EDITORIAL

by Piero Fagone

Coppem deploys that rich heritage of political, technical and organizational experiences offered by its members and operational structures, which find in the four Commissions established within the Committee, an important seat of proposal and synthesis. The Presidency Bureau has indicated the fronts along that the Commissions are called to develop their work. Programmes and projects that have, as common denominator the realization of new, concrete and systematic perspectives of economic and cultural cooperation and fresh process of social integration, already start to be outlined. Every path is referable to the common code of a serious effort and the local authorities worked as a mark of peace and civil co-existence on that. Coppem preserves unchanged its guideline along the axis of an efficient cooperation between different communities, according to inspiring principles and aims under the Euro Mediterranean Partnership. Coppemnews intends to support, on the information, dissemination and documentation field, the commitment that, in this direction, will be lavished by the Standing Committee Bodies and, just from this number, starts to provide to the readers a great view of subjects discussed in that seats. We start with the transport field in the perspective of a progressive Euro Mediterranean integration of strategic infrastructural network. The work session, that 3rd Commission representatives will have next days in Bizerte according to a productive collaboration spirit, will be devoted to the questions tied to the development of this process and to the local authorities implication in this field.

This journal, since almost 5 years, shows the Committee activities, resisting to always present temptation to be self referential, giving instead to the executed Coppem work an external projection in the communication of proximity dimension and namely of impact that different drawn initiatives have on the local authorities. In this perspective Coppemnews will continue to be published increasing the horizon to the topics that are of competence of the other Commissions and above all to the effects that programmes and projects could have in the territorial realities, in order to facilitate the consensus and participation enlargement.

A strong thread ties Committee activities, which are all connected to precise strategic lines for development, cooperation and peace. In the framework of these great options for the future of the euro - mediterranean community, peace and co-existence are the ones which have a preliminary nature. Coppem has made reference to that when, being inspired by almost near Olympic Games celebration, has organised in Athens, where they will be welcomed, the colloquium dedicated to “Sport and Peace” in order to reinforce the wider and wider demand to realize the “Olympic Truce”, a sign of great political, ethical and social meaning in the more general perspective to increase the difficult way to the peace. An important contribution was given with the comparison between statesmen and local administrators, political leaders and Members of Parliament, big champions and sporting experts in order to define new models for the sporting activity promotion as an element of social relations, psychophysical youth education and physical well-being preservation. Moreover the topic on technicians and leaders training in the framework of a closer cooperation amongst the euro-mediterranean regions and cities has been underlined, through Sporting Schools teaching offer.
achieving peace even through the Olympic Truce, which should be a good-will time in view of the imminent Olympic Games that are coming back in Athens, where this sportive event “par excellence” was born. The Sicilian Region together with Coppem have turned to peace, by organizing the VI Mediterranean Colloquium focusing on “Sport and Peace”, under the aegis of the European Commission, the patronage of the Italian Republic Presidency and in collaboration with CONI, TEDKNA and KEDKE.

On last March 26th, at Zappeion Megaron Palace in Athens, it was held the important event that is destined to mark a further stage for the rough path of the international relations in the Mediterranean region. The Conference followed the ceremony for the Olympic Torch lighting which, after Olympia, will go round five continents before coming back to Athens to light the Olympic torch in the opening day of the Games. On the VI Mediterranean Col-

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At Zappeion Palace in Athens, prestigious personalities of the athletic world and politicians have met to talk about peace

Many others before him had tried to revive the memorable events of the ancient Olympic Games, but without success. Pierre De Coubertin did not easily take his mind off his own dream and in 1896 he brought the Olympic Games ancient glories back, he chose Athens as ideal place, because the home nation had to be Greece. In a world torn by wars, violence and terrorist attack, sport plays a leading and essential role in achieving peace even through the Olympic Truce, which should be a good-will time in view of the imminent Olympic Games that are coming back in Athens, where this sportive event “par excellence” was born. The Sicilian Region together with Coppem have turned to peace, by organizing the VI Mediterranean Colloquium focusing on “Sport and Peace”, under the aegis of the European Commission, the patronage of the Italian Republic Presidency and in collaboration with CONI, TEDKNA and KEDKE.

