



# EMME-CARE

## EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN MIDDLE EAST – CLIMATE & ATMOSPHERE RESEARCH CENTRE

HORIZON 2020 – WIDESPREAD-2018-01-TEAMINGPHASE2  
EMME-CARE | GRANT NO. 856612

### Deliverable 7.6: Report on legal and policy aspects of (inter)national climate initiatives

August 2023



This project has received funding  
from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research  
and innovation programme under grant agreement  
No. 856612 and the Cyprus Government



| Deliverable Number | Deliverable Title   | Lead Beneficiary | Type   | Dissemination Level | Due Date (in months) |
|--------------------|---|------------------|--------|---------------------|----------------------|
| <b>D7.6</b>        | Report on legal and policy aspects of (inter)national climate initiatives | 1 – MPG          | Report | CO                  | M48                  |

| Version   | Date        | Changed page(s) | Cause of change       | Partner |
|-----------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------|
| <b>v1</b> | 07/03/2023  | Initial version |                       | MPG     |
| <b>v2</b> | 07/24/2023  | Revised version |                       | CYI/MPG |
| <b>v3</b> | August 2023 | Final version   | Review by Coordinator | Cyl     |

*Disclaimer:* The information in this document is subject to change without notice. Company or product names mentioned in this document may be trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies.

**All rights reserved**

The document is proprietary of the EMME-CARE Consortium Members. No copying or distributing in any form or by any means is allowed without the prior written agreement of the owner of the property rights.

This document reflects only the authors' view. The European Community is not liable for any use that may be made for the information contained herein.

## Table of Contents

|   |    |
|---|----|
| I. Introduction.....  | 4  |
| I.1. Contribution to WP7.....   | 4  |
| I.2. Structure of the Deliverable .....   | 4  |
| I.3. General context .....  | 4  |
| II. EMME CCI establishment and goals .....  | 5  |
| III. Work Program of the EMME CCI.....  | 5  |
| IV. EMME CCI Thematic Task Forces.....  | 6  |
| V. Presentation of the Findings of the Thematic Task Forces.....                  | 7  |
| V.1. 2 <sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Climate Change in the EMME ..... | 7  |
| V.2. COP26 Participation.....   | 8  |
| VI. Regional Action Plan.....   | 9  |
| VII. Governance of the EMME CCI.....  | 10 |
| VII.1. Governing Scheme.....  | 10 |
| VII.2. Principles for participation .....   | 10 |
| VII.3. EMME CCI Administrative structures.....                                    | 10 |
| VIII. Political milestones of the EMME CCI.....                                   | 11 |
| VIII.1. First Ministerial Meeting-February 2022.....                              | 11 |
| VIII.2. Second Ministerial Meeting-June 2022 .....                                | 12 |
| VIII.3. Heads of State Summit in COP27 .....                                      | 13 |
| IX. Future perspectives .....   | 14 |
| X. Resulting publications.....  | 16 |
| X.1. Peer-reviewed Literature .....   | 16 |
| X.2. Task-force reports .....   | 16 |
| Annex 1: The Sharm-el-Sheikh Declaration of the EMME-CCI .....                    | 17 |
| Annex 2: Selected Media Coverage of the EMME-CCI .....                            | 18 |

# I. Introduction

## I.1. Contribution to WP7

This document is **Deliverable D7.6 “Report on legal and policy aspects of (inter)national climate initiatives”** which describes the efforts and outcome of the work of **Task 7.6**. A brief overview of how this Task is contributing to **WP7 “Impact and Policy Department”** and interconnects with other Tasks and Deliverables of this WP is summarized below.

- **Task 7.1. Creation of an Impact and Policy Department** (Lead: MPG) (M12 -M48)  
 Status: **Completed**. Submission on M48 of **Deliverable D7.1 “Report on the structure of the Impact and Policy Department”**
- **Task 7.2. Health impact assessment (air quality, climate change)** (Lead: MPG) (M12-M84).  
 Status: **On-going**. Submission on M48 of the **Deliverable D7.2 “Report on health impacts assessment”**
- **Task 7.3. Methodologies to support implementation of national adaptation plans** (Lead: Cyl) (M12-M84). Status: **On-going**. Submission on M48 of **Deliverable D7.3 “Report on methodologies to support implementation of national action plans”**
- **Task 7.4. Impacts on key economic sectors** (Lead: CEA) (M24-M72).  
 Status: **On-going**. Submission on M48 of **Deliverable D7.4 “Report on impacts on key economic sectors”**.
- **Task 7.5. Impacts of GHG emission mitigation scenarios** (Lead: CEA) (M36-M84). Status: **On-going**. Submission on M48 of **Deliverable D7.5 “Report on impacts of mitigation scenarios with contribution of EMME and other emitters to the Paris goals”**

