SPORT AND PEACE
VI MEDITERRANEAN COLLOQUIUM
The tragic attack has been launched by the international terrorism, which is more and more evidently aiming at destabilizing communal life, put all the democratic Countries in front of new responsibilities. These responsibilities are mainly referred to the capacity to give an unanimous answer for fighting violence and safeguarding a peace and stability framework. In the year in which the Olympic Games come back in Athens, Coppem decided to open a meeting on sport value, one of the most important social phenomenon in the ancient as well as in the present time, as it is just a peace and integration factor. Today it is possible to get a widespread awareness of the implicit values of sport, to such an extent that the project of Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe, includes expressly sport together with education, training and youth. Having thought to dedicate the VI Mediterranean Colloquium to sport related to peace topic is the evidence of Coppem commitment to gather in current events the meaning of a committment aiming at strengthening local authorities' role. They have the important task of fostering and developing cooperation getting over the political limits which often restrain the States action. There is an experience that maybe it's useful to remember. It is the Islands Games one, which shows 18 communities involved in the athletic field as well as in searching for common strategies on cultural, tourism and environmental safeguard; an experience, which could be widened to other local situations in the mark of new cooperation forms and eduction processes to communal life and peace.

Moreover such initiatives could bolster a more complete communitarian welfare framework especially as for the basic and general sports activities. On this field Coppem has been developing important initiatives and a significant stage, over this path, was the Conference of Caserta arranged with the aim of creating an euro-mediterranean health agencies network as well as to promote communitarian welfare. To direct its activities over the lines of an effective planning, the Committee for partnership has arranged "Coppem Local Development", an action plan which has already been seeing its earliest realization. Over a five-year period, Coppem has given a peculiar contribution – as President Fabio Pellegrini said during the General Assembly of Syracuse – in the direction of the development and peaceful communal life between people and cultures of the Mediterranean. At this point the recognition as representation body from the European Union should not be far.

The initiative to provide Coppem with programmatic lines has a particular importance, not only in operational and organizational terms, but also in the more general perspective of developing partnership in view of the European Union widening. This is an event which is been awakening a great interest but also some worries from Partnership’s Countries especially from the Southern Mediterranean Countries, which are afraid that this widening to Est happens to the detriment of economic and social redressing along the North-South axis. Of course there are going to be many problems to which will be necessary to answer with a new planning skill and original forms of cooperation among the interested Countries, as new Vice President of Coppem, Adly Hussein said, and to whom CoppemNews wish a good work.

Meanwhile the Secretariat has tried to give its contribution to know the institutional, legislative and administrative situation of Local Governments through a comparative research of Local Authorities systems in the 27 Countries carried out by Franco Sammaritano. This survey is going to be extended to the Countries joining EU from the 1st of May. A process which presents quite particular situations as, for example, the situation of Cyprus including two spheres of influence, the greek and the turkish one. It will be untied the knots concerning this situation for the envisaged date.
Towards the end of the 50s, Giorgio La Pira who was at that time Mayor of Florence, had given life to the Mediterranean Talks, in the free attempt to give a contribution to peace in an area with strained relations and relentless clashes. Right from its birth, that initiative attracted on itself a very large interest and it went on for four editions but then, also owing to La Pira's death, who had promoted it with so much passion, had come to a standstill, for many reasons, considered definitive.

In 2002 in Palermo, the Talks have been resumed on the initiative of the Sicilian Region and Coppem which, relying on the agreements of a great deal of cities and regions belonging to the 27 Countries that join the Barcellona Conference for the Euromediterranean Partnership, compare again leaders and institutional, economic, cultural and diplomatic world's representatives with the full awareness that through a joint cooperation among different territorial situations, it is possible to reach peace objective. With this perspective, the Sicilian Region and Coppem are going to promote the VI Mediterranean Colloquium, this new edition plays on an event of worldwide importance: the Olympic Games. This year, the Olympic Games have got back in their native land, Greece, where they were born in 776 B.C. and reproposed in a modern version in 1896. “Sport and Peace” is the topic of the Conference which is destined to be a further stage in the rough way of the international relations framework in the Mediterranean area. Sport is an extraordinary social phenomenon that has caught everybody's attention and moved common imagination since ancient times. Sport's values – cultural, ethical, social as they are – are a very important resource for our community living and they can be a vehicle of great importance for bringing people closer: it is necessary to find the original values of this important element of our life and to use all its potential for peace. The mention to the principle of the “Olympic Truce” that, since the VIII century B.C., connoted in a special way the Games' celebration sanctioning the end of all the hostilities, starting from the seventh day before the competitions opening and up to the seventh day following their conclusion, it is not rhetoric because it inspires a consideration and a more general new awareness of communal life, cooperation and solidarity values among peoples in a durable peace perspective.

From European and Mediterranean Municipalities, Local Authorities and Regions, positive signals come and they make the real will for peace very clear meanwhile common programmes are outlined on the mark of a hoped cohesion with a growing interest. The VI Mediterranean Colloquium just develops within peace way, of course with common awareness of the troubles there are but also relying on local self-governments commitment in fostering the creation of the conditions for a successful dialogue. In this framework Coppem together with Sicily and Attic Regions have decided to move the meeting 2004 to Greece in order to light together with the Olympic torch, on March 25th, the hope one trusting in the hostilities end and in the beginning of new peace talks among the countries that now are at war. The VI Mediterranean Colloquium will be held in Athens on March 26th with the participation of supranational, national and local Institutions and International Sports Organization representatives.

In the year dedicated to education through Sport by the European Union, Sport is called for giving an important contribution to peace culture diffusion and through it to give the people back the most precious good they can have. «Sicily – President of the Sicilian Region, Salvatore Cuffaro said in his speech – feels as its own the principles which, at the the end of the 50s, inspired Giorgio La Pira to pinpoint new paths in order to reach peace objective. For this reason, in addition to support initiatives as Coppem's ones, we would like to contribute also through real solidarity actions with all the countries.
which are holding out their hand to us from the other Mediterranean seashore. In 2002 we decided to support the work of Coppem – Cuffaro has gone on speaking – and today these meetings have been resumed and strengthened thanks to the support of municipalities and regions from the 27 Countries joining Euro-mediterranean Partnership”. Nikos Papamikroulis, Mayor of Nea Halkidonia expressed his great pleasure for this initiative promoted by Coppem as well as he stressed how this event is a real cultural exchange and an occasion to think over this historic period».