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loquium agenda there were important contributions with the aim to launch a message of peace. The peace theme, which is also a subject the CIO Commission for the Olympic Truce has at heart, was widely discussed and shared by many opinion leaders attending the conference. The works were opened by Fabio Pellegrini, President of Coppem, to which followed the speeches by: Stravos Lambridinis, Ambassador of the Olympic Truce, Euripide Stylianidis, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Greece), Piero Fagone, President of CONI in Sicily and CONI representative, Theresa Zabell (Spain), Member of the European Parliament and Vice President of the European Commission for Education, Communication, Youth and Sport as well as Sail Olympic Champion for two times, Kyriakos Tsouros, Protopresbyter and Representative of the Orthodox Church in the Southern Europe, Gerg Feller (Germany) Responsible for Foreign Missions- Diocese of Limburg, Adly Hussein (Egypt), Governor of Qalubiya and Coppem Vice President, Fernando Reis (Portugal), Editor of the “Jornal do Algarve”, Iris Magdowski, Mayor of Stuttgart, Nikos Papamikroulis (Greece), Mayor of Nea Halkidonia and Vice President of Coppem, Mohammed Aissa Hedi (Tunisia), Director of Cabinet of the Ministry of Sport, Othman Al Sa’ad, Secretary General of the Arab Sports Confederation.

Before the speeches the following personalities addressed their welcome to the participants in the conference: Petros Filippou, President of Attica Region Tedkna and Mayor of Kalivia, Thanassis Veijrjannis, Secretary General Greek Ministry of Internal Affairs, Labros Mischos, Mayor of Agia Varvara Municipality and Representative of Kedke, Fofj Yennimata, High Prefect of Attica Region, Elefherios Skiaiada, President of Youth and Sport Commission in Athens, Dimotris Argianasa President of Amphictyonia. Amongst the sports personalities, there were: Livio Berruti, Olympic Champion and world record holder (athletics), Eddy Ottoz, world record holder in the hurdle race (athletics) and member of CONI Committee, Giuseppe Abbagnale, Olympic Champion and Vice President of the Italian Boat Racing Federation.

“Sport and Peace, it is a simple combination that carries in only two words the essence of the human life, a life full of fights, struggles, and sometimes war and sport is its ideal transfiguration, since it is ruled and led by the same principles of justice, fairness and observance of the rules” Livio Berruti said in his speech, the world record holder has gone on saying: "Sport language is the same all over the world, its rules are shared by everyone as well as the starting line during the competitions is the same for everybody. And when is the best who, rightly, first crosses the finishing line, this win is seen as a further goal to get better for the next competitions".

"With this conference it is necessary to launch a real message of Peace - Eddy Ottoz said taking part in the discussion - a peace without classifications and epithets as well, a goal to be achieved as soon as possible. The news items occurred around here in the last few days get me worried, but with no hesitation, however the hurdles were my field. In this framework, every gesture, even though symbolic as our gesture is, can do very much as to awakening the public opinion of the countries we are addressed to".

"On the last 11th of March ten explosions in quick succession have struck Spain, on three packed commuter trains, at the rush hour: 201 dead, 1427 injured. It was slaughter in Madrid, hit on the eve of the general election on the following sunday. Starting from 7.30 a.m., ten bombs, one after the other, blew up in three railway stations, amongst them two at Atocha, which is a basic railway junction for the town traffic, striking two regional and one high-speed trains packed with commuting workers". Theresa Zabell has started off with remembering this sad event, she could not avoid to mention, also clearly worked up, the slaughter which caused pain and death. "The sacrifice of many people, she said, has to strengthen inside us peace feeling, commit all of us even more to the hard fight for making the peoples live in peace with each other, and in this direction Sport can do very much".