- **Task 7.6. Legal framework and policy aspects of (inter)national climate initiatives** (Lead: MPG) (M36-M48). Status: **On-going**. Submission on M84 of **Deliverable D7.6 “Report on legal and policy aspects of (inter)national climate initiatives”**

Mitigation and adaptation to climate change associated with policy measures that address water management, food production, sea level rise, energy infrastructure, built environment and risks/hazards managements. Integration of information across sectors to support policies and adjustments to changing climate and weather conditions, involving Cypriot and regional governments and the private sector (including insurance companies)

## I.2. Structure of the Deliverable

**Task 7.6** was designed from its inception to align with the **Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East Climate Change Initiative (EMME CCI; <https://emme-cci.org/>)** which is presented in details in the following.

More specifically, this **Deliverable 7.6** presents the EMME-CCI Establishment and goals (**Section II**), its Work Program (**Section III**), its Thematic Task Forces (**Section IV**) and the presentation of their findings (**Section V**), its Regional Action Plan (**Section VI**), its Governance (**Section VII**), and its Political milestones (**Section VIII**). This Deliverable concludes by Future perspectives (**Section IX**) and the list of scientific Publications and Reports related to the EMME CCI (**Section X**).

## I.3. General context

The **Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East Climate Change Initiative (EMME CCI; <https://emme-cci.org/>)** is the response by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus to the growing scientific evidence that the extent of climate change and the severity of its consequences in the EMME region significantly exceed the global average. Recent studies from prominent institutions have classified the region as a global “hot-spot” for climate change with particularly high vulnerability to its various impacts.

Such research output, coordinated by the Cyprus Institute (Cyl) and the wide participation of regional partners, has provided important insights into the dire effects of climate change on water availability and agriculture, weather extremes, public health, ecosystems, tourism and on humanitarian and security issues, including mass migration of environmental refugees.

This is unquestionably of great concern not only to the EMME countries, but to the International Community, especially Europe, considering the prospect of triggering a humanitarian crisis of unprecedented scale and exacerbating regional geopolitical instabilities in the region, which is home to nearly 500 Million people.

## II. EMME CCI establishment and goals

Following the very successful 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on "Climate Change in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East", organized in the framework of EMME-CARE in 2018 (<https://climatechange2018.org/>), the EMME CCI was approved by the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cyprus in March 2019.

**The EMME-CCI is a government Initiative for coordinating regional actions to ameliorate the impact of global warming across the Mediterranean as well as the development of a comprehensive plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, in line with the 2015 Paris climate accord.** The Initiative has been widely communicated to the countries and leadership of the EMME Region as well as to the European Union member states, UN and other international organizations.

**The scientific coordination of the EMME-CCI was assigned to The Cyprus Institute (CARE-C "Impact & Policy Department")** under the leadership of Prof. Costas N. Papanicolas (who was also named the Advisor and Special Envoy on Climate Change of President Anastasiades).

The main goals of the EMME-CCI are to initiate or enhance:

**EMME-focused Research** of regional and international research institutions towards: (a) a detailed understanding and accurate forecasting of regional climate change impacts, (b) the development of a science-based policy toolkit for the amelioration of the impacts of such phenomena and (c) the identification of the appropriate adaptation and mitigation measures per sector and application area (e.g. sub-regional, urban, etc.). **The major scientific findings and policy options of selected Task Forces (assessing in key economic sectors) are summarized in Deliverable 7.4 "Impacts on Key Economic Areas".**

**EMME-specific Policies** in coordination with transnational and multinational stakeholders (EU, UN) and organizations (WMO, FAO, WHO) to address the overall impacts of climate change with the aim to: (a) to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement and National Plans, (b) to adopt specific action programs for distinct sectors related to the economy and society, and (c) to investigate specific techno-economic scenarios to mitigate climate change effects in the EMME countries. An indispensable component is the identification of the necessary resources for the implementation of such a program.

## III. Work Program of the EMME CCI

To achieve the objectives described above, a detailed plan to produce a series of scientific, policy and techno-economic studies has been developed. These resulting studies formed the basis for the regional action plan, which was discussed and approved in ministerial meetings leading subsequently to the Heads of State summit meeting of the EMME countries, which took place during November 2022 (see [Section VIII, Figure 7.6.7](#)).



The EMME-CCI work program is depicted in **Figure 7.6.1. The Scientific Preparatory Phase was coordinated by the Cyprus Institute** under the leadership of Prof. Costas N. Papanicolas, while the Policy Preparatory Phase was coordinated by the Ministry of the Environment under the leadership of Minister Costas Kadis.



