

Agreement for the Adaptation to Climate Change

The impacts of climate change pose a threat to the welfare and health of people, heritage, economic activities, urban and natural systems.

The EU strategy on adaptation to climate change evidences that southern Mediterranean countries in Europe are a hotspot for being especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, with an increase in temperatures and a decrease in rainfall beyond the current and future projections in other European areas.¹

Today, territories, production systems and social fabrics do not meet the right conditions to keep their functions in the light of the new climate situation. At the same time, public services and economic and social activities in these territories are very vulnerable.

Society will face a global climate alert:

- Increasing minimum and maximum temperatures, sunshine, heatwaves and tropical nights.
- Increasingly intense and frequent droughts.
- Higher risk of large forest fires.
- Increase in sea level, posing a threat to coastal and delta areas.
- Loss of biodiversity and biological integrity.
- Extreme rainfall episodes.
- Emergence of new diseases or resurgence of diseases that were considered extinct.

Adaptation is the main resource for agents acting in the territory to reduce vulnerability – this takes the form of strategies, action plans and governance processes.

All agents – governing bodies, companies of goods and services, workers, farmers and citizens – sharing a territory with management capacity have the potential to deal with the risks of climate change through joint actions for adaptation.

The Life Clinomics project initiates new investment processes for both public bodies and private companies to reduce vulnerability, anticipate climate impacts and increase resilience in three territories – the Montseny biosphere reserve, the region of Alt Penedès and the Terres de l'Ebre biosphere reserve – and in three economic sectors: fishing, agroforestry and tourism.

The results, experience and participative methodology provided by LIFE CLINOMICS are transferable and replicable in the climatic area of Southern Europe.

¹The EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change (2013)
https://ec.europa.eu/clima/sites/clima/files/docs_eu_strategy_en.pdf

By signing of the Agreement for the Adaptation to Climate Change, we, as Southern European organisations, undertake a commitment to promote the actions set out by Life Clinomics in order to increase resilience in the countries of the European Mediterranean.

Guided/inspired by the points outlined in the strategy for the adaptation to climate change of Life Clinomics: Knowledge of risks and vulnerabilities; Promoting action by agents; Governance and training,

The Association of the Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASCAME), from our field of action, we commit ourselves:

- **TO CONTRIBUTE TO IDENTIFYING THOSE FACTORS DETERMINING THE VULNERABILITY** of the economic activities and the territories where they take place.
- **TO MAKE/INCREASE OUR COMMITMENTS ON ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE**, reviewing/drafting action plans to adapt to climate change, while identifying all those measures, actions and projects available to our organisation and seeking joint efforts with other agents in the territory.
- **TO PROMOTE THE PLANNING AND CREATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS** to adapt and transform economic activities that are more sensitive to the effects of climate change, and developing the concepts of fair transition and decent work.
- **TO FOSTER A MORE RESILIENT AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK** in line with the new climate change scenarios, to maintain the quality of production and food safety.
- **TO ENCOURAGE FOREST MANAGEMENT** that will increase the resilience of forest mass to climate change, strengthening its role in the water cycle and contributing to forest fire prevention, while promoting the use of forest products.
- **TO PROMOTE TOURISM MANAGEMENT THAT ADAPTS** its facilities, use of resources and business offer to new climate scenarios.
- **TO FOSTER INNOVATION IN THE MANAGEMENT OF FISHING AND AQUACULTURE** to maintain the sustainability, quality and safety of production in new climate scenarios.
- **TO FOSTER THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES (water, energy, land, etc.)** in line with the principle of environmental and economic solidarity and sustainability, and a fair income for the sector. To promote efficient distribution systems and foster new technologies that allow for adjustment of consumption to real needs.
- **TO CREATE GOVERNMENT BODIES OR INCORPORATE THIS AGREEMENT (ACC) TO EXISTING BODIES**, assigning the functions to promote the ACC actions, agree on the agents in the territory, and ensure the territorial and sectoral commissions meet and results are followed up.



- **TO INCLUDE ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE STRUCTURES OF OUR ORGANISATION**, to give organisational efficiency and stability to climate-friendly actions.
- **TO ADAPT/ADJUST WORK CONDITIONS** to new scenarios of climate change to reduce occupational hazards (working hours, equipment...) and maintain the level of employment.
- **TO TRAIN AND QUALIFY PEOPLE IN MEASURES FOR ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE**, including content on adaptation in training activities for social and economic organisations and public administrations.
- **TO CARRY OUT INFORMATIVE AND AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS TO INVOLVE CITIZENS IN THE ACTIONS REQUIRED FOR TERRITORIES TO BECOME MORE RESILIENT**, increasing knowledge and backing the inclusion of actions that contribute to adaptation to climate change in daily life and in the productive activities of society.
- **TO PROTECT PEOPLE'S HEALTH** in the face of new risks resulting from heat waves, which are expected to be more intense, frequent and longer, by promoting tools, protocols and measures established to deal with them and adapting public spaces to new climatic circumstances.
- **TO SHARE OUR ACTIONS AND GOOD PRACTICES** whenever possible and in connection with our sectors throughout Europe, especially in the Mediterranean area.

Signed by **Mr. Ahmed M. El Wakil**

On behalf of **the Association of Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASCAME)**

Barcelona, the 26th of June 2019



Signed by **Mr. Ahmed M. El Wakil, President of ASCAME,**