

The presentation of PRIMA to the European Parliament: Research and Innovation on water, agriculture and food for more prosperous and sustainable Mediterranean societies

MEPs and the Commission showed a strong support to the Scientific Diplomacy role of PRIMA

4 April 2019 – The event, that has taken place today at the EU Parliament, confirmed the great attention of EU Institutions and Members States towards the PRIMA Initiative, given the relevance of food security and water scarcity in the Mediterranean area.

The Members of the European Parliaments highlighted the importance of the PRIMA Initiatives for its role in terms of Scientific Diplomacy. The European Parliament recalled the internal process that led to the approval of the PRIMA decision within the Emicicle on July 2017 and expressed their strong support.

The Co-Chairs, after the description of the results achieved, underscored the added value of the Partnership, built on the basis of the principle of equal footing and shared benefits among all 19 Participating States. The Co-Chairs also reminded the important role of Partnerships in addressing the multiple challenges which the Med region is facing.

During the event at the Altiero Spinelli Building, the Ambassadors that took the floor remarked how the Mediterranean area constitutes a very hot spot area, which requires strategic Partnerships to be put in place and welcomed PRIMA to continue its activities also in the new Framework Programme 2021-2027.

The European Commission emphasised the importance of promoting quality research and innovation, aligning national policies, boosting the adoption of solutions and scaling-up innovation as driver for the sustainable development of the Euro-Mediterranean region.

The leaders of other EU Initiatives echoed the PRIMA Co-Chairs in highlighting the importance of the water and agro-food related issues for the Euro-Med area also in view of a more concrete implementation of Agenda 2030.

*"I warmly thank EU Institutions and Participating States for their political support to the PRIMA initiative" declared **Angelo Riccaboni**, Chair Fondazione PRIMA and former Rector at the University of Siena, Italy "Such support will allow PRIMA to become an engine of regional and local growth".*

During the final remarks, PRIMA Co-Chairs encouraged EU Member States and PRIMA Participating States, as well as relevant EU Institutions to join their forces to ensure for the Initiative the necessary long-term support also in the frame of the Horizon Europe, currently under discussion.

Further information about PRIMA Programme:

www.prima-med.org

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