DECLARATION OF CHILDREN

FOR THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN COASTS

SEPTEMBER 25TH 2015

We, children of Europe and Mediterranean Countries, wish to testify at the occasion of the Meeting of European and Mediterranean coastal agencies and the Coastday Celebration held on September 25th 2015 :

- To our attachment to our coasts, where the land and the sea meet ;
- To our attachment to animals and plants that we can find either on earth, in the air or underwater : crabs, turtles, seabirds, fish, lizards, algae and trees ;
- To our attachment to the wonderful landscapes offered by the seashore : beaches, creeks, dunes, cliffs, wetlands …
- To our attachment to moments of sharing on these spaces, where we can fish, dive, have a bathe, visit by walking or by boat, enjoy the sunset, listen to the sound of the waves rolling on the beach, run in the sand and in appreciating nature…

We, children of Europe and Mediterranean Countries, wish also to testify of our fears regarding the threats to our coasts …

- The sea level rise due to climate change risking damage to seaside houses and beaches,
- The disappearance of beaches due to coastal erosion,
- The growing urbanization, transforming our coasts into less beautiful areas,
- The pollution of water, in the rivers and in the sea,
- The waste and plastic present on the beaches and underwater,
- The overfishing and decline of marine resources,
- The disappearance of forests, marshes and wetlands.

We, children of Europe and Mediterranean Countries, are conscious of our role to play in the coming years, and are determined to work as far as we can to conserve our coasts :

- By being made aware at school of the fragility of our shores,
- By raising our voices, like today, during meetings dedicated to coastal conservation
- By becoming the Ambassadors of coastal protection for our parents, other adults and children in our neighbourhood,
- By sharing our experiences with other children from Europe and the Mediterranean,
- By being involved in collaborative projects, in school or in clubs and associations.

We, children of Europe and Mediterranean Countries, request that we be more actively involved in initiatives to support coastal protection, so as to keep the pleasure of living there, and for all future generations !