



**In coordination with the CIHEAM and the
Committee FAO/Silva Mediterranea**

**WORKSHOP ON MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE AGAINST FOREST FIRES IN THE
MEDITERRANEAN BASIN, ZARAGOZA, SPAIN, JUNE 10-11, 2003**

Workshop recommendations for future activities

The participants of the Workshop agreed on the need to improve the technical tools and procedures available presently in the countries of the Mediterranean Basin (MB) to facilitate operations of Bilateral and Multilateral Assistance against forest fires.

This objective is attainable by promoting the following activities:

1. To complete the FAO inventory of existing bilateral agreements including others identified in this Workshop, and by the Committee FAO/Silva Mediterranea.
2. To prepare a request to the Joint Research Center (JRC) of the European Commission the diffusion of the MB forest fire risk maps, prepared daily, to the non-EU countries in the Region.
3. To study the possibilities for the implementation of a Forest Fire Data-Base (FFDB) in the MB, including information on resources available for Multilateral Assistance.
The Workshop recommended to connect this FFDB to the FAO web on Forestry, to the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS) and to the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC).
4. To connect the Web pages of the GFMC/UNEP-OCHA on Fire Emergencies and the FAO Fire Alert Web page with the Web Page of the Response Centre of the European Union to facilitate operations inside the Global Wildland Fire Network in case of serious emergencies.
5. To study in the EU Forest Fires Experts Group a draft for future agreements on:
 - bilateral assistance in border areas, facilitating dispatch and cooperation between local resources
 - multilateral assistance at long distances
6. To organize a Course/Seminar on Coordination of Plans for Joint Operations, like a previous activity for the development of a General Agreement on Multilateral Assistance.
The non-EU countries in the MB would be invited to participate.
This Seminar was recommended to take place in the Mediterranean Agronomical Institute of Zaragoza, during the latter part of 2004.

7. To promote the organization of annual or biannual Conferences of Operating Bodies (Administrations and Companies) of air resources against forest fires (amphibian aircrafts and others) to exchange experiences and establish links facilitating joint operations of multilateral assistance.
8. To promote the organization of a Mediterranean Conference on Multilateral Assistance against Forest Fires, at political level.
9. To communicate these recommendations to the Summit to be held after the 3^d International Conference on Wildland Fire, Sydney, October 2003, as a contribution of the Mediterranean Basin to the Summit objectives.
10. To communicate also these recommendations at the FAO/ECE/ILO Conference on Forest Fire Management and International Cooperation in Fire Emergencies in the Eastern Mediterranean, Balkans and Adjoining Regions of the Near East and Central Asia, to be held in Antalya, Turkey, Spring 2004.