

ICEF-International Court of the Environment Foundation

International Meeting on

“The Protection of the Mediterranean-Black Sea Ecosystem”

Venice, 8-9 October 2004

Under the patronage of:

The Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs

The Veneto Region

The Province of Venice

VENICE STATEMENT

On the initiative of ICEF a meeting of experts was convened in Venice from 8 to 9 October 2004 to address for the first time the interrelationship between the Mediterranean and Black Sea fragile ecosystems and to explore avenues for a dialogue and co-operation with a view to a holistic approach for sustainable development and protection of both seas as a unique ecosystem.

The Expert Group stressed:

- the environmental pressure, the continuing serious threats on the marine environment and the lack of full scientific knowledge, environmental indicators and accessible data exchange.
- the separate existing institutional frameworks for the protection of the Mediterranean and Black Sea ecosystems and the fact that there is no comprehensive set of rules to globally address the two ecosystems.
- the need for more co-operation at both regional and international levels, among the concerned international organisations, the Mediterranean and Black Sea countries, other stakeholders and civil society.
- the need to develop and effectively implement and enforce the existing legal frameworks and rules at international, EU, regional, national and local levels.
- the crucial role of the judiciary to achieve environmental justice and the importance of facilitating access to justice; the need to set up networks of judges in the concerned countries and a network throughout the broader region.
- the need for capacity building throughout the region.
- the importance of networking, sharing data, exchanging and developing best practices.
- the importance of training, education, twinning and research.
- the need to support awareness raising among civil society in order to encourage public participation in decision making and public access to information.
- the high costs of building the appropriate environmental infrastructure and the even greater cost of “non action”.

The Expert Group asks ICEF to set up a Steering Committee in order to promote and organise a full international conference on the protection of the Mediterranean and Black Sea ecosystem, with experts from the Mediterranean and Black Sea region, to be held in 2005.

The Expert Group extends a vote of thanks to ICEF for taking the initiative in convening the meeting and warmly thanks the Veneto Region as its host.

The Expert Group acknowledges the participation and co-operation of judges and experts from the following institutions and organisations:

UNESCO-ROSTE

Commission of the European Union

Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Italian Ministry for the Environment

Italian Supreme Court of Cassation

European Forum of Judges for the Environment

Arab Union of Judges for the Protection of the Environment

IUCN-The World Conservation Union

Cousteau Society

Italian National Research Council

Marine Policy and Research Center, Istanbul Bigi University

University of Pavia

Alenia Spazio

Telecom-Pirelli Labs

Fintecna

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Relazioni del Convegno in corso di pubblicazione su questo sito:

1. [Introduzione del Presidente dell'ICEF, Prof. Avv. Giovanni Conso](#)
2. [Le norme internazionali per la difesa del Mediterraneo- Amedeo Postiglione](#)
3. Che cosa stiamo facendo e possiamo fare per il mondo che va in rovina? Mario Pavan e Gianni Pavan
4. Oil transportation: the need for dialogue between the black sea and the mediterranean sea regions