Lino Motta, Coppem Secretary General, relied on the topic “Sport and Peace” as it is connected with the imminent Olympic Games. “I think this topic is very important – Motta said – as it is closely linked to the idea of peace. It is a present topic which concerns all the world, also considering the latest bloody events».

“We are pleased to be able to create through the Standing Committee and Sicilian Region – Nikos Papamikroulis said – a meeting of institutional representatives who signed the Barcelona Declaration and have been supporting the Partnership, and sports champions who have left their mark. Peace and Sport that is the topic of the VI Mediterranean Colloquium, is originated from the need to combine the competition with union». In view of the Olympic Games which will be held in Athens, TEDKNA, KEDKE, COII and CONI, have given a strong stimulus for the organization of this international meeting, since we are sure that, also through Sport, peace it is possible. Peace prospect means a network full of initiatives in the mark of cooperation. Tourism, transport, cultural heritage and welfare, in which the basic sportive activities should be included, are an effective common ground on which it is possible to check the abilities of local authorities in performing their specific role. This is Pierre Santoni’s consideration, the President of COII, (Islands Games Committee) who mentions his ten-year long experience through island sport review. An event that every year have been joined 1500 boys and girls as well as the political leaders from the 18 islands taking part in it, and of course the officers and executives of all these sportive organizations.

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VI MEDITERRANEAN COLLOQUIUM “SPORT AND PEACE”, THE AGENDA
26 March 2004, Zappion Megaros Palace, Constitution Square, Athens

8h30: Registration of Participants

9h00: Welcome Address by the Authorities:
Fabio Pellegrini, President of Coppem; Salvatore Cuffaro, President of the Sicilian Region; Dora Bakoyanni, Mayor of Athens; Petros Filippou, President of the Attic Region TEDKNA; Dimitris Ariaras, Mayor of Hymitou, President of Amphictyonia; Paris Koukoulapoulos, President of KEDKE; Nikolau Lambis, President of the Hellenic Olympic Committee; Ismat Sabri, Ambassador of the Palestinian State in Athens; Giorgos Olifanos, Minister of Culture and Sport, Greece.

10.30 a.m: Chairman, Omar El Bahraoui, President of Urban Community of Rabat, I Vice President of Coppem.

Interventions:
Piero Monni, Standing Observatory – Holy See at WTO; Piero Fagone, President of CONI – Sicily, Representative COII; Theresa Zabell, Vice President European Parl. Comm. – Culture-Sport; Kyriakos Tsouros, Proto-Presbyter, Representative of the Orthodox Church; Georg Feller, Responsible for Foreign Missions: Diocese of Limburg; Adly Hussein, Governor of Qalyubiya, Vice Pres. of Coppem; Livio Berruti, Olympic Champion – World Record Holder; Fernando Reis, Director Jornal do Algarve; Iris Magdowski, Mayor for Sports, Culture, Education · Stuttgart.

01.00 p.m: Lunch Break

03.00 p.m: Resumption of works

Chairman, Nikos Papamikroulis, Mayor of Nea Halkidonia, Vice President of Coppem.

Interventions:
Aissa Mohamed Hédi, Director of cabinet Ministry of Sport, Tunisia; Mohammed Elghaïs, Secretary of State of Youth and Sport · Morocco; Ali El Din Hilal, Minister of Youth – Egypt; Amal Farhan, Ministry of the Municipality, Jordan; Francois Terranova, Vice President ParaOlympic Committee International I.P.C.; Eddy Ottoz, CONI executive committee, hurdle world recordman, Italy; Saad Othman, Secretary General of the Pan-Arab League; Gianni Gola, President Intern. Comitee Military Sport (C.I.S.M); Giuseppe Abbagnale, Boat Racing Olympic Champion, Vice President F.I.C.
SPORT, ANTIDOTE TO VIOLENCE

Interview to Pavel Nedved

Giovanna Cirino
Responsible for External Relations

The Olympic Games have always been the most important sporting event as well as a people aggregation attempt and they have been indicative of the condition of peace and rights values by pointing out great world’s problems. Do you remember Hitler’s anger when a black man got the better of an “arian” one during a race, or when the US athletes made a protest giving a clenched fist salute during US anthem on the podium in order to condemn racial discrimination? And the strained relations between USA and URSS which brought them to boycott the Olympic Games in 1980 and 1984? Through the Olympic Games Sport has symbolically underlined peace and communal life among peoples. So there is a link between peace and sport and it is very strong, as it has made 250 among the most famous sportsman to sign a peace petition suggested by Emergency.

Peace it is not only the absence of war, but an ethic principle that must be characteristic of the people, nation, societies and individuals. In a such moment full of international tension well as doubts, it is very clear that to support a process for strengthening peace means to object firmly every kind of terrorism with the largest participation of everybody. In this context is it only an utopia to talk about sport as an instrument for peace or sport must be considered an effective path to be embarked on especially for the youngest generations?

It would be great if just sport could set against all that is happening in the world, unfortunately we all know that it’s not enough. What sport can do is to give a contribution, if it was experienced in a correct way, and to be a lesson for the youngest generation.

2004 is going to be a season to remember, 366 days dedicated to sport: Olympic Games, European Football Championship, World Athletics Championship and World Swimming Championship and so on. Can all these sports appointments be a chance of détente and brotherhood?

Certainly such meetings can be a good way for approaching people from different races and nationalities. During a sport match there are no differences of colour, nationality and religion, but sound sport competition only. In Italy, for example, football is often used for sustaining charitable initiatives, a concrete way for communicating with people and making them more sensitive about various problems.

2004 is also the European Year of education through sport: to teach the young people the respect as well as mutual esteem to reach a peaceful and joint coexistence among the members of the different ethnic groups, cultures and religions, which are the main conditions for an authentic peace. Is it possible to reach this objective?

I think it is important to bring up young people through sport, but this can occur only if sport is intended in the right way, that is a moment of union, of sound competition where the win is not always possible, but the fun of shoud be taking part in. We can manage to cancel even those episodes of violence that unfortunately still happen nowadays in the stadiums, in this way only.

