Education, public involvement & NGO role, media role

Green Ports

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The "League of Canaanite, Phoenician and Punic Cities" (LCCPP) was established in 2009 at the UNESCO in Paris. It is labelled by the "Cultural Council of the Union for the Mediterranean". Till today, 50 cities have adhered to the League. As a chain of solidarity among cities that share a similar heritage, a common culture and set of values, the LCCPP seeks to revive ancestral ties among these cities and promote Dialogue of Civilizations. The action plan of the League is built on four thematic: Culture and Education, Cultural Tourism, Handicrafts and SMEs, and Maritime Environment. For each thematic, a Commission is formed to help in exchanging experiences, comparing working methods and opening new avenues for action. The subject of this Abstract is "Maritime Environment". The LCCPP's "Environment and Sustainable Development" Commission is set to engage in a process of sustainable development, promoting economic growth while reducing environmental impact. The Commission is in contact with various Mediterranean Associations to identify sources of pollution and risk areas; to develop strategies protecting the Mediterranean coast, the marine environment, and the natural sites. Its priority activity is to achieve the cleanup of the League's ports, and create a "Green Port" label for those who incorporate the environment into the overall management of their port sites. The cities should conduct awareness campaigns about the environment's respect and the sustainable use of marine resources, namely among the public and fishermen, in a view to combat coastal erosion and the pollution of the Mediterranean seabed. The Commission also works to stimulate the various cities of the League to share experiences and technical expertise in this field, and to organize conferences for preserving biodiversity in coastal ecosystems. In this context, the Commission has drawn up a Specifications' Note of Green/Clean Ports and circulated it to its 50 member cities. It included the Key Environmental Principles of Clean Ports, namely water management, oil management, solid waste management, dredging and environmental management of dredged sediments, air pollution and energy management, quick intervention plan in case of accidents, raising awareness for maritime environmental issues among port users and boat owners, as well as an environmental code of conduct. During each Forum that the League organizes in a different city every year, a special session dedicated to the Maritime Environment is programmed and gathers eminent speakers from around the world. Also, an exhaustive Questionnaire regarding the ports of the League's cities was addressed to each Municipality, to mainly gather data about their environmental strategy and management plan. Our partners in

this program are the Port authorities through the relevant Municipality, the NGO's, the

concerned ministries and the researchers.