



A MED Agenda for Peace and Qualitative Growth

Barcelona. Global eco Forum.

Green economy Dialogue.

28th November 2014.

***Debate :** What are the barriers and opportunities to implement a green and inclusive economy in the Mediterranean region? Who would be the main actors and change makers to engage with? How to accelerate this necessary transition?*

Initiatives have been taken which are contributing to a green economy within the framework of programmes and initiatives as the Union for the Mediterranean, the Barcelona Convention, Horizon 2020 for the depollution of the Mediterranean, the greening of the Med industry etc.

However, we have entered an era marked by the decline of peace, serious deterioration of the rule of law and in some places a return to barbaric times. History has taken "*dreadful steps backwards*" whereas we need resilience and cooperation more than ever. The "peace and human security" and "prosperity and green growth" agendas have been largely developed by international authorities, from the United Nations to NATO and the OECD.

As in other periods in history, there should be a *synchronicity* between various types of initiatives, whose convergence will help rebuild trust and generate new prosperity – hence the following proposals for a Positive European 2014-2015 Agenda of its institutions and its networks (Network Europe), taking four elements into account:

1. the agenda for peace and security is closely linked to the agenda for sustainable energy, water, raw materials, climate and biodiversity;
2. we are entering another long cycle (Kondratiev cycle) in which "green growth" (see OECD documents) is one of the main drivers;
3. we need '*transformative partnerships*' at a large scale. Initiatives have been taken at UN¹, EU, MED levels but we need to quickly scale up.
4. the reindustrialization of Europe in an environmentally sound circular-economy approach is closely linked to MED cooperation in the field of system management and value chains of critical raw materials (as phosphates).

According to a report *The Neighbourhoods, is a new driver for European growth²*. 2015 should be a milestone with the adoption of the Sustainable development goals and the coming Climate Change Conference COP21 as well as the review of the EI Strategy 2020 and the *Neighbourhoods* policy.

¹ "*Catalyzing Transformational Partnerships between the United Nations and Business*" - UN Global Compact, in Cooperation with Unilever and Dalberg.

² ITAN. ESPON applied research 2013/1/22. www.gis-cist.fr/dossier_itan1

But political barriers are numerous.

We need to focus much more on the potential role of the 'lateral powers'. EPE calls on relevant 'lateral powers' to act together. European political, religious, business and civil society leaders should initiate new international initiatives to build a synergy of forces at all levels so that a model of planetary civilization, resulting from a dialogue between major historic civilizations with their memories, cultures, languages and spiritualities can emerge³ and be an accelerating factor in the energy and ecological transition. The time has now come for Europeans to play a catalyst role again at international level on the basis of four initiatives (see below).

Who are the main actors and change makers able to deliver.

1/ A MED Alliance for a Circular Economy.

The previous economic cycles were all rather catalysed by technologies (steam, railways, steel, electricity, ICT) which resulted in dislocation but huge efficiency gains. Sustainable Circular economy/resource efficiency linked with the energy transition will pave the way of a '*performance economy*' resulting in huge efficiency gains but, as well, a new demand and creative construction based on new territorial sustainable development plans designed with business and civil society in the framework of a 'collaborative economy'. This is why Mediterranean Regions should join the 'RMC Circular Economy' and its Covenant Circular Economy 2022.

Covenant2022 is a 'Commitment' registered by the European Union, in the framework of the 'European Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials'. Covenant 2022 is addressing 'green growth' and regional development with a focus on technological and non-technological innovations for a much more efficient management of raw materials and energy, their scarcity and their cost. This initiative is about systemic innovation for "circular and collaborative economy". Within the framework of Covenant2022 these cooperation initiatives at territory level are facilitated by the signatory Regions and Cities. which have a significant systemic role to play.

Covenant2022 is supported by important networks bringing Regions together and by strong networks of actors in a collaborative economy. It is a cooperation system that can be adapted to many value chains linked to the circular economy and the energy transition.