**Figure 7.6.1: Work Program of the EMME CCI**

## IV. EMME CCI Thematic Task Forces

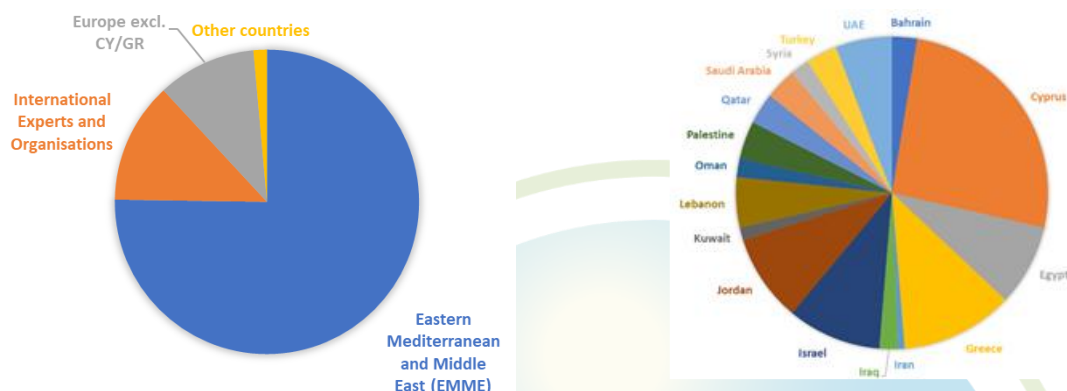
The preparatory first phase of the Initiative consisted mostly on the work carried out by thirteen (13) Task Forces. These working groups have collected and organized existing knowledge, assessed the current situation, identified gaps in research and policy needs, and provided a “toolkit” of possible actions to address the climate challenges in the region. These Task Forces considered the climatic conditions, as well as socioeconomic and socio-political realities of the involved countries, taking in consideration the accumulated climate challenge knowledge created within, but also outside the region. Each Task Force produced a thematic report in their respective area of scientific focus (which can be found at <https://emme-cci.org/scientific-task-forces/>). The findings of these reports were the main component of the resulting regional action plan, which contains technologically mature and economically affordable solutions for addressing the impacts of climate change in different socioeconomic sectors.

The Task Forces of the EMME CCI had the following scientific foci:

1. The Physical Basis of Climate Change
2. Energy Systems
3. The Built Environment
4. Health
5. Water resources
6. Agriculture and the Food Chain
7. Marine Environment and Resources
8. Education and Outreach
9. Migration
10. Tourism

11. Enabling Technologies
12. Green Economy and Innovation
13. Cultural Heritage

**The thirteen (13) thematic Task Forces have engaged in excess of 240 Scientists, most of which are based within the EMME region.** In addition, the Task Forces engaged scientists and policy makers from other countries, as well as representatives of International Organizations. Member distribution by region and country of origin is depicted in [Figure 7.6.2](#).



**Figure 7.6.2: Geographical representation in the composition of Task Forces.** Left panel shows distribution of members by region. Right panel shows distribution of members by country of origin (only members from EMME countries are included in this panel).

## V. Presentation of the Findings of the Thematic Task Forces

### V.1. 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Climate Change in the EMME

The findings of the studies of the scientific Task Forces were presented during the **2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on "Climate Change in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East"** (<https://climatechange2021.org/>), which was organized by the Cyprus Institute within the framework of the EMME-CCI in the city of Paphos, on 13-14 October 2021 ([figure 7.6.3](#)).









**Figure 7.6.3: Snapshots from the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Climate Change in the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East** (left panel: Address by the President of the Republic of Cyprus, H.E. Nicos Anastasiades)

**The conference attracted many leading environmental scientists, as well as officials from Cyprus, Greece, EU and Middle East countries.** The conference was addressed by the President of the Republic of Cyprus, H.E. Nicos Anastasiades, the Former Prime Minister of France and President of the French Constitutional Council, H.E. Laurent Fabius, H.R.H. Prince El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan, the President of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network for Europe, Professor Jeffrey Sachs, EU Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries Virginijus Sinkevičius, and the then President of The Cyprus Institute, Advisor to the President of the Republic of Cyprus and Special Envoy on Climate Change, Prof. Costas N. Papanicolas.

During the proceedings, prominent policymakers and scientists from all over the world reviewed the manifestations of the climate crisis in the EMME region, and discussed the priorities and the main elements of a Strategic Plan for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation. As mentioned above, the basis for the discussion were the results emerging from the scientific phase of the Initiative, and specifically the scientific reports produced by the Task Forces, which assessed the current situation and provided policy recommendations for consideration by the Governments of the region.

