



**MEDITERRANEAN COOPERATION ALLIANCE**  
**COHESION POLICY AND GREEN DEAL, MORE VALID THAN EVER**  
 April 29, 2020

**STATEMENT OF THE MEDITERRANEAN COOPERATION ALLIANCE (MCA):**  
**COHESION POLICY AND GREEN DEAL, MORE VALID THAN EVER**

The MedCoopAlliance is a multi-level, multilateral platform that groups together different sub-state public administration networks in the Mediterranean region. As a network of networks cooperating together, the MCA is an example of co-operation solidarity in a time of health crisis due to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic that needs and calls for more union than ever.

Knowing that states, sub-state entities, regional and local authorities, alongside European Institutions are making every effort to overcome this crisis, we wish to acknowledge their initiatives and congratulate public and private essential services professionals for their enormous commitments and excellent jobs. Now is the time to work together.

The pandemic has shown that beyond mere examples of selfishness and unilaterality, it can bring out the best of humanity: solidarity, collective effort, and companionship at all levels.

The MedCoopAlliance wants these positive demonstrations to be an inspiration for all public administrations in our Mediterranean region as the European Union, the Union for the Mediterranean, the African Union, states, regions, cities. This, in order to move together towards a common goal: safeguarding the well-being of the populations, supporting their economies and, taking advantage of the lessons learned from the crisis, to adapt our ways of life, culture and consumption towards more sustainability in terms of public and private services and the environment.

The MedCoopAlliance indeed wishes to salute the opportunities that this crisis has given us. On the one hand, society is no longer the same nor will it be. On the other hand, the planet has shown us signs of recovery never seen before as humanity has allowed it a breather. Seeing each other in the reflection of that mirror should allow us to understand that we ought to learn from the experience.

More precisely, all multilateral levels of governance above all in the Mediterranean basin should contribute to putting the economy back together but this time including its lessons learned: new, more humane, and sustainable ways of progress are needed for the safeguarding of human beings on a much healthier planet, that bring for us the primary resources on which we all rely.



In this sense, the MedCoopAlliance:

- **Being** itself an example of multilevel cooperation, **demonstrates** the opportunity multilevel cooperation dynamics offer to face the challenges ahead effectively.
- **Reminds** that it is an actor that works for the citizens and can ally its efforts side by side to that of states, institutional and intergovernmental organizations for the post-SARS-CoV-2 period scenario.
- **Advises** that we must act quickly to mitigate the effects of the SARS-CoV-2 and adopt measures to face the economic crisis in new ways on the basis of lessons learned.
- **Recalls** that the Mediterranean region provides us an opportunity as a shared space to take advantage of its diversity, but that being a biodiversity hotspot, the need to actively act for the balance between biodiversity protection and economic growth is pressing and more than urgent.
- **Alerts** that this crisis might pass but the climate emergency will stay on: our Mediterranean region is warming up 20% faster than the global average.
- **Sustains** that the economy has to develop differently towards a sustainable consumption and production approach so as to guarantee an improved circular economy.
- **Underlines** the importance of the European Green Deal, the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goal roadmaps. These initiatives should not be undermined by the aftermath of the SARS-CoV-2 crisis. They are still fully valid and should be considered ways of accelerating our change of paradigm to build back our societies in a more sustainable way.
- For these reasons, **demands** the reinforcement of territorial cooperation funds addressed to the Southern European and Mediterranean regions.
- **Advises** that the new funds and programs foreseen for the coming period should have a strong social character to guarantee human rights and better public services,
- Insists that solidarity with neighbor countries needs to be strengthened including specific programs and more dedicated funds. It makes more sense now than ever.



# Signatories

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