Covenant2022 wants to establish mechanisms for open coordination among actors in a collaborative economy concerned by the Seven Pillars of a circular and performance economy (as proposed by ADEME):

1. Sustainable supply
2. Eco-design
3. Industrial Ecology
4. Economy of the feature / Product service system
5. Responsible consumption.
6. Extending the duration of use
7. Recycling

Covenant2022 and the *Covenant2022.eu* community are jointly managed by a Steering Committee chaired by Mr Johan Antti, Deputy Governor of Norrbotten – Sweden.

Covenant2022 is supported financially by the French Ministry of Ecology and the signatory Regions..

For more information : www.covenant2022.eu

³ Frédéric Lenoir, *La guérison du monde*. Ed Livre de poche 2012, p 68.

2. A MED-EU Innovation Partnership Alliance

Within the framework of the 2015 review of the Europe 2020 Strategy, a second pillar should be launched, namely an Alliance bringing together 10 European Innovation Partnerships (EIP)⁴.

One of them would be a EIP MED-EU Youth and a Collaborative Economy. A survey of whom are the Mediterranean involved should be done.

We are recommending to bring together all the parties involved in partnerships. A meeting between the actors of partnerships should be organized by the European Economic and Social Committee for the Mediterranean and the Committee of the Med Regions.

3. *A New Neighbouring Policy with a Three-Sea Alliance (Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea and Caspian Sea)*

This Alliance would be a kind of new Olympic ring involving the European Union and its neighbours while being inspired by precedents such as the ECSC and the Helsinki Process within an institutional architecture that would ensure peace and the rule of law, environmental protection, with "baskets" like in the Helsinki Process. One of these baskets would concern the energy transition and green growth.

Current forms of cooperation with Europe's neighbouring countries do not allow for it or have failed to do so. Our prosperity is largely interdependent on that of the countries bordering the three above-mentioned seas⁵. Our proposal is to establish new mechanisms with a dual objective:

- putting a stop to three forms of violence: violence between and within States (linked in particular to access issues regarding energy, water, raw materials, land), state violence (governance) and violence among social classes (social solidarity). Peace at the borders, domestic civil peace and social justice and a healthy environment are precious goods, which must all be reinforced by new forms of partnership.
- generating an energy and ecological transition and green growth for inclusive sustainable development through multi-stakeholder partnerships.

⁴ The Alliance of 10 European Innovation Partnerships and their Covenants

1. EIP for Smart Cities & Communities*, Covenant of Mayors*, Internet Covenant
2. EIP on Active and Healthy Ageing
3. **EIP MED-EU Youth and a Collaborative Economy**
4. EIP on Raw Materials* & Covenant on Circular Economy 2022
5. EIP for Capital Stewardship and its Covenant of Retail Banks & Covenant of Institutional Investors
6. EIP on Water*
7. EIP for Sustainable Agriculture
8. EIP for Post-Carbon Economy and Energy Covenant
9. EIP for Oceans and the Blue Economy and its pillars such as the H2020-MED programme*
10. EIP for Bio-economy and its Rural Empowerment Covenant.

* EIP, Covenant or Programme already in place.

⁵ *The Neighbourhoods, a new driver for European growth*. ITAN. ESPON applied research 2013/1/22.

In the longer term this Alliance would replace the partnerships launched by the EU in the Northern, Eastern, South Eastern and Mediterranean area.

Conclusion.

*"The issue at stake in the 21st century is the shift from nature processing to human processing, redefining the notion of common good, unfolding our potential of intelligence and conscience, opening a new development cycle and putting our intelligence in the service of value, in other words in the service of our soul power"*⁶.

Will Europeans head this *major transformation* in which we *change structures, we change society while changing ourselves*, to paraphrase Edgard Morin⁷?

To this end, the 2014-2015 period must be the time for implementing a *positive agenda*, in addition to managing emergency situations in terms of peace maintenance, citizens' protection and refugee aid. This positive agenda should be jointly supported by the institutions, civil society, business and trade union circles working in synergy with one another.

We would need a 2015 EUROMED Summit of Economic and Social Actors and Institutions organised by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) on *Peace and Green Growth* in 2015, preparing for a Three-Sea Alliance and its baskets, one of which would concern "energy transition and green growth".

⁶ *Une vision spirituelle de la crise économique*. Ed. Y. Michel 2012, p 153.

⁷ *Ibidem*, p 29.