We have talked about sports events, but 2004 will be remembered also for another reason, the great historic event concering the new features that Europe is going to take starting from the 1st of May with the widening to Eastern Countries. A single market and the opportunity to improve the standard of living of the new member Countries which is under EU’s average. Considering you have Czech nationality, how do you live this waiting? We are very happy for that occurring; it marks an important turning point in our Country. I am sure this will serve to improve the quality of life in the Czech Republic and that the nation itself with all its activities will take advantage of it.

It isn’t possible to talk with Pavel Nedved about sport and don’t speak about football. You are the winner of “2003 golden ball award” Prague’s lion, a hero for a lot of young people, what do you think about Zdenek Zeman’s words saying that football is very popular with the world not so much out of the importance of companies or business there is around football as out the fact that in every square, in every part of the world there is a child playing and having fun with a ball among his own feels. Today football, sport in general, is even more an industry rather than a game. How do you do to find respect and development of the individual through sports and amusement principles?

Even if it’s true that nowadays sport has become a reality where several economic interests find their place, personally, I continue to experience it like an amusement and I am convinced that many others think like me. I hope young people approaching the football world can experience it in that way, that is, I’ll repeat and I am sure of it, the right way to do.
Since the 9th of April 2003, a date to remember because it corresponds to the downfall of Saddam Hussein’s regime, the Iraqi People goes on dying. Blood even in the most important day for the Shiite Muslim world, the Ashura holy day, which has registered at least 180 dead. The tragic event occurred on the first of May brought the provisional iraqi Government to put off the signing of the Constitution, expected the following day. A text of Constitution suggesting temporary regulations in order to provide for the Country’s management up to the general elections forecast for the end of 2004 and expressly sanctioning the freedom of thought, freedom of the press, of union and freedom of worship, the same treatment before the law with no ethnic and gender discriminations and, eventually the control of the civil power over the military one. The iraqi framework is in a turning point, and now we wonder which role the International Community and UNO can play, firstly to re-establish the stability conditions and to boost development processes. On the occasion of COPPEM’s Presidency Council works, Said El Dakkak, the Vice-Chancellor of the Alexandria University in Egypt and former President of the Commission for Foreign Affairs of the egyptian senate, through an interview doesn’t shirk a consideration without prejudice about the situation and prospects of Iraq’s resumption. «The war in Iraq was originated with the hypothesis there were mass destruction weapons, though never found. An unlawful war, as it was carried out without the intervention of UNO, which is the supreme body peace keeping. Of course the downfall of the Dictatorship was a positive event, but the presence of the occupation forces didn’t improve the situation in comparison with the pre-existent one but it has opened the door for the violence sweeping away a country which is already suffering because of the first iraqi war. This situation could be avoided if UNO had taken up a central role in iraqi crisis, taking the place of Anglo-American forces unilateral actions, since UNO represents the communities and it is also the guardian of world peace. It can be assigned to this international body the task to fill the gap due to the dictatorship downfall, in order to give to iraqi people the chance of creating a system suitable to the iraqi situation and considering the political, economic and religious problems which this country is going through. In any case a political system imposed by the foreign forces should be avoided. On the contrary UNO could coagulate people’s confidence as it is super partes». In detail, how can intervene UNO? UNO has developed considerable expertise in very precarious situation as the iraqi one is. It is necessary to establish a constituent Assembly elected by people. It is up to the citizens, through free elections and with the United Nations help, to choose the form of Government more consistent with their own cultural traditions and their own civil and economic needs. Therefore to lay the bases for the Constitution, to organize the relationships among the authorities, to define the framework of citizens’ rights and dutiesand to ensure public rights/liberties. These are the foundations which, if defined and realized, make the presence of foreign forces no more justifiable. The Iraqi natural resources should be run by a body elected by people, or, in defaults, by the
Then it is a non-existent reason that make the iraqi people feel victim of a unprecedented violence driving them to be on palestinian people's side. It is the same psychological and political situation brought about by the silence of international community in front of arms violence. Violence bring violence and for coming out it is necessary to bring back justice, the essential conditions to reach final peace.

In the present situation, does this point of view seem to be utopian? It is not a utopia and it can just seen a glimmer of hope. People's demonstrations for peace which are being held, by now, all over the world, it seems they are moving towards the right direction. It's up to people to change. History learns it: The military force never could silence a people who cry out for freedom.

United Nations, but by no one else. This is the crux which is explained by people's feelings in Iraq. It is necessary to untie this crux as soon as possible giving the task of natural resources running to Iraq or, as an alternative to United Nations or to a body elected by people working for people’s interest and as for it.

In the present conditions of course it seems not easy the task to give, if necessary, to UNO. The task is not so difficult as in Afghanistan because Iraq has always had its own structure. If the United Nations had discharged the prefigured task they would be supported by a political class able to get under way the development and rebuilding plans for a Country wreaked havoc by the dictatorship and by a never-ending war. Taking a culture of peace it is not enough because it is all-so necessary to work for peace. Peace is inconceivable with no justice bases.

The iraqi situation is the cause of a deep instability but it is not the only one. There is also, in your opinion, a relation with the palestinian situation? We live a situation in which two arab people, the palestinian and iraqi one, are subjected to an unwarranted war. The palestinian issue is brought about by israeli refusal to concede the right of self-determination and independence to those citizens. Unfortunately, the international community didn’t play its specific role in people's opinion, allowing to take a double standard. The iraqi people is suffering an unwarranted war which caused a complete chaos with extraordinary bloodshed. All this could be avoided. The justification, actually, is the presence of mass destruction weapons but these were not found.

