



COPPEM

Standing Committee for the Euro Mediterranean
Partnership of Local and Regional Authorities

XIV Coppem General Assembly

SEGRETARIO GENERALE

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The main objective of COPPEM in 2010 is making a contribution to relaunch the euromediterranean partnership politics.

Unfortunately, after the positive meetings in Paris and Marseilles, the process of constitution of Union for Mediterranean didn't go on.

It's a matter, as you know, to finish the Union's organizational structure, to give exact contents to planning titles highlighted yet and to define exactly the necessary financial resources.

In this context, it's important the birth of ARLEM on January 21st in Barcelona.

ARLEM- euromediterranean association of local and regional authorities- an institution of Union for the Mediterranean- can perform an important political role.

On this judgment there are different opinions in the euromediterranean Associations.

Some Local Authorities' representatives feel a bureaucratism danger which can prevent to ARLEM to make politics and propose concrete projects in order to take off the local development, as many insisted on.

Allow me, I didn't put the cart before the horse. We can't jump to conclusions at the moment.

It's necessary to have a positive attitude. ARLEM is a great challenge. It can be successful if all the associations have a unity of purpose.

We should not consider ARLEM as a rival versus COPPEM, UCLG southern Commission, Medicity, Arco Latino ect...

We should create a space for everybody and a planning aptitude in order to have repercussions on Union for the Mediterranean's policies

Primarily we must work at initiatives for peace. In the 2010 programme, COPPEM has pledged to the project cities victims of terrorism. (Sharm el Sheik, Gaza, Aqaba and Eilat),

getting on with UNO, Palestine, Israel, Egypt and Jordan.

In my opinion, the projects on which COPPEM will get on are:

- training.. We have arranged a plan for the intitution of a Euromediterranean Training Centre which will get sicilian and european financial resources.
- The institution of an Euromediterranean Observatory on migration and development.
- A strong relauch of cultural cooperation
- COPPEM will make an initiative in Istanbul, 2010 Capital of european culture : a seminar, with the participation of IV Commission, on the role of Istanbul in the european culture and an exhibition of the artist, Mr Emilio Isgrò.
- As you'll listen during the Commissions' work, we're going to realize the Euromediterranean Parliament on legality, the Euromediterranean Federation of parks and natural reserves, a systematic meeting with mediterranean entrepreneurs in order to outline projects. This type of work will be followed by ASEM which has stand the test regarding organizational abilities and an effective approach to the economic and social politics.

Economic and financial Partnership must be pursued, avoiding the mistakes of past, giving priority to energy projects, environments, cultural heritage's valorization, tourism.

If the financial conditions will allow us, we're going to honour, with the utmost severity, our committments, meeting the deadlines.