Among the Olympic myths remarks, it was very significant also that by Giuseppe Abbagnale. “Talking about peace in a place where the Olympic Games are going to be held in a few
months’ time – the Boat Racing Champion said – get me extremely worked up, but I still must point out that we live in an epoch of mediocrity, indifference and individualism, where life is regulated by market rules. In the market goods and products are exchanged following rules suggested by personal interests, profit and consumption; the only thing which has no market and not producing GDP is peace. This statement, at first, could seem blasphemous: no one dares to rule out peace; everybody knows its importance and value, but only at talking. There is no such a thing as peace, there are men and women of peace that are bringing about peace and serenity with their actions. Thereby playing sport should join in peace the people from the five continents whose best representatives challenge each other in sports competition. My sports story make me think that pursuing peace through Olympism is still possible. As

a message, the Arab Sport Confederation congratulated the Standing Committee for Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, and has expressed its highest consideration for the efforts the Committee exerted to organize this VI Mediterranean Colloquium and its incessant endeavors aimed at promoting Sport for peace in our area as well. The Arab Sport Confederation has expressed its high approval for the establishment of Coppem on the occasion of the 1st Plenary Assembly, held in Palermo November 2000, following the setting up of the regulations agreed upon at Gaza on July of the same year. As all we really know – it is said in the message – sport is an extraordinary social phenomenon which had always attracted everybody’s attention as well as animated the collective imagination since ancient times. Sport is one of the most important meeting chance and acquaintance amongst peoples, and it represents a wide fertile ground for closer relations in the framework of a peaceful process. Sport was and still is the ideal field to abate and to get over barriers created by the historical-political conflicts among nations. Through sports meetings which aim at breeding youth on physical, mental and social level, sport spreads that attitude of friendship and competition to build a concrete and rational youth. So long as one the Standing Committee targets is to promote cooperation for sport’s valorization at local level, in the State members regions and to incite them to really participate in it, the Arab Sport Confederation will never hesitate to give its contribution for ascertaining these targets with its technical experience and knowledge. The Sports Confederation – in conclusion – thinks sport and peace are two faces of the same coin, it follows that sport takes up its own rules by peace, equity and justice principles. It goes without saying that where politics is not able sport performs.

the fall of the Berlin wall. So I could see that sometimes sport meets with the decisions of the States but many times it can be the driving force behind peace. In a few months we will compete in Athens, where in 1896 the Games were born again and where about a thousand athletes from all over the world are going to get together. On this occasion I will be there as manager – Abbagnale said in conclusion – it is the first time I take part in the Olympic Games not as athlete, and even if we are living a hard eve due to the facts occurred in Madrid I am sure that, for not yelding to ideological and cultural terrorism, the Olympic Games will be a great peace celebration which thousand people will be able to watch through media. So I hope that common sense and peace attitude, driving force of the humankind, prevail and the Olympic Truce will be respected in every place all over the world as it was in the acient times.

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The statement by David Costa, regional councillor in charge of Presidency

