Press Release

The fragility of the Mediterranean region and the multiple pressures that it undergo call for the stakeholders’ mobilization.

Paris, 5th June 2018: More than 130 participants have gathered on the occasion of Plan Bleu’s 40 years anniversary, during the international conference, organized jointly with the Association Serge Antoine. Experts, decision-makers, representatives of national, European and Mediterranean institutions, and members of the civil society discussed the Mediterranean issues and possible futures.

The morning, dedicated to the creation - on the initiative of Serge Antoine - of Plan Bleu, Regional Activity Center of UN Environment / Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), referred to forty years of reflections and actions in favor of sustainable development in the Mediterranean. Thus, since the end of the 70s’, in the framework of the Barcelona Convention, and despite geopolitical tensions, the Mediterranean countries have worked together to progress on many common environmental challenges.

The Mediterranean is an ecoregion with a unique cultural heritage and an exceptional biodiversity. But, it is also very fragile and sensitive to climate change. Its development concentrates on its coastal zones, subject to numerous pressures. Coastal urbanization, mass tourism, fresh water overexploitation and salinization, pollution and marine litter, overfishing, development of maritime traffic and invasive species represent as many common concerns. During the afternoon, speakers discussed on such issues as marine ecosystems management, sustainable tourism, rural development, blue economy, biodiversity and talked about possible and desirable futures. The fragility of the Mediterranean region and the multiple pressures that it undergo call for the stakeholders’ mobilization.

On this occasion, Plan Bleu announced the launching of MED 2050, a new foresight study in the horizon 2050, intended to mobilize Southern and Northern decision-makers and stakeholders by overstepping geographic and institutional boundaries. The works that will be carried out for the next four years will be based on dialogue, partnerships and shared visions on transition ways and investments to implement for a Mediterranean Basin desirable future. Participants interested by this project are invited to register online to take part in future exchanges: http://planbleu.org/en/eform/submit/r-seau-de-prospective-prospectiv

More information on the conference:

Contact:
Hélène Rousseaux: hrousseaux@planbleu.org - tel.: +33 (0)4 92 95 25 28