The Task Forces produced a “**Policy Framework and Measures for the Climate Crisis in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East region**”, which formed the basis for the Regional Action Plan and consisted of the following six pillars:

-  **Green Sustainable Development and Innovation:** Opportunities for the creation of green jobs, with innovation focusing on tackling the climate crisis.
-  **Climate Services:** Support decisions and risk assessment crisis management and opportunities.
-  **Observation Network:** Monitor climate crisis and the effectiveness of the measures.
-  **Education and Dissemination:** Information, Training, and Education of various stakeholders including organizations and governments in areas related to climate crisis management.
-  **Biodiversity:** A network of protected areas in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East combined with more sustainable opportunities for employment.
-  **Research and Technology:** Fill gaps in scientific knowledge, better understanding of the climate crisis, and better selection and support of decisions.

## V.2. COP26 Participation

The scientific findings of the EMME CCI were presented during the 26<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26) in Glasgow, during a side-event entitled ‘Climate Action in the Mediterranean’ (Figure 7.6.4). This event was co-organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment of Cyprus, the Union for the Mediterranean, Clima-Med, and MedECC. The event was attended by representatives from 15 EMME countries. During this gathering, Prof Papanicolas presented the findings of the thematic Task Forces, and stressed that the already critical climate situation in the EMME is likely to deteriorate even more if no appropriate action is taken. Minister Costas Kadis also stressed the urgent need identified by the scientific community for immediate and coordinated action in order to address the consequences of climate change in the EMME region.





**Figure 7.6.4:** Snapshots from the presentation of the EMME CCI in COP26

## VI. Regional Action Plan

The EMME CCI Regional Action Plan (<https://emme-cci.org/emme-regional-climate-action-plan-2/>) includes about **80 mitigation, adaptation and enabling policies and measures derived from the recommendations of the Initiative's 13 scientific thematic Task Forces**.

The Regional Action Plan is structured in priority areas, which are sets of **Policies** and **Measures**, along with **Services** and **Projects** for implementation. Two types of priority areas can be recognized: **Adaptation Risks** (e.g., Sea Level Rising) and **Mitigation Goals/Obligations** (e.g., Reduction of Transportation Emissions).

The process of co-developing the Action Plan improves the odds that it will be adopted and owned by the participating countries, which is necessary in order for the plan to be implemented. This process is thought as a continuous consultation among the shareholders (which, in addition to States, include companies, citizens, civic organizations, and local government).

This consultation has started with the Task Forces, and continues with Working Groups, Standing Committees, Ministerial Meetings, and Summits. The end product of this process will be a climate Action Plan that will change over time depending on the dynamics of the climate crisis and the local situation at EMME. The Plan will be broad, inclusive, dynamic, open, flexible, innovative, and appealing. Each country can decide the priority areas in which it wants to be involved, to adopt (or not) some of the Policies, to implement (or not) certain Measures, to employ selected Services, and to participate in particular Projects of its choice.

This Regional Action Plan is compatible with the Paris Agreement, and is meant to complement and enhance national plans. The Plan contains complementing and overlapping Measures, as well as differing policies with the same objective (e.g., a policy to encourage small photovoltaic installations at houses and a policy to encourage large-scale solar energy projects). In this way, each State can choose measures and policies best suited to its needs. The Plan will emphasize Policies and Measures with a regional added value.

## VII. Governance of the EMME CCI

### VII.1. Governing Scheme

The governing scheme detailed below was drafted respecting the Initiative's principles, as well as regional sensitivities. Its objectives include allowing the EMME CCI to become operational, to make effective use of the available resources, to ensure the timely implementation and coordination among various thrusts of the Initiative, and to ensure continuity and sustainability. The scheme was tentatively approved during the Ministerial meetings of 2022.

### VII.2. Principles for participation

The EMME CCI provides maximum flexibility for participating Countries to join institutional structures and adopt policies and measures of their own choice, under the following principles:

1. Participation without prejudice to issues of country recognition, general cooperation in any other areas, or solution to any other disputes.
2. Adherence to the Paris Agreement.
3. Voluntary participation to any services, data, scientific consulting, access to funding, access to technology, etc. which will become available in the future. Participating countries may choose to join at a later stage.
4. EMME CCI governance will be based on the principles of the United Nations. The minimal commitment is participation in the governance structure of the EMME CCI (Governing Council, The Secretariat and Country Offices).
5. Participation in any specific activity, project or institution of the Initiative is open to all, without being mandatory.