Sport, if fully referred to its own primitive values, might contribute, in real terms, to start and strengthen new peace processes along with cultural, social and educational fronts. Sport means competition, but it is also respect for the rival, solidarity as well as an opportunity of exchange and mutual acquaintance and understanding. Facing the irrational threat of terrorism and conflicts escalation in the Middle East or among the ethnic groups of some African regions, it is necessary to embark on all the possible paths for mending the tear caused to the fragile fabric of the coexistence among people and different communities too. Sport may be one of these paths if this extraordinary and fascinating phenomenon is brought back to its own basic connotations or rather to its overall features which are solidarity and cooperation principles. Today as we are called to give more and more meaningful contents to the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, I think that sports activities can take part with full rights in this important strategy through new collaboration forms and initiatives aiming at fostering social and cultural integration. For example when we ask us about the future of many immigrants’ children in the European Countries and about their problems for a real integration we may consider sport. A lot of examples could be made on this field. But what is important, it is still to understand the real disponibility, the political goodwill for achieving those cooperation processes which the Barcellona Conference indicated us as the main path for contributing to establish and keep peace in the Mediterranean area. The Sicilian Region firmly believes in such a perspective so much that the Sicilian Parliament has been discussing some proposals of alteration to the regional Self-Government Statute. Well, among the principles that we are thinking to introduce in the Statute, that concerning the relations within the Mediterranean area has a particular importance. The commitment of the Sicilian Region, in support of sports activity as well as for the promotion and diffusion of sport practice, is dated back to thirty...
years ago at least, when the first intervention law was approved. In the programmatic regulation of that legislative procedure sport’s high values and its basic function within our community, as essential factor for education as well as social and civil development were included. Today there is a better knowledge of the sport’s role. The specific regulation introduced by the European Convention in the “Threaty Project establishing a Constitution for Europe” is an evidence of this. In the article 182 is stated that the Union contributes to promote the european sport challenges, considering its social and educational role and that its action aims at developing the european dimension of sport by promoting the impartiality in the competitions and the cooperation among sports bodies as well as taking care of phisical and moral sportsmen integrity, especially of the young ones. Considering the guidelines expressed in the European Convention, I think all of us, as Local Authorities representatives, have to point out the issue of the possible introduction of sport as important and basic element in our Statutes, in the perspective to make it really a fruitful instrument of cooperation.

In Sicily a qualified organization for a technical-scientific training of the operators in the sport sector is been working for a long time, it is the CONI (Italian National Olympic Committee) Regional School of Sport which keeps on carrying out its teaching programmes as well as research activity also through the financial support of the Region. Together with the International Committee for the Mediterranean Games the School promoted a training course for teachers while in the past it held a workshop in the Countries of the Mediterranean Region in order to find new forms of collaboration. I have mentioned this example because I am sure that Local Authorities – both Regions and Cities – can find a point of contact and cooperation and, along this path, they can give their basic contribution for peace. Starting with the Agencies for Development, the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership gives us new instruments. The Sicilian Region has already established one of these agencies in order to get provide with an effective operational instrument while it is waiting for more suitable decisions, at european level, to give substance to those necessary structures for making the Partnership actions easier, like for example a new seat of the European Investment Bank. The Conference of the Regions, held in the last few months in Palermo, has given good results by opening new and more incisive forms of dialogue between the Mediterranean Countries and European Union.

STANDING COMMITTEE FOR EUROMEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP

VI Mediterranean Colloquium “Sport and Peace”

Resolution

The Representatives of the Regions and Cities of the 27 Countries joining Euro-mediterranean Partnership, Religious, Political and Civil Authorities, sports Executives and Athletes who was Olympic medal and established world records in different sports disciplines, which are expression of the wide international sportive community, gathered in Athens, on March 26th 2004, to participate in the VI Mediterranean Colloquium on the topic “Sport and Peace” organized by the Sicilian Region and Coppem, under the aegis of Professor Romano Prodi, President of the European Commission, the Italian Republic Presidency and with the collaboration of CONI, COJ, ASC, TEDKNA and KEDKE

fully conscious that Sport, since ancient times, has been a full significant social phenomenon which promotes ethical, cultural and educational values, today with hope and trust they look on Sport as an aggregation and integration factor as well as a vehicle of peace and brotherhood among peoples for its extraordinary power to throw down prejudice, discriminations and artificial barriers;

ask the European Commission and Parliament, the States joining Euro-mediterranean Partnership, Organizations which represent the arab and european local Self-governments, to develop new and effective policies for Sport, on the direction of the positive choice produced by the Convention which in the Project of Treaty establishing the European Constitution has included Sport together with Education, professional Training and interventions aimed at young people.

