Short description of the Public Consultation on the joint-programme PRIMA

"Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area"

On 22 December 2014, nine Member States of the European Union (EU) – Czech Republic, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, and Spain – submitted a proposal for the participation of the EU in a joint research and innovation programme named PRIMA, focused on the development and application of innovative solutions for food systems and water resources in the Mediterranean basin. Seven non-EU countries are taking part in PRIMA: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey.

A total of two hundred million euros have been committed for this initiative over a 10 year period starting in 2018. Other countries interested to PRIMA Initiative include Croatia, Germany, Israel, Romania and Slovenia.

The general objective of PRIMA Programme is to reinforce cooperation in Research and Innovation in Mediterranean countries in order to contribute to the challenges of sustainable food production and water provision in the Mediterranean region.

This would be through an Initiative according to Article 185 under Horizon 2020. This institutional solution, which includes the creation of a Dedicated Implementation Structure, is considered by participating States the only possible option able to ensure the scientific, management and financial integration needed for such a strategic and long-term programme.

The Commission has just launched a webpage dedicated to the PRIMA Impact Assessment process. The link is: http://ec.europa.eu/research/environment/index.cfm?pg=prima.

The page is intended to provide the general audience with an overview of the Impact Assessment process and the importance of Stakeholder Consultation. The page also provides a link to the most relevant documents (PRIMA proposal, Better Regulation Guidelines, Inception Impact Assessment, etc.) related to the Impact Assessment process.

On Monday 1 February the Online Public Consultation started. The consultation will run until Sunday 24 April (12 weeks). A link to the survey is published both on the "Your Voice in Europe" website (http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/consultations/index_en.htm) and on the above-mentioned PRIMA Impact Assessment webpage.

A wide answer by Mediterranean institutions and stakeholders is very important.

Every stakeholder is invited to reply to the consultation but also to forward the link to other stakeholders who might be interested. It would be important to help the Commission disseminating this information as widely as possible to ensure replies to the open consultation from relevant universities, research organisation, public authorities, local communities, large business and SMEs, NGOs, individual citizens, etc.