



UfM Regional Dialogue

SHARED VIEWS ON KEY ISSUES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

22-23
MAY 2019

A contribution to the  SOMMET
DES DEUX RIVES

Roundtable on Environment, Water, Energy and Sustainable development

The Mediterranean region has unique geographical, ecological, geopolitical and cultural features. It is a region particularly sensitive and vulnerable to the deterioration of the environment, due to natural as well as to man-made conditions ranging from water scarcity, demographic growth, rapid coastal urbanization, rising water and food demand, growing energy needs and demand, environmental degradation, increasing climate change impacts, but also societal challenges that include significant rates of unemployment, particularly among youth, gender disparities, as well as the need to address migration and refugee issues which affect the whole region

At the same time there is growing awareness that meeting these challenges presents opportunities as well to influence future models of development and steer the region towards healthier and more sustainable forms of development, compatible with the preservation and better management of our natural resources. Circular economy in its green and blue dimensions, the application of integrated management practices and nexus approaches, harnessing the benefits of innovative technologies, as well as the deployment of renewable energy sources, the development of energy efficiency and measures, the multiplication of climate mitigation and adaptation actions can contribute to the preservation and restoration of the environment, but also bring the potential for the creation of new opportunities for employment.

In this context, UfM and partner organisations wish to contribute through this Roundtable to **gather the insights of youth representatives, civil society and non-state actors on ways to address these challenges to the Mediterranean environment - in terms of 1) possibilities for the development of a circular economy applied to the green and blue dimensions, 2) sustainable management of water and sanitation, 3) renewable energy and climate action in the frame of the energy transition.** A



Mediterranean vision on the best way to harness the SDG's as an agenda for the region is part and parcel of the framework. Each one of the above issues will be the object of a specific round of interventions during the Roundtable.

In the context of the preparations of the Summit of the Two Shores, the Roundtable will benefit from the input of the preparatory fora for the Summit, and in particular from the Algiers Energy forum and the Palermo Forum on "Environment and Sustainable Development". The initiatives or projects emerging from the Roundtable will be a contribution from youth and civil society stakeholders of the whole Mediterranean to the Summit of the Two Shores.

The Roundtable is organised jointly by the UfM and CMI and will include presentations from relevant regional youth and civil society representatives active in the fields of water, environment, blue economy and climate action, as well as renewable energy and energy efficiency. An open and interactive discussion is expected with a view to gather concrete proposals which can be presented as an outcome of the event. In this regard, participants are encouraged to fill in the attached project template to share ahead of the event, concrete ideas and proposals, ideally of regional nature, which can be discussed in an interactive manner at the Roundtable.



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