FREEDOM FOR INGRID BETANCOURT AND FOR WHO HAS NO VOICE IN THE WORLD

Ingrid Betancourt, Columbian Member of Parliament, activist for human rights has always fought against corruption, for poor economic areas and poverty, believing in peace and democracy. In her country, Colombia, many years of civil war and corruption have drained its wealth, the people oppressed by the marxist guerrillas, paramilitaries and drug alliances has nearly reached its breaking point for a long time. No one dared to protest and give to colombian people another chance, another point of view. Ingrid did it, through her political actions and resolution, establishing an “Oxygen” party causing trouble to drug traffickers and not only to them. On February 23rd 2002 on the way to San Vincente the FARC's squads (Columbian Revolutionary Armed Forces) abducted her along with Clara Rojas, during the electoral campaign for Presidency in order to forbid her to take part in it, to win the elections and to have no voice in the matter. Together with her, some other 3000 people everyday see their own rights encroached upon, held as hostage of a country that live in violence suffering a setback because of a specific international policy and President Uribe indifference. 1,056 towns scattered over the world have appointed her “honorary citizen”, more than 52 towns all over the world arranged on February 23rd, anniversary of the abduction, the First international day of kidnap victims. Ingrid Betancourt not only is a symbol of women fighting for creating something better and fairer, but also of the opposition to strong power's systems. Her abduction avails lots of people’s interest. Mayor of Rome Walter Veltroni, took part together with Lula and the Mayor of Paris and many others international politicians in Bogota demonstration in order to ask for the resumption of talks between Columbian Government and guerrillas for reaching exchange of prisoners with humanitarian objectives. The world needs people like Ingrid, let’s help her to survive. Everyday we ideally wear the white mask, the one put on during the demonstration to give voice to the people who have no voice, to all invisible people. (g.c.)
On the eve of the admission in the EU, the Unification unknown factor between the Greek and Turkish spheres of influence is hanging over the island

Since 1974 the Northern area of Cyprus is occupied by Turkish troops which invaded this area fearing that, after the surprise attack against Makarios, all the island was annexed to Greece. In the occupied area the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (RTCN) was established, recognized as supreme authority only by Ankara but not by the international Community. On the official greek map of the Cyprus Republic, the northern area of the island is actually defined as “Inaccessible Area because of turkish invasion forces”. Even though Cyprus belongs to the Asian Continent, nobody objected to the request for admission in the European Union. Actually in Cyprus two ethnic groups, the greek and the turkish one, live together with a bit of problems. They belong to two Countries which are, or are going to be, in the Union. Greece join it for years and Turkey, that is not european too, is been patiently waiting for its turn, trying to reach the necessary economic parameters, and to amend some laws in more liberal and western terms. In a sense, Cyprus is thought as an offshoot both of Greece and Turkey, and it follows their destiny. Before Cyprus joins the European Union, on 1st May 2004, it was established that for this date if these two territories, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and the Greek one, will be not brought together, for example in a federation, only the Southern Republic will join the Union. On the entry of Cyprus into the European Union, Athens Germanos, the Secretary General of the Union of Cyprus Municipalities has given us this interview:

The signature of the agreement treaties in Athens on April 2003, concluded a long negotiations period. On the 1st of May 2004 together with Malta and other eight countries from Central and Eastern Europe, Cyprus will join the European Union. How do you live this moment?

Joining the EU on 1 May 2004 is a historic moment for Cyprus having journeyed on a long path beginning with an Association agreement with the EEC in 1972, a Customs Union agreement in 1987 and opening negotiations to join the EU in 1998. All this having only become an independent country in 1960 and suffering an invasion by Turkish troops in July 1974 with the subsequent occupation of 37% of the island to this day. Since the application to join the European Community in 1990 it has always been the goal to accede as a united island with a resolution of what is described as the Cyprus problem. The ongoing negotiations between the leaders of the two communities –Greek and Turkish Cypriot- under the auspices of the Secretary General of the UN continue with this goal in mind. If there is no solution to the “Cyprus Problem” before 1 May 2004, the Republic of Cyprus will become a full member of the EU but the “acquis communautaire” will not be enforceable in the occupied areas of the island.

The widening of the European Union is going to be an epoch-making event that will put an end to centuries of divisions. The United Europe will become a stronger, more democratic and more solid continent, with a common

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**Form of government:**
- Presidential Republic

**Capital City:**
- Nicosia (186,500 inhabitants)

**Ethnic groups:**
- Greeks 79%,
- Turks 18%, Armenians 3%

**Neighbouring Countries:**
- Syria, Lebanon, Turkey and Israel

**Official language:**
- Greek, Turkish

**Major religions:**
- Orthodox 77%, Islam 18%, Catholic 3%

**Currency:**
- Cypriot pound (Greek area), Turkish lira (Turkish area)

**Distinguishing marks:**
- It has the only national flag showing the pattern of its Country’s surface
market which will give economic advantages to all its citizens. What are you arranging for this important event? Through the Association Agreements and the Customs Union Protocol with the EU, Cyprus has been preparing for accession through the legislative harmonization process for many years. All opportunities to take part in the institutional organs of the EU have been taken over the years, culminating in observer status in the European Parliament and the Committee of the Regions. Participation in Community Programmes has provided learning experiences in preparation for full membership. The Government of the Republic of Cyprus along with the European Commission Delegation and local NGOs have embarked upon a communication campaign to prepare the citizens for life in the EU after 1 May 2004. At the more popular level, celebrations will be held on 1 May to mark the historic moment in the history of Cyprus with these being all the more significant if it is a united Cyprus that becomes a member of the European Union. Cyprus is the third greater Mediterranean island, it is near Europe but also near Asia and Africa. For a Europe involved in the peace in the Middle East and in the closer examination of historical problems which are the cause of today’s conflicts, Cyprus can be a strong and important support for an interchange with the South. Within the European flag Cyprus can be the natural political bridge between East and West. Which instruments do you plan to use for finding the way of dialogue between two worlds that often don’t communicate with each other? With its geographical position in the eastern Mediterranean, Cyprus has historically had strong links – through peace and occupation – with its Middle Eastern and Southern Mediterranean neighbours. These links have fostered a unique understanding and relationship with many countries that presently feel alienated from the European Union. I am sure that Cyprus will continue to be seen by many of these countries as a bridge, staging post or safe haven, as and when the needs arise, in their developing relationship with the EU. At an institutional level, Cyprus has been involved with and supported the Barcelona Mediterranean Partnership Process and will continue to play a key role in the EU’s policy development in the future. Following the signature of the treaties, approved by their respective citizens through a series of national referen-

dums that followed one another during 2003, the Ministers of the new member Countries are present by now at the meetings of the EU Ministers’ Council and they participate with full rights in the works now in progress concerning the EU’s constitutional reform. Which kind of contribute do you intend to offer to the works concerning the drawing up of the new EU’s Constitution?