### VII.3. EMME CCI Administrative structures

The scheme proposed is comprised of the three administrative structures below:

Country Offices: to be established by all Countries participating in the Initiative. They will be mainly responsible for liaising the Council and the Secretariat to their respective Government and the designated stakeholders in the country in which they reside. In addition, each country office will be charged with other functions including participating in the development of the RAP, monitoring the quality and timely execution of CCI projects pursued in the country, monitoring the effectiveness of policies and measures adopted

The Regional Secretariat: the entity which will manage and coordinate 'directorates', (or 'departments') that will support six main pillars for policy/measure design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation:

Climate Services  
 Observation Network  
 Research coordination  
 Outreach and Education campaign  
 Biodiversity Plan  
 Innovation and Green Development

This body will facilitate and support the operations of the Governing Council, coordinate transnational projects, sharing of information and knowhow developed and pursued at national level, financing/investing resources, country office activities and monitor effectiveness of policies and measures undertaken and the quality and timely execution of projects pursued.

The Governing Council: will be the supreme governing body. Each participating Country of the initiative will be represented by a very senior government official, possibly at a ministerial level. This high lever governing body is set to also set policy targets for the Initiative, approve its plan of action, evaluate and adjust accordingly the structure of the Secretariat, and the Country offices

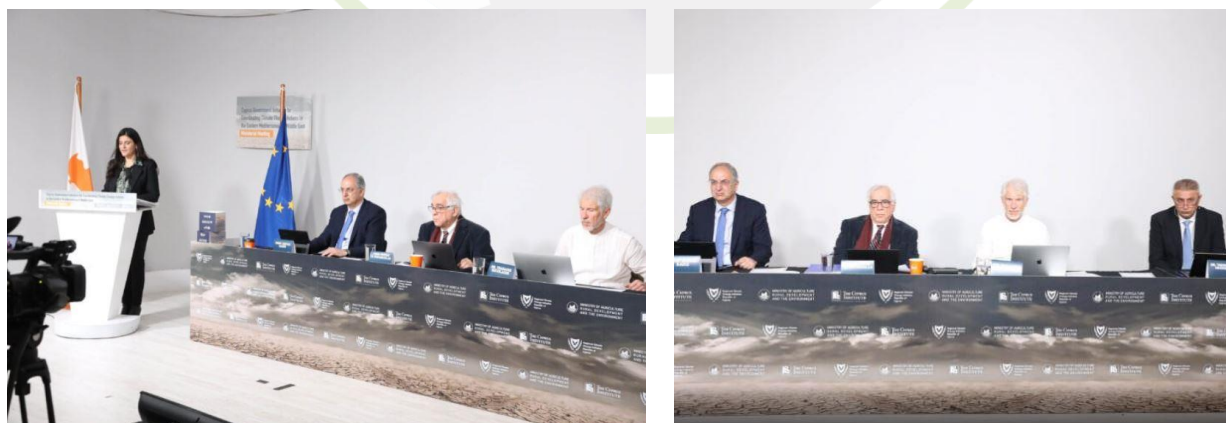
## VIII. Political milestones of the EMME CCI

In order to present and agree upon the above structures, important political gatherings were organized during the political phase of the EMME CCI. Namely, two ministerial meetings (one on-line and one in Cyprus), as well as a Heads of State Summit during COP27 in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt.

### VIII.1. First Ministerial Meeting-February 2022

Within the framework of the EMME CCI, the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment organized a Virtual Ministerial Meeting on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, in which Environment Ministers of the countries taking part in the Initiative participated. The aim of the meeting was to introduce the proposed structure of the Regional Action Plan (RAP), as well as the proposed Governance of the EMME CCI, and to receive the first feedback from the countries of the region and other important stakeholders.

The meeting was addressed by the then President of the Republic of Cyprus, Nicos Anastasiades, who stressed that *“The participation of so many renowned scientists and eminent policy makers from our immediate region, is a testament, not only of the magnitude of the threat posed by the climate crisis, but also of our readiness to coordinate synergies and share best practices”*. The meeting was attended by Ministers of Environment of the EMME region, as well as observers from various organizations, e.g. **Mr. David Livingston**, Senior Advisor to the U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, **Mr. John Kerry**, **Mrs. Janet Rogan**, COP26 Regional Ambassador for the Middle East and Africa, **Prof Petteri Taalas**, Secretary General of the World Meteorological Organization of the United Nations, **Mr. Nikolaos Isaris**, Deputy Head of Delegation of the European Commission in Cyprus, **Dr. Yasmine Fouad**, Minister of Environment of the Arab Republic of Egypt, who has since then hosted the COP27 United Nations Climate Change Conference in November 2022 and **Dr. Grammenos Mastrojeni**, Senior Deputy Secretary General and Head of the Energy and Climate Action Division at the Union for the Mediterranean.