In front of the tragic attack which the international terrorism launched against civil society and democracy and the worsening of the conflict in the Middle East, they firmly condemn the resort to violence as well as war and appeal so that more suited solutions can be pursued through policy and international law.

finally, they appeal to all the States in order to keep, during the period of the Games, “the Olympic Truce”, which is a contribution to the pursuit of peace.

Athens, Zappion Megaron Palace, 26 March 2004
PEACE, SPORT, HUMAN RIGHTS: VALUES THAT CANNOT BE RENOUNCED

Speech by Amal Hamad El Fahran - Minister for Municipal Affairs (Jordan)

Amal Hamad El Fahran, Jordan, Minister for Municipal Affairs, who was present in Athens, said in her speech: "The earlier peace movement has been well investigated by historical peace research. The period from 1888 to 1914 is regarded as an epoch making leap forward to an effective political internationalism. Two distinct but closely cooperating international organizations started their work in Paris, the Antiparliamentary Union with its annual conferences for deputies of constitutional States and the annual Universal Peace Congresses for promoting a wide variety of peace societies from utopian to realistic pacifism. Since 1892, organized by the International Peace Bureau at Bern and Geneva, the Parliamentarians formed the core of the movement. They operated within constitutionally unavoidable national institution and advocated transnational obligations, they also operated in non-governmental organizations. The fact that they had their headquarters in Switzerland was symbolic of the programme of neutrality through international law, the Court of Justice at the Hague as an arbitration institution and with Free Trade. Pierre de Coubertain must have noticed this model for international private organizations, he had contact with almost half of the Nobel Peace Prize Winners, some of them were his friends. In 1894 he listed five of them under the honorary members of the IOC Foundations Congress, he knew them at this early time through their work for peace, but for the first prize glamour was recognised as the most important one 7 years were necessary later in 1901. The basic ideas of the peace movement sprang from the fact that the States had already established republican order by means of constitutive law. The Nations committed to human rights achieved the maturity and so were able to organize external relations on the same legal footing in the service of peace and prosperity. Peace seemed and could be organizable through international law. Internationalism, which acknowledges the diversity of nations was put forward in contrast to the monotony of a superficial cosmopolitism. In an internationally regulated contest of Nations, national honour has its place. Love for one's own country is brought into general love for humanity. An "enlightened patriotism" abstains from discrimination against the other nations, although conflict is a creative life principle towards higher stages of civilizations. This credo of the peace movement felt itself supported by the trend towards internationalism in many areas of life as a given historical development, sport is one of them. De Coubertain's Olympism is not a part of political peace-making by international law and rational arbitration, but Olympism means sport and peace related to internationalism through competition in a mood of mutual friendship among athletes, spectators, and Nations taking part in it. Olympism can also be an intellectual peace contribution for mutual respect of Nations. Peace and Sport for everybody are human rights".

"Love for one's own country is brought into general love for humanity. An "enlightened patriotism" abstains from discrimination against the other nations"
STATEMENT IN SUPPORT FOR THE OLYMPIC TRUCE

The idea of the Olympic Truce “Ekecheiria” dates back to an ancient Hellenic tradition. In keeping with this tradition all hostilities would cease during the Olympic Games. The Olympic Truce was fully respected for twelve centuries of Olympic Games in antiquity. In 1992, the International Olympic Committee urged the international community to observe this tradition anew, calling for all hostilities to cease during the Olympic Games, and beyond. Since then, numerous initiatives to promote understanding and peace through sport in communities around the world have been developed with the cooperation of National Olympic Committees. In July 2000, the International Olympic Committee and the Government of Greece established the International Truce Center. This Center seeks to further promote the observance of the Olympic Truce. The United Nations General Assembly, with the strong support of all of our countries, has five times called on member states to observe the Olympic Truce, individually and collectively, most recently in its Millennium Declaration in September 2000, with the signatures of over 160 Heads of States and Government. Today the Olympic Truce has become an expression of mankind’s desire to build a world based on the rules of fair competition, humanity, reconciliation, and tolerance. Moreover, the Olympic Truce epitomizes a bridge from the old and wise tradition to the most compelling purpose of today’s world— the maintenance of international peace and the promotion of multicultural dialogue, cooperation, and understanding. The period of the Olympic Games, and beyond, should provide an opportunity for such a dialogue and the search for durable solutions for the restoration of peace in all areas of conflict, where the first victims are the children, the youth, women, and the aged. Humanity’s quest is for a world free of hatred, terrorism, and war, where ideals of peace, goodwill and mutual respect form the basis of relations among peoples and countries. The goal may still remain elusive, but if the Olympic Truce can help us to bring about even a brief respite from conflict and strife, it will send a powerful message of hope to the international community.