Cyprus took a full part in the Convention on the Future of Europe and engaged in discussions within the Committee of Regions and the EU/Cyprus Joint Parliamentary Committee on the issue of a Constitution. As a full member of the EU and following the Nice Summit, Cyprus will be part of the future decision making process regarding the adoption of a Constitution for the European Union. Being a small member state and being situated a long way from Brussels, it is imperative that any new state of affairs takes into consideration these factors and that an efficient model for running European Union affairs is adopted that reflects the community nature of the new Europe. (g.c.)

Nicosia, The former Cathedral of St Sophia
A EUROPEAN LICENCE FOR COPPEM

Time is ripe for the admission as representation body of partnership’s local Powers

Alessandra Prudente
IV Coppem Commission

The fourth General Assembly of Coppem, held in Syracuse at the end of last year, has represented a further step forward in the construction of a solid and lasting partnership among local and regional powers of the Euro-Mediterranean area. Unanimous the hope that Coppem can be soon recognized by the European Union as an international organization on behalf of the local and regional powers of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership. The president Fabio Pellegrini has outlined such an objective. «Since its establishment – he has affirmed – Coppem and its members, have committed themselves in realizing concrete actions that can contribute to the development and to the pacific coexistence among peoples and cultures of the Mediterranean, by giving a remarkable importance to the strengthen of the decentralized cooperation». In those terms, the study on the legislative structure of the decentralized governments of the countries signatories of the “Barcelona Declaration”, drawn up by Francesco Sammaritano, as the expert of the I Commission and presented in Syracuse, represents a first step for further analysis concerning the common problems of the Euro-Mediterranean basin, such as cultural heritage, environment, sociosanitary systems. Such study (which can be looked at the internet website http://www.coppem.org/it/pubblicazioni/rassegna_attivita.asp) makes a comparative analysis of the legislative systems of the 27 Countries local Authorities. In the course of the works the topics of welfare systems as well as the preservation and the valorisation of Euro-Mediterranean cultural patrimony have been debated, sectors that Coppem has promoted for long-time. With regard to welfare systems they have stressed the importance of the conference on “Euro-Mediterranean partnership for local development: welfare systems”, held in Caserta on September 2003 as well as the constitution of the coordination centre of the Euro-Mediterranean sociosanitary Authorities. The main objective of such coordination, presented at Syracuse by Biagio Gennaro, Respon-
among its members, the presentation of proposals and projects. The issue of sports activities have been implemented within a complex network of welfare. In this connection Alberto Botta, provincial president of the CONI of Como and former mayor of Como, and Piero Fagone, regional president of the CONI Sicilia, have indicated, in the field of motor activities, the scope in which new and original forms of cooperation can be realized with positive effects, not only in the sector of health preservation and of the physic wellbeing, but also of tourism and sociality. On the matter, it has been quoted the experience developed in Europe through the islands games, that see involved 18 territorial Autonomies within governments bodies. The General Assembly of Syracuse has been the occasion for presenting the action plan “Coppem local development”, which includes proposals concerning priority themes as welfare and cultural heritage. In particular, apart from the analysis of the administrative organization presented during the works of the Assembly, further studies shall be realized concerning, for example, the impacts of the Barcelona process and the relevant strategies of the European commission and of the single States, the actions of local governments in the Euro-Mediterranean countries. With the presentation of the action plan it has been stressed the importance of the activities addressed to administrators and managers of local Authorities, aimed at their training about spreading information on the opportunities offered by the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, knowledge of the European commission mechanisms for pursuing the objectives of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, capacity building in the participation in calls for proposal, transfer of methodologies and technologies and study of cases and of success realizations. Finally, as to the composition of Coppem, it must be registered the unanimous election of Mr. Adly Hussein governor of Qalibyah, for the position of vice President of the Organization.

EARTHQUAKE IN MOROCCO: CUFFARO OFFERS TO SEND REGIONAL CIVIL DEFENCE TECHNICIAN

On the occasion of the meeting of Coppem Presidency Council, held in Palermo on the last February 28th, in the Standing Committee office, Salvatore Cuffaro, President of the Sicilian Region has received the high institutional offices and Coppem’s representatives, Omar Bahraoui, Mayor of Rabat Municipality and Nikos Papamikroulis, Mayor of Nea Halkidonia. Cuffaro, in this occasion offered to Omar Bahraoui the sending of regional Civil Defence technical staff working for damages census and check of the buildings damaged by the recent earthquake.
The Sicilian Parliament will be giving its full support to the initiatives aiming at the peace making efforts for the Israeli-palestinian conflict and in the iraqi region hoping for re-establishing normality in in full obedience of the international laws. Calogero Speziale, leader of the DS group at Sicilian Parliament, stated in his speech on the occasion of COPPEM General Assembly. «The Sicilian Institutions – he said – are very interested in the euro-mediterranean relations and especially the activity of the standing Committee for the partnership». Mr Speziale MP thinks that «the nearly imminent entry in the European Union of the new partners from Eastern Europe and the new set-up, which is to be hoped for developing with the approval of the European Constitution, can’t however distract our attention from the theme of the Euro-Mediterranean dialogue reinforcement and the relaunching of the Barcelona Process. Actually, the Sicilian Regional Assembly applauds the results reached during last Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Naples of last December 2nd and 3rd, underlines the importance of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliament establishment, observes with attention and interest the birth of the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for Dialogue and Cultures and hopes for the institutionalisation of a decentralized branch of EIB for the management of the FEMIP financial means».

The claiming of a wider role of the Euro-Mediterranean Regions and local Authorities in carrying out the Barcelona Process keeps a main position. Moreover during the recent Conference “United by the Mediterranean», held on last November 27th and 28th in Palermo, required by the Sicilian Regional Government and organized with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs within the Italian Presidency Semester, it was stressed that Euro-Mediterranean Regions and territorial Governments think to have undeniable institutional and operational competence and to be able to give a priceless contribution that can complete the framework for the realization of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. In particular, Regions and Local Authorities are aware of the role they play for the full success of integration policies.

