcelona has been conserved in the past century.

Promoting sustainable urban development has truly been the objective of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) ever since it was created for a very simple reason: 60% of our citizens live in cities, and within a few years 80% will. Therefore, urban areas have become crucial in the organisation of our lands, and mayors have to deal with very serious challenges, including the harmful effects of climate change and the core issue of today: sustainable urban development.

We at the Secretariat of the Union of the Mediterranean are convinced of the need for global research to grow and the regional challenge. As we said: we have to think regionally, but we have to act locally, so now we are thinking regionally and when we go home, we have to translate this collective thinking into local policies that benefit our citizens.

We in the Union of the Mediterranean have to continue our cooperation and dialogue with local authorities to achieve a strategic framework of sustainable urban development. Our member states have the mission of establishing an ambitious, comprehensive urban agenda for the Euro-Mediterranean region, one which, of course, aligns with its overall objectives.

The UfM works to strengthen cities and to foster inclusive growth, social progress, peace, stability and sustainable urban development. I believe the time has come to put this collective effort into practice in order to implement this ambitious agenda, within whose framework cities will be the key for action.

I think that MedCities is a model of success for sustainable urban development, and this is why I believe we have to strengthen relations between this valuable organisation and the UfM; you can always count on us to implement an ambitious urban agenda, and I am convinced that there is political will at the highest level to give this particular vision of cooperation the importance and attention it deserves.



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