We, the undersigned urge world leaders, Governments, and International Organizations, to give peace a chance and to agree to join efforts to use the Olympic Truce as an instrument to promote peace and reconciliation in areas of conflict and strife;

We pledge to exercise our best efforts that the Olympic Truce appeal is observed in our countries and in our region during the upcoming Olympic Games as a way of promoting goodwill and encouraging the peaceful settlement of conflicts in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

And we pledge to support and disseminate, individually and collectively, the symbolic call for Olympic Truce throughout all future Olympic Games and beyond, and to exercise our best efforts within our communities, countries, and relevant international organizations to achieve its recognition and observance.

ELISABETH GATEAU IS THE FIRST CGLU SECRETARY GENERAL

On Sunday 2nd of the last May, the founding congress of CGLU (United Cities and local Governments) was opened at Paris in the presence of French Republic President Jacques Chirac and Portuguese Republic President Jorge Sampaio as well as in the presence of cities and local authorities representatives from more than one hundred countries all over the world; a historical day for the recognition of the role of the cities and local governments which have to deal with the more and more urgent challenges of the contemporary world. The CGLU aims at favouring the socio-economic and cultural development of the world in order to improve people’s life conditions. The commitment of Elisabeth Gateau, CGLU Secretary General, is that of ensuring the connections, transparency and democratic feature both of its functioning and decisions to be adopted. Today, a new epoch is going to start – the Secretary General said - through the three founding organisations, UIA, FMCU, and METROPOLIS which have been working for years to safeguard democracy and to promote local autonomies and for the decentralisation in the service of the citizenry.
THE OLYMPIC FIRE LIGHTS PEACE AGAIN

It is necessary to promote the dialogue and coexistence among all the peoples.

Fernando Reis
Editor of the daily newspaper "Jornal do Algarve"
Villa Real de S. Antonio, Portugal