«The Sicilian Region, Mr Speziale asserts, is aware of their own responsibility resulting from the Sicilian central geographical position and its role as hinge of different people cultures, history and religion, and for that reason it has promoted and supported very important initiatives for reinforcing the Euro-Mediterranean regional cooperation. The proposal advanced by President Cuffaro (who also holds the position of President of the CRPM Euro-Mediterranean Commission – Conference of Peripheral and Maritime Regions) takes its place within such policy during the above-mentioned Conference of November 27th and 28th, in order to establish a Work Group among the Mediterranean territorial government bodies, for promoting, overseeing and verifying the implementation of both Euro-Mediterranean and proximity policies, in connection with the role of Regions and local bodies, even in order to make easier the link with intergovernmental and community governments and bodies of the Barcelona Process». Within the Work Group, a role on equal terms shall be ensured to the local authorities of all the Euro-Mediterranean Partners. It has to be pointed out that recently, just the Sicilian Regional Assembly has approved the setting up of a Development Agency for Euro-Mediterranean relationships, whose creation consistently fits in the statute objectives of the Euro-Mediterranean Development Agency (ASEM), born this year under the aegis of COPPEM. Actually it shall take its place in the fabric of Regional Agencies network provided for by ASEM Statute and shall contribute to strengthen the dialogue between Northern and Southern shore, not only in the economic and financial field «So it’s clear – the DS’s leader’s group in conclusion said – that the Sicilian Institutions think necessary for the economic, cultural and human development of Sicilian people, as well as all the peoples of this area, that the Mediterranean becomes again an area of prosperity and welfare, taking into account that a sound and sustainable development can’t exist without ensuring peace and security to all the people from this area.»
IN EGYPT A NEW PLACE FOR DIALOGUE

New vice-president of Coppem Adly Hussein suggests to establish the Foundation “Anna Lindt” in the Library of Alexandria

On the occasion of the General Assembly held in Syracuse, Adly Hussein, Governor of Qailoubiyah (Egypt), appointed vice-president of Coppem, said that he’ll go on to work for realizing in the best possible way Partnership’s objectives established in the Barcellona Declaration. Hussein also confirmed, as ATO’s representative, the Arab Towns Organization has committed itself for the development of Southern countries and all member countries too. The Vice President of Coppem presenting some objectives achievable through Coppem’s activities, said: «Concerning security the European Union at present is working out how to realize a full cooperation among Mediterranean countries, aimed at fighting against terrorism, money laundering, drugs, illegal emigration and organized crime. In the light of this, it is necessary to remember that security is assured by the member Countries in the Valencia Declaration. On human rights protection, we should create a dialogue about these rights and promote the confidence among euro-mediterranean countries in this field».

The Euro-Mediterranean Ministers for Foreign Affairs who joining Barcellona Declaration met in Naples on the first days of last December, proclaimed “the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly” which consists of 240 members equally from Northern and Southern Mediterranean countries to promote the relations among Nations. So which is Coppem’s role in this context and which are its contributions for the success of this project?

«A financing Fund joined the European Investment Bank has been arranged to finance the development projects in the Southern countries and Egypt has been chosen to be one of the two regional headquarters of the European Investment Bank. In relevance to this, I suggest to establish a branch of Coppem development Agency in Egypt in order to integrate the efforts of these two associations to achieve the development for the southern countries. The dialogue among cultures is essential among the Mediterranean countries. The aim of this dialogue is not to change the others but, on the contrary, to make the different territorial realities understand each other and live together in peace». Speaking of opening the way to dialogue, the Egyptian Minister for Foreign Affairs has suggested that the headquarter of the Association for the “Euro-mediterranean Dialogue”, named after Anna Lindt, can be in Alexandria Bibliotheca: «I invite Coppem to support this proposal».

How the widening of the European Union is considered by the Mediterranean interlocutors?

The European Commission agreed on the Document for the European Union Widening, according to a long period program. This Programme provide for: democracy, economic reforms, sustainable development and trade. But the Southern Countries are afraid of such widening because they think it is good only for the Eastern Europe countries. On this point I would like that Coppem members emphasize this issue so that they can work for peace among southern countries. In any case, it is important to make a common front in order to get through the problems there are for a long time. Therefore, it seems necessary to pursue a wide euro- mediterranean strategy in the direction of a cooperative commitment aimed at dissolving distrusts and improving the dialogue as well as the confidence, developing in the South solid civil societies through the improvement of the education standards. In conclusion to work for building developed economies which can allow southern mediterranean countries to implement their trading and economic relations with Europe and to promote an interregional market. Such euro- mediterranean partnership takes a long-term strategic policy which should be supported all along its way. As it has already been asserted, for realising this policy in the Mediterranean strong changes as well as economic, social and political reforms should be brought about.
A EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

Ian Micallef (Malta) points out the European Council initiative as instrument for strengthening democracy

Nino Randisi

Ian Micallef, President of Local Councils Association of Malta, has no doubts: «It must be strengthened democracy in the Countries of the Euro-mediterranean area. Only after establishing democracy grassroots as well as human and women’s rights observance and other issues like these, it will be possible to achieve a real and solid economic, social and cultural development of this wide area». In his speech, on the occasion of the works of the first and third Coppem Commissions, Micallef said: «the Council of Europe has embarked on promoting the European Charter for Local Self Government within the new emerging democracies in the countries that have resorted to democratic principles following the fall of the communist power, especially in the Eastern Europe». The President of Local Councils Association of Malta has also stressed how «it is necessary to represent Coppem’s aims within the Congress and then to propose that the European Council together with the Arab League promotes the European Charter for Local Self Government». In general for Micallef it is of overriding importance «to promote the democratic transition and European integration of local and regional powers, especially in the Eastern Europe through the experiences and know-how exchange and cooperation between local and regional powers; to strengthen democracy and take the necessary steps for rebuilding the confidence (in the same wavelength as the Council of Europe) through intercultural activities, human rights and education to peace values; to promote and protect pluralist as well as multicultural societies effectively; to improve local projects development and where it occurs, the rebuilding of local infrastructure». With regard to the Euro-mediterranean Development Agency, Micallef has taken the opportunity to thank President Fabio Pellegrini and Secretary General Carmelo Motta for the work carried out in this direction, he also has remembered him a number of proposals to establish the Agency on the occasion of the Conference of Palermo. «The establishment of this Agency is one of the matters which reflects the success of Coppem», Micallef in conclusion said.