**Figure 7.6.5:** Snapshots from the 1<sup>st</sup> Ministerial Meeting held within the framework of the EMME CCI in February 2022

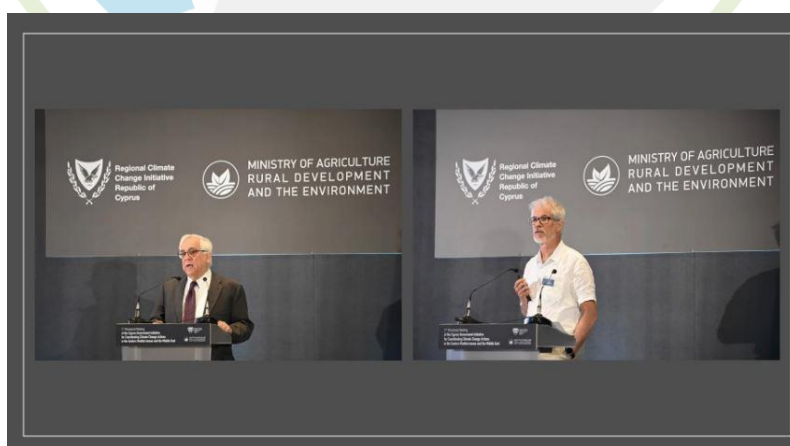


## VIII.2. Second Ministerial Meeting-June 2022

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Ministerial Meeting of the Cyprus Government Initiative for Coordinating Climate Change Actions in the EMME was organized in Lemesos, Cyprus, on 7 June 2022, facilitating discussions for the development of the Regional Action Plan for urgently-needed climate action in the region, the structure of which was introduced in the 1<sup>st</sup> Ministerial Meeting. This meeting served as the prelude for the EMME Heads of State Summit which was organized in November 2022 (described in the next section).

The goal of this meeting was to present and discuss the first draft of the Regional Climate Action Plan, as it was put together by the Initiative's Interim Secretariat, which has been assigned to the Cyprus Institute. The Plan proposed possible policy measures, joint projects and actions for Climate Change mitigation and adaptation in the EMME region, based on the scientific findings and recommendations produced by the CCI's Scientific Task Forces. In addition, the governance, monitoring and financing mechanisms were also discussed for the successful implementation of the Regional Action Plan, and priorities were set for its finalization.

The Second Ministerial Meeting was attended by Ministers of Environment of the EMME region, as well as observers from various organizations, including the EU (**Ms Myrto Zambarta**), Australia (**Ms Fiona McKergow**), France (**Ms Salina Grenet Gatalano**), the organizers of COP26 Italy (**Ms. Federica Ferrari Bravo**) and the UK (**Ms Janet Rogan**), the US (**Mr Mark Kasman**), the Union for the Mediterranean (**Prof. Grammenos Mastrojeni**) and the International Renewable Energy Agency (**Mr Francesco La Camera**).



**Figure 7.6.6:** Snapshots from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ministerial Meeting held within the framework of the EMME CCI in June 2022



During his speech, President Anastasiades commended the active involvement of responsible Ministries from governments of countries of the EMME region in the Ministerial Meeting, remarking on the importance of their commitment to ensuring a safe and sustainable future for its people. In addition, he thanked the representatives of other countries and international organizations that participated in the Meeting as Observers for acknowledging and supporting the joint efforts taken by the governments of the EMME region.

The Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment of Cyprus and host of this important meeting, Prof. Costas Kadis, emphasised that the advantage of this Initiative is that it brings together governments, scientists and policymakers. He reminded that the basis for the policy recommendations and measures proposed in the Regional Action Plan are the reports put together by scientists and policymakers who voluntarily participated in the Scientific Task Forces of the Initiative, aiming to target the specific needs and challenges of the EMME region.

The ministerial meeting greatly advanced the way for the implementation of the Initiative, as well as served as a prelude to the Leader's Summit meeting which was organized during COP27. The positive feedback and agreement received by the participants, regarding both the Regional Action Plan and the Governance of the Initiative, advanced considerably the EMME CCI agenda and solidified the intention of these countries for working together in finalizing the regional action plan as well as the structures of the Initiative which are crucial for its implementation. This meeting was the first signal of this collaborative effort and the beginning of a long collaboration of the countries of our region in order to mitigate and minimize the effects of climate change.

### VIII.3. Heads of State Summit in COP27

The efforts of the EMME CCI led to achieving a major milestone in November 2022, with the organization of **a regional Heads of State Summit during the 27<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27) in Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt.** This Summit was co-hosted by the then President of the Republic of Cyprus, Mr Nicos Anastasiades, and the President of Egypt, Mr Abdel Fatah el Sisi. It was attended by ten heads of state and other high-ranking government officials and organization representatives. The full list of participants is shown in [Table 7.6.1](#).

