

ASCAME proposes a Mediterranean Council to unite the Mediterranean for climate action

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- **This regional plan should address proposals agreed upon by all countries in the region related to environmental protection, climate justice and the sustainable economy**

Barcelona, 12th December of 2023. ASCAME, the Association of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the Mediterranean, proposes to create a Mediterranean Council to fight climate change that integrates both the public and private sectors and other civil society actors. The main objective is to promote a regional plan among all the agents of the Mediterranean to give a joint response to the devastating consequences of climate change in this area, such as the recent earthquakes in Turkey, Syria and Morocco, the floods in Libya and Greece, or the considerable increase in sea temperatures and multiple fires at any time of the year.

According to **Anwar Zibaoui**, General Coordinator of ASCAME, "the fight against climate change cannot be solved independently by each country, it requires joint action and a shared vision of both the analysis of problems and the search for feasible solutions, by integrating all the agents of the Mediterranean, without excluding anyone". Mr. Zibaoui adds: "Without regulatory framework and cooperation, we will not be able to move towards a more sustainable Mediterranean. Jointly facing this challenge represents a unique opportunity for our economies, because their future depends on diversification, efficiency and connectivity, but also for leading the transition to a green and blue economy globally."

This regional plan for climate change should address proposals agreed upon by all countries in the region related to environmental protection, climate justice and the sustainable economy. Some of the main lines of action of this council would be:

- Implementation of environmental standards in all sectors of the region
- Investing equally in green technologies to reduce the carbon footprint and the dependence on fossil fuels, to promote the use of renewable energy sources

(solar, wind, hydroelectric and geothermal energy) and also to promote efficient waste management as well as initiatives in favour of green transport. This will require improved scientific and technical cooperation

- A greater commitment to the green economy by promoting regional development aligned with the 2030 Agenda
- Adopting new water management systems
- Comprehensive approach to sustainability and renewable energy
- Promoting green finance, ensuring financial assistance to the private sector, especially SMEs, in their energy and climate transition process. ASCAME proposes aligning financial resources with the objectives of the Paris Agreement, thus favouring the financing of projects committed to reducing emissions. Public-private collaboration is key to achieving a zero-emission future.
- The powers causing the greatest damage to the climate must ensure financial assistance to the countries that suffered the consequences
- Empower women and youth in the fight against climate change. Only in this way will we build a more equitable future together

About ASCAME

The Association of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the Mediterranean (ASCAME) is a non-profit international organization representing the private sector in the Mediterranean. It brings together Chambers of Commerce and Industry and similar entities from 23 countries on both shores of the region and advocating for the interests of private sector and millions of businesses.

ASCAME, as an accredited partner of the European Union and international organisations, develops strategic actions aimed at increasing cooperation and economic exchanges between Mediterranean countries, as well as promoting the Mediterranean and its businesses around the world. ASCAME focuses on economic and commercial activities in which companies from Mediterranean countries participate. For more than 35 years, ASCAME has actively worked to provide tools capable of providing effective responses to the challenges and opportunities that both Chambers of Commerce and Mediterranean SMEs must face in a global competitive environment.

For more information

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