



Mediterranean Network Meeting Nicosia, Cyprus

28-30 November 2008

EU RELATIONS WITH THE MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES

Common Resolution

The Green Parties taking part in the meeting of the Mediterranean Network of the European Green Party in Nicosia, Cyprus between 28-30 November, have discussed and commonly concluded the following:

A. Union for the Mediterranean

1. It is a positive and dynamic initiative which deserves to be promoted but for the Greens the success of this initiative will depend on:
 - (a) the democratization of the countries around the Mediterranean Sea
 - (b) a real and effective respect of human rights ensuring the effectiveness of the Law
 - (c) the active involvement of the people
 - (d) the peace stability and the resolution of conflict and elimination of provocations
 - (e) the protection of North Africa from the victimization of globalization ie. the south hosting the polluting industry of the north
 - (f) the sustainable management of resources
 - (g) the end to the discrimination among the people of the Mediterranean Region (north vs south)

- (h) the improvement of communication and cooperation between the people of the Mediterranean and the simplification of visas
- (i) the encouragement of a dialogue of north and south Mediterraneans
- (j) The prevention of the progressive desertification in the Mediterranean Region. The desertification is a real problem and reaches up to 85% in some countries. An effort should be made to preserve the Mediterranean biodiversity, eco systems and forests despite the extreme water shortages. The Mediterranean Region is not just a victim of global warming since itself it contributes highly to global CO₂ emissions. Ground and surface waters are not adequately protected at present and the consequences in the future will be severe.

B. The Green Deal

The present economic crisis is a window of opportunity to promote the GREEN DEAL ie a new economy with a new relation with environment thus creating green prosperity. Greens will urgently demand from their governments to commit to the creation of more "Green collar" jobs as similarly announced by Barack Obama for the USA. The renewable and efficient energy sector offers this opportunity for a new Mediterranean labour market.

Especially for the Mediterranean area it creates 3 ambitious challenges:

- a Energy by creating centers of excellent for R &D for wind and solar energy. Especially the acceleration of use of solar energy taking advantage of the long daylight hours in the region.
- b. Agriculture without GMOs. The spreading of GMOs in the Mediterranean Region is destroying the biodiversity which is what characterizes the Mediterranean and what makes it a unique place

of human and nature diversity. Sustainability demands the application of the precautionary principle throughout the whole food chain and the establishment of clear rules on liability (especially for chemical residues and GMOs or manufactured nanoparticles contamination).

- c. Transforming the Mediterranean into the cleanest closed sea. The mobility developed in the Mediterranean must be sustainable and the transportation of chemical and nuclear wastes must be restricted. Protection of the biodiversity of the marine life immediately endangered by the planet warming.

C. Regional issues

- a. Places of instability in the Mediterranean Region affect the neighboring countries. In this context Cyprus must be assisted to achieve a solution that will guarantee human rights and basic freedoms for all its citizens as these are enjoyed by the EU citizens.

- b. The countries of the Mediterranean Region in their majority still lack democracy, fundamental freedoms and respect of human rights. These issues have to be supported on the basis of the founding principles of the European Union.

- c. Countries in North Africa lack the necessary democratization which will allow the prosperity of people and the respect of the environment. Green parties such as those of Morocco and Tunisia should be supported to achieve recognition and therefore become effective in their countries. The strengthening of democracy will be the biggest contributor to the control of the gigantic problem of migration.

- d. The new countries in the Adriatic Sea suffer from corruption, crime and intense pressure to enter NATO. The acceleration of the EU

accession process will help to combat problems and will allow people more freedom to choose.

- e. Human Trafficking is a real problem striking especially the Balkan countries, often promising a new life in the Mediterranean countries but ending in slavery and abuse. The Greens must continue exerting pressure to their governments to respect the UN and EU treaties against trafficking and to enforce the law.

Having discussed all the above issues, the Green parties taking part in the Mediterranean Network Meeting send the message that the Mediterranean Region is suffering from a number of serious political, social and environmental problems which make imperative and immediate the need for the support from the European Union. At the same time the Mediterraneans themselves must enter into a formatted cooperation of the PEOPLE of the Mediterranean countries, in an effort to prevent the deterioration of life in this multicultural region of the planet.