MUNICIPALITIES FOR CULTURE AND PEACE

Culture as foundation of peace and effective instrument for a real integration among peoples. Joseph Borg, Vice President of the Local Councils Association in Malta, is seriously sure about this and for this reason he think that ”the more municipalities are developed the more culture can be realized, understood as well as preserved and shared”. In Borg’s opinion ”every municipality has something to offer and each of them is eager in sharing its culture with others, especially with the people from our countries. My experience as an elected representative since the establishment of local councils in Malta ten years ago – Borg goes on – can vouch how each of the 68 Local Council has done their best to promote and make others know what of particular each locality has”. The twinning among several municipalities is an aspect of how culture has been shared through this kind of exchanges. “Together with Malta – Borg in conclusion said – which depends mostly on tourism, local authorities started experiencing and organising cultural walks through their localities and exposing many places of great interest to foreigners which normally would only come to enjoy their time sunbathing and swimming”.
Among the aims of COPPEM, there is that of promoting political/programmatic initiatives devoted to local development in the framework of the euro-mediterranean partnership process, to produce spin-off effects for local communities.

With the perspective of defining a clear course in that direction, the Secretariat has recently designed and presented to COPPEM members a long-term Action Plan called “COPPEM Local Development” (COPPEM Operational Plan for Euro-Mediterranean Local Development), effective initiatives of which have already been started.

A first result is the completion of a document on “The legislative structure of decentralized governments of the Barcelona Declaration signatory countries”, where, in a concise and easy to read way, organizational structures and functions assigned to local authorities in each of those countries are reported. This activity intended to offer an useful tool to understand which contribute the authorities could provide to overcome issues related to local development in the different mediterranean areas and which kind of cooperation could be started among similar Administrations.

The developments of such a work, which are today planned and about to be started, are the extension of this analysis to the enlargement Countries that from next May will join the European Union, and a further closer investigation aimed at reporting roles and powers of the different offices (Mayor, Town council, and so on) within local and regional Governments of the 35 Countries.

A further initiative started by the Secretariat is focused on the analysis of impacts, in terms of functional, administrative and operational benefits, that up to now the Euro-mediterranean Partnership has given to local authorities and territories of the Mediterranean Partner Countries.

Provided that the task was very complex since the subjects to deal with are very wide, it has been decided to focus the study at first on two thematic areas: the valorisation of cultural heritage, and the people’s welfare related to health, education and job.

This initiative includes a survey of the EU’s main decisions and recommendations following the works of the Euro-mediterranean Countries’ representatives, a research on the influence of the euro-mediterranean process on the role of Mediterranean Partner Countries local Authorities and their offices, a selection of programmes and projects focused on local areas of these Countries, participated by sub-national partners, and promoted and supported in the euro-mediterranean Partnership framework.

Moreover, implementation of initiatives planned in the above mentioned Action Plan is going on, and a further work concerning the recognition of courses directed towards local areas development, which local Governments and euro-mediterranean Regions have experienced or require to follow, is going to be started.

This analysis will allow to increase exchange of experiences among them and to activate possible cooperations devoted to reach objectives to be shared. As a result, through what has been already started by the “COPPEM Local Development” Action Plan, the Secretariat intends to give Members of COPPEM an information and knowledge basis which could help working out political-programmatic positions, that COPPEM could report and diffuse, for an effective euro-mediterranean process participated by Local Governments and Regions.

In this perspective, further leading initiatives already conceived by COPPEM and which will be further implemented in 2004, such as the establishment of the Euro-mediterranean Development Agency which is going to start operating under the aegis of COPPEM, the establishment of an Euro-mediterranean Health Authorities Coordination Centre of which a memorandum of understanding has been already signed, will concretely make use of the carried out and planned activities of the Action Plan.

Specifically, these activities will support setting up a suitable political-strategic framework, that will inspire, and refer to, operational initiatives which the Agency shall undertake, and will suggest an overall framework on community welfare in the euro-mediterranean area, to which the Coordination Centre could apply.

The above mentioned initiatives of COPPEM make clear that through the integration of different activities like analyses, reviews, creation of new frameworks and operational environments, COPPEM may throw itself to the full achievement of its own statutory objectives.
LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN COMPARISON

A survey of Coppem on legislative and administrative systems of local self governments

Francesco Sammaritano
1 Coppem Commission

It elapsed twelve years from the birth of European Community, in 1957, to the signature of commercial agreements with Maghreb and other Mediterranean countries, in 1969. It was rather in the context of the Paris Summit of EEC Heads of State and Government, held in 1972, that for the first time a global, Mediterranean approach was introduced, making, since the beginning, a Mediterranean policy and global concept an inseparable pair, though difficult to achieve. Only in the late 80’s did the weakness of the Mediterranean policy begin to be felt as a more and more pressing concern, especially by the Economic and Social Committee (ESC), the body of the European Community representing economic and social settings. The restructuring need, raised by CES, and its co-development proposal, gave rise to a debate leading first, in 1992, to a limited reform of the Mediterranean policy, complemented with the relevant “MEDA Programmes” and, then, in 1995 continued by the Barcelona Conference, which established the partnership. The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership is addressed to a closer cooperation between the two Regions affecting several fields, such as the political, economical and social ones. This will be a further leap forward when the Free Trade area will be achieved, in the year 2010. In this view, bilateral cooperation agreements between the EU and Mediterranean southern bank countries were reached, or rather re-focused. The current procedures pertaining to the pursuing of the Free Trade Area should operate in order to allow a sound and decisive reform of political and institutional systems in the Mediterranean southern bank countries. The differences existing between legislative systems become more marked and evident, if different local legal systems are analysed. As a matter of fact, the gaps existing between the power structure and the municipal Government administration system are evident among the local Bodies of the two Mediterranean banks countries. Furthermore, the dichotomy affects both EU Member states as far as the legislative systems regulating local Bodies are concerned, and the Mediterranean Southern bank Countries, whose systems change from country to country, often even within the same regional frameworks. This study, which is based upon a comparison among legislative systems of Local Bodies, will contribute to better understand how Local Authorities systems in the territories of the concerned 27 countries are organised, how life in the different towns is managed from an administrative and political point of view, as well as, the election procedures concerning institutional representatives of Local Authorities. This, stems from the consideration that through the Free Trade Area the role of Towns will grow and basically change. Indeed, the Free Trade Area will affect local communities, which, as stated above, are marked by totally different legal systems. This is, according to us, one of the most topical issues. To take a simple example, during the 8 years left before the year 2010 which criteria will be followed to detect areas to be urbanized according to industrial, commercial, private housing standards? Will national regulations be fully applied or will Local Bodies regulations, which in this field change from country to Country, be applied? We are talking about town planning, building concessions and authorization, roadding, water and power sources retrieval, all extremely important issues, especially for huge areas like the Mediterranean southern bank ones. It is by dwelling upon this topic that it can be noticed that this study aims at being preparatory to other initiatives to be undertaken. In particular, reference is made to the opportunity to supply to those Institutions and Organizations involved in the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation project, targeted information and frameworks encouraging and promoting coordination and synergies, both in the political, strategic and operational fields. The final goal is to plan the growth of interest in this area, taking into account the current institutional structure and the needs felt at a regional level.
The initiative shall include communitarian welfare promotion. The cooperation prospect created in the Caserta meeting