President Anastasiades thanked his co-host, President el-Sisi, for co-organizing this event. After welcoming the participants, he stressed that their presence at the Summit is indicative of the collective determination to address the dire effects of climate change in the EMME. In addition, President Anastasiades emphasized that the scientific work that has been made available by the EMME-CCI allows countries of the region to have a better understanding of how the crisis will unfold in the near future, and which actions to implement in order to address it. President El-Sisi, underlined Egypt's enthusiasm in participating in this initiative, adding that it serves a major global mechanism when it comes to actions to deal with the impact of climate change, and commending the scientific component of the EMME CCI, which he deemed indispensable.

The ten (10) EMME countries represented in the Summit adopted the **"Sharm-el-Sheikh Declaration of the EMME CCI"**, to officially launch the Initiative. Other countries and international organizations which participated as observers offered their support for the future development and implementation of the EMME CCI. Details on the Sharm-el-Sheikh Declaration can be found at <https://emme-cci.org/cop-27/> (and as [Annex 1](#)).

## IX. Future perspectives

Following the COP27 (Nov. 2022), Cyprus entered an election period which resulted in the instalment of a new Government in March 2023. To this date, the new Government of president N. Christodoulides, has not made its plans explicit as to how they intend to pursue the Climate Change Initiative. However, it is to be noted that the program of the newly elected President states under Pillar "Planet: Clean Environment": Policy 2 – "Contribution to Climate Change Mitigation": 2.10 "We shall utilize the Action Plan prepared with the assistance of the scientific community, within the framework of Cyprus' initiative to address Climate Change in the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East region."

The Cyprus Institute has continued its activities independently of the Government actions, especially in developing the scientific background for embellishing and refining the aforementioned Regional Action Plan. We plan to reinforce the activity of the EMME-CCI thematic Task Forces, and continue to issue reports and publish the resulting work in the open literature. **It is foreseen that a comprehensive volume will be published in 2024 with the work that has been collectively presented.** In addition, the Institute has decided to form an alliance of regional, European and International Organizations active in researching climate change and its impacts in the EMME region, to further enhance the research and policy influence in the EU and EMME countries. CARE-C is expected to play a leading role in this initiative.





**Figure 7.6.7:** Snapshots from the Heads of State Summit held during the COP27 in Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt


**Table 7.6.1:** Heads of State Summit Participants

| EMME COUNTRIES              |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| BAHRAIN                     | Ms Noor bint Ali Al Khelif, Minister of Sustainable Development |
| CYPRUS                      | Mr Nicos Anastasiades, President                                |
| EGYPT                       | Mr Abdel Fatah al Sisi, President                               |
| GREECE                      | Mr Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Prime Minister                          |
| IRAQ                        | Mr Abdul Latif Rashid, President                                |
| ISRAEL                      | Ms Tamar Zandberg, Minister of Environmental Protection         |
| JORDAN                      | Bisher Al Khasawneh, Prime Minister                             |
| LEBANON                     | Mr Najib Mikati, Prime Minister                                 |
| OMAN                        | Mr. Mohammed bin Hamad al-Rumhi, Minister of Oil                |
| STATE OF PALESTINE          | Dr Mohammed Shtayyeh, Prime Minister                            |
| OBSERVERS                   |   |
| COP26                       | Ms Janet Rogan, Regional Ambassador for the MENA                |
| FAO                         | Ms Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director General                 |
| HOLY SEE                    | Cardinal Pedro Parolin, Prime Minister                          |
| SDSN                        | Mr Jeffrey Sachs, President                                     |
| UNECE                       | Ms Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary                         |
| UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANIAN | Mr Nasser Kamel, Secretary General                              |
| USA                         | Ms Sue Biniatz, Deputy Special Envoy                            |
| WMO                         | Mr Petteri Taalas, Secretary General (also on behalf of UNSG)   |



## X. Resulting publications

### X.1. Peer-reviewed Literature











 Zittis G, Almazroui M, Alpert P, Ciais P, Cramer W, Dahdal Y, et al. Climate Change and Weather Extremes in the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East. Rev Geophys. 2022 Sep 1;60(3): e2021RG000762. Available on-line at:

<https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1029/2021RG000762>

 Neira M, Erguler K, Ahmady-Birgani H, DaifAllah AL-Hmoud N, Fears R, Gogos C, et al. Climate change and human health in the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East: Literature review, research priorities and policy suggestions. Environ Res. 2023 Jan 1; 216:114537. Available on-line at: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0013935122018643>

### X.2. Task-force reports

The reports generated by the EMME-CCI Thematic Task Forces are available on-line, as follows:

-  Report of the Task Force on The Physical Basis Of Climate Change: <https://emme-cci.org/scientific-task-forces/task-force-the-physical-basis/>
-  Report of the Task Force on Energy Systems: <https://emme-cci.org/scientific-task-forces/task-force-energy-systems/>
-  Report of the Task Force on Health: <https://emme-cci.org/scientific-task-forces/task-force-health/>
-  Report of the Task Force on water Resources: <https://emme-cci.org/scientific-task-forces/task-force-water-resources/>
-  Report of the Task Force on Agriculture and the Food Chain: <https://emme-cci.org/scientific-task-forces/task-force-agroforestry-and-food-chain/>
-  Report of the Task Force on Education and Outreach: <https://emme-cci.org/scientific-task-forces/task-force-education-and-outreach/>
-  Report of the Task Force on Migration: <https://emme-cci.org/scientific-task-forces/task-force-migration/>
-  Report of the Task Force on Enabling Technologies: <https://emme-cci.org/scientific-task-forces/task-force-enabling-technologies/>
-  Report of the Task Force on Green Economy and Innovation: <https://emme-cci.org/scientific-task-forces/task-force-green-economy-and-innovation/>
-  Report of the Task Force on Cultural Heritage: <https://emme-cci.org/scientific-task-forces/task-force-cultural-heritage/>



## Annex 1: The Sharm-el-Sheikh Declaration of the EMME-CCI

### Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East Climate Change Initiative (EMME-CCI)

Sharm el Sheikh, 8 November 2022

#### **DECLARATION**

We, the undersigned Heads of State of the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East (EMME) countries have gathered today in Sharm El-Sheikh on 8 November 2022,

#### **Recalling**

- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement;
- The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD);
- The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD);
- The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (“the Barcelona Convention”), its protocols and decisions, including the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development;
- The findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Reports, UNEP’s report, Making Peace with Nature, and the 5th edition of the UN’s Global Biodiversity Outlook report.

#### **Acknowledging**

1. The findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report;
2. The serious impacts of climate change in the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East region, which is warming faster than the global mean temperature, making it one of the world’s climate hotspots;
3. The three-year preparatory work of the thirteen scientific Task Forces of the EMME Climate Change Initiative, presented at the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Climate Change in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East in October 2021, and published in the corresponding Reports describing in scientific depth the dire situation of the Climate Crisis in our region;
4. The EMME Regional Action Plan based on the recommendations of the Task Forces; and the meetings and decisions of the Ministers of Environment of EMME in Cyprus in February and June 2022.

#### **Willing to**

1. Act in a coordinated way to launch, support, participate and advance the EMME CC Initiative to achieve a concerted action for the mitigation and adaptation of the Climate Crisis on the region;
2. Exploit selected policies and measures included in the EMME Regional Action Plan;
3. Strengthen regional cooperation through partnerships, communication, collaboration and exchange of good practices;
4. Mainstream environmental, climate mitigation and adaptation policies and services across all sectors;
5. Promote gender equality and the active involvement of the youth;

We express our deep gratitude to the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt for its hospitality and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus for undertaking this initiative.

We intend to reconvene to discuss the appropriate follow up.

The present instrument is not intended to create rights or obligations under international or domestic law, or to result in binding financial implications.

## Annex 2: Selected Media Coverage of the EMME-CCI

- [The President of the Republic hosted an event for Cyprus' Climate Change Initiative in the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East \(EMME\)](#) (Press & Information Office – Cyprus)
- [President El-Sisi witnesses the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East \(EMME\) Climate Change Initiative \(EMME-CCI\)](#) (State Information Service – Egypt)
- [Egyptian president calls for leaders to coordinate climate change policies with NGOs](#) (ARAB NEWS)
- [Sisi witnesses heads of state summit for launch of EMME-CCI](#) (The Egyptian Gazette)
- [Sisi-welcomes-participants-in-emme-cci](#) (Sada Elbalad English)
- [Sisi: Egypt was keen on joining Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East Climate Change Initiative since its launch in 2019](#) (Egypt today)
- [Αναστασιάδης στην COP27: Παρά το μικρό μέγεθος της χώρας μας, είμαστε αποφασισμένοι να συμβάλουμε](#) (Euronews- video)
- [Eastern Med, ME are one of the most affected regions by climate change: Sisi at COP27](#) (Ahram online)
- [2nd Ministerial Meeting of the Cyprus Government Initiative for Coordinating Climate Change Actions in the Eastern Mediterranean & Middle East \(EMME\) Region](#) (Press and Information Office, Ministry of Interior, Republic of Cyprus)
- [Initiative of the President of the Republic on Climate Change: New ideas and proposals in the Virtual Meeting of the Environment Ministers of the EMME region](#) (Press and Information Office, Ministry of Interior, Republic of Cyprus)