"Oh Sport you are peace". Baron Pierre De Coubertain, father of the modern Olympic Games whose first edition was held in Athens on June 23rd 1894, declared it forever. After 1500 years the last Olympic Games, they born again thanks to Pierre De Coubertin. Far from paltry nationalism, the peoples were to take part in a pacific competition. The most important thing, beyond hatred, rivalries, ethnic discrimination, was to compete in a framework where all the participants have taken the same criteria of physical excellence and rivalry. 295 athletes from 13 countries took part in these first games of the modern era. In a world deeply troubled by wars, occupations, acts of terrorism and many other forms of violence, De Coubertin's words are even more relevant and full of meaning. We can't forget that, in this atmosphere of strong strained relations the world is living, on the next summer, two great sports events will be held: European Football Championship in Portugal and the Olympic Games in Athens. And if in the ancient times the olympic torch which was a symbol of purity, equality and peace between nations, burning in the Hera's altar, established a temporary truce of the wars among cities during the games, today, on the contrary, the wars never stop and sports events have become an opportunity for threatening peace. We are going in a new millennium, as more and more thinking men and it is supposed civilized, but without any doubt barbarism as well as intolerance and war never stop for any reason. We live in a violence culture, broaden out by media, against which it is necessary to create a peace culture. Sport should be an essential component to promote ethic and moral values contributing to peace and world cooperation. Sport – except for some negative phenomena, as doping and violence manifestations – can help us in building up this peace. The International Gymnastics and Sport Chart, approved by the United Nations in 1978 intends to stress that "through cooperation and common interests protection in the gymnastics and sport field, universal language par excellence, the peoples will contribute to keep a durable peace, mutual respect as well as friendship in order to create a right climate for global problems solution". “The International Year for a Culture of Peace” has been celebrated with the same purpose. Its aim was promoting “a transition to a culture of peace, which promotes values, bents and behaviours reflecting and supporting coexistence and equality, built on freedom, justice, democracy, tolerance and solidarity principles”. However if sport reveals an indisputable ability to promote solidarity and brotherhood values both in its educational meaning and on the competitive level, a real and durable peace can be achieved only through a greater social justice, more equality, less poverty and new policies promoting dialogue and coexistence among the peoples apart from their cultural and religious differences. It will always be hard that sport gives De Coubertin's peace message as there are situations of hunger as well as poverty, social discrimination, ethnic and religious conflicts, and a hegemonic, haughty and intolerant idea of the world. Moreover really sport, because of a growing social marginality, from which the richest countries are not excluded, is going to be victim of violence. The mediatization of the sportive phenomenon has contributed to point out some aspects of this violence during some competitions, in and out the sportive framework. From our point of view, sport has to benefit by social conditions ensuring everybody the access to physical training and sport practice in order to perform its pedagogic function in training to peace, in a learning process coaching the body as well as handing on tolerance and respect values for cultural differences, the respect for the others and the importance of general efforts. Also in an educational logic we can and have to take advantage of the big competitions as well as sportsmen popularity, by using media, particularly the television, to spread a message of peace, friendship and understanding among the peoples by promoting, at the same time, the virtues of a healthy sportive practice. But the sport message, and that of the big sportive events in particular, is the brotherly competition among athletes from different countries and the coexistence among peoples which have not the same culture and do not share the same ideals. This pluralist coexistence among peoples, races, cultures and different creeds should inspire the modern societies, promoting a political and ideological pluralism consolidation. Said this, the best we can wish on the eve of these two great sportive events, as Euro 2004 and the Olympic Games of Athens are, is that both of them have the right to the "Olympic Truce".
The Cyprus problem and, in the future, this problem can not be used as obstacle in joining the European Union by Turkey and for its relations with Greece. The Hürriyet newspaper remembers, on the contrary, that now is the moment to lift economic sanctions on the Turkish Republic of the Northern Cyprus, established in 1983, but recognized only by Turkey. Two important outcomes that could be achieved also thanks to the Greek-cypriot 'no'. The Greek area in Cyprus is economically much more developed than the Turkish one which has a mean income by far lower: all this was possible with the international aids which allowed Nicosia to develop itself by reaching the requisites for admission but leaving out the Turkish area under a hard political and economic embargo and forced to rely only on Ankara for a period of ten years. So Cyprus that joins the EU is a torn country showing lights and shadows. In the north the age-old problem of the 35 thousand Turkish soldiers stationed over the green line dividing with a wall the capital city remains unresolved, in the south Nicosia is seen with suspicion because of its image of tax haven. The positive aspect is given by the fact that, thanks to its geographic position, the island of Cyprus can be the bridge between the European Union and Middle East, becoming the natural place for every kind of negotiation and dialogue between both the shores.

On April 24th 2004, 480 thousand Greek-cypriots and 150 thousand Turkish-cypriots have been called to express themselves with a referendum about the peace plan for the reunification suggested by the United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan. The negotiations between Turkish-cypriots and Greek-cypriots which were in a stalemate after two failures (a year ago and in the last march) had persuaded Annan to submit a further draft of the reunification plan at Buergenstock (Switzerland), hoping to reach an agreement. If the "ayes" have carried the day in both the communities it would put an end to the island division and a reunified Country would join Europe on the 1st of May.