Biagio Gennaro Gaspare Motta

The initiative of establishing a coordination among Health Authorities and/or Agencies for Social Development working in the 27 countries of the Euromediterranean Partnership is one of the commitments undertaken in the Caserta Declaration at the end of the Conference on September 25th 26th 2003. It is well known the experience of the Italian Local Health Authorities Network, which pursue the promotion strategy of community welfare systems, (Treviso, Palmanova, Caserta, Messina and others), using the methodology of personal rehabilitative projects (treatment budget) that give the new achievement of the full citizenship right, building real opportunities to reach the rights to house, to work and to social relations and creating ethical economic systems at the same time.

Such projects, envisage a package of goals-resources targeted and planned on individual level, joining resources from personal, family, private and public social framework and negotiating with the interested persons, who change financial resources till now attributed to very often highly demanding institutions back with boundless and generally far-fetched rehabilitation. The treatment budget management procedures envisage the joint responsibility of private non-profit, families and individuals, voluntary services and associations, compound ties and giving the citizenship value to the people cooperating both for their own and community good.

The main aim of the international network is going to develop Euromediterranean networking on community welfare topics. In a really plural Mediterranean framework that is characterized by very marked socioeconomic inequalities between north and south, the free trade prospects cause many worries. Actually to connect so hard unequal economic systems could have progressive and unfair enriching of the richer countries to the detriment of the poorer ones (see for example Stiglitz, 2001-2002). So there is a great need to create links, relations, concrete and mutual terms at cultural level as well as at economic and social cohesion ones.

The Euromediterranean Network of Agencies for health and promotion of the Community Welfare have the mission to compare experiences of different Mediterranean countries and promote community actions and personalized health practises, thought out and developed within a systemic approach supporting a joint redistributive economy, environment, cultural heritage, human resources and social cohesion as well as personal care promotion. More in detail the strategic idea about which we mean to work for inclusion policies is to promote at the same time as well as in a interdependent way, ethical socio-economic systems (as the only real chance to expedite democratic chancing processes) through the realization of personalized inclusion projects.

On the methodological and interdependent level it is necessary to promote the culture and practice of the systemic work, the study, the research...
based on holistic standards in terms of environmental and social sustainability. On operating level to promote ethical socio-economic systems means: to promote projects for easy access and equal opportunities in the social adoption terms; to promote processes of social healing and urban renewal; to promote territorial socio-educational agreements to promote economy patterns on cluster and cluster networks, following social and environmental responsibility standards as well as study and training actions. As when we talk about personalized projects we think about basic rights promotion like respectable and self-sufficient living, socialization and relations, continuing training, creativity, work and social self – entrepreneurship. The Network objectives are to promote the health and social cohesion of the territories along with partnership networks creation, the exchange and the intersections of different cultural productions, local sustainable co-development and supporting the democracy processes building; to promote, strengthen and support joint economy networks.

For reaching these objectives it will be necessary to think over new patterns of local development and communication suited for giving special attention to the central position and rights of every individual and so suited for steering again the social services market to community welfare forms.

In the different countries it will be tested methodologies, innovative organizational tools and patterns for making every individual’s right to work real, in particular for the people excluded from the development. The boost to “partnership” nature of the welfare system must be close to the building of new relation forms among the actors variety taking part in the realization of social welfare right from today. In those terms it is going to be started to define a strategy of community welfare carried out with mixed management modalities. This new standard of approaching to the social and socio-medical problems can be turned into innovative organizational lines taking the networks complexity and steering them to development projects, to new forms of “economy with social quality”. Then it should be carried out innovative tools mix - infrastructure – in order to ensure the sustainability of the social entrepreneurship experiences and the organizational, technical, social and relational quality of enterprises and services. The Euromediterranean Health Network will be a highly innovative experience at international level for the following reasons:

1. it is highly regenerative and reproductive;
2. it produces both social cohesion and local system willingness, so placing itself on the only strategic prospect suited to promote some change, to cause territory attracting responsibly resources and know how and to promote redistributive economies;
3. it promotes welfare models aimed at empowerment processes as a mix of individuals and communities;
4. it produces solid sharing forms that reach the height achievable co-governing level;
5. it develops a very interesting building mix networking a model suitable for being partly both in public and private market.
6. it turns the best practises and developed testing into special but systematic actions aimed at contaminating on one hand local systems and policies (horizontal target), on the other planning options and local, national and european regulations (vertical target).

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**IN RABAT (MOROCCO) IT WAS ESTABLISHED CCRA (CONSEIL DES COMMUNES ET REGIONS D’AFRIQUE)**

In Rabat, Morocco, was established CCRA (Conseil des Communes et Régions d’Afrique). Father Smangaliso Mkhatshwa, Mayor of Pretoria, the South Africa’s capital city, has been elected as its President. The aim of this Association, created, as it is reminded, by the African Cities Union (UVA), is that of promoting decentralized cooperation among african communities and developing partnerships in order to make the local african communities join the international cooperation flow. In the next weeks are going to be held the first meetings for drawing up an initiatives programme aimed at achieving the pre-arranged objectives.

(g.c.)
From left: Nikos Papamikoulis, Lino Motta, Fabio Pellegrini, Adly Hussein, Jaques De Grave