On the contrary, the "noes" by one of the two parts, would bring about the entry of only the Greek-cypriots. That's the way it went: despite both the UNO and EU pushed for an agreement between the two areas it wasn't reached. As Turkey expressed its support, Greece, through its Premier Costas Karamanlis, had asserted its opposition to the agreement possibility planned by Annan. Even a meeting convened in extremis with both Premiers of Greece and Turkey, Karamanlis and Tayyip Erdogan, couldn't settle the burning issues like the freedom of movement and right of ownership.

The Turkish-cypriots voted for the acceptance of the plan with a turnout of 89.18%. For the 75.83% of the Greek-cypriots the noes had it as in their opinion the Annan's plan for the island reunification penalized their community on territorial level and it would keep on the island about six thousand Turkish soldiers. So the appeal for common sense as well as flexibility proved useless. After the Referendum outcome the United Nations announced to close the office of the UNO's envoy at Nicosia. It was the special UN representative at Nicosia Alvaro de Soto, author of the plan on which there were the negotiations for almost five years and that the Greek-cypriot voters have turned down, who informed the journalists. The plan that would put an end to the thirty-year-long division of Cyprus, provided for the establishment of a federation based on the helvetic model, with a wide margin for both the communities. The President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the European Council, Peter Schieder, has issued the following statement: "The vote against the reunification, hit the UNO's authority hard as well as it represents a negative signal for its participation in the solution of the international crises". In Ankara, that pushed the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus for reaching an agreement before the 1st of May, there was not so much disappointment: the Turkish newspaper Milliyet on the 25th of April carried the following headline: "The world has seen", the world has seen the Turkish goodwill for resolving the Cyprus problem and, in the future, this problem can not be used as obstacle in joining the European Union by Turkey and for its relations with Greece. The Hürriyet newspaper remembers, on the contrary, that now is the moment to lift economic sanctions on the Turkish Republic of the Northern Cyprus, established in 1983, but recognized only by Turkey. Two important outcomes that could be achieved also thanks to the Greek-cypriot 'no'. The Greek area in Cyprus is economically much more developed than the Turkish one which has a mean income by far lower: all this was possible with the international aids which allowed Nicosia to develop itself by reaching the requisites for admission but leaving out the Turkish area under a hard political and economic embargo and forced to rely only on Ankara for a period of ten years. So Cyprus that joins the EU is a torn country showing lights and shadows. In the north the age-old problem of the 35 thousand Turkish soldiers stationed over the green line dividing with a wall the capital city remains unresolved, in the south Nicosia is seen with suspicion because of its image of tax haven. The positive aspect is given by the fact that, thanks to its geographic position, the island of Cyprus can be the bridge between the European Union and Middle East, becoming the natural place for every kind of negotiation and dialogue between both the shores.
THE COMMISSIONS


II Commission President: Jacques De Grave, BE; Vice Presidents: Joseph Borg, MT; Fidias Sarikas, CY. Rapporteurs: A. Skir, Rabat MA; H. Jeurissen, Maastricht NL. Theme: “Immigration and Emigration, actions and instruments of Cooperation between Euro-Mediterranean Cities and Regions”

III Commission President: Abbas Mohsen, TN. Vice Presidents: Jan H. Mans, NL; Tommy Holm, SE. Rapporteurs: A. Mosbah, Kairouan TN; M. Vincenzi, Genoa IT. Theme: “The Euro-Mediterranean Integration of strategic infrastructural networks: the example of transport”

IV Commission President: Nidal Al Hadeed, JO. Vice Presidents: Keith Withmore, GB; Lea Tolonen, FI. Rapporteurs: M. Baca, Samandira TR; Petros Filippou, Kalivia GR. Theme: “Culture and Tourism: promotion and management of cultural areas.”

In connection with the decisions achieved in the last Presidency Council (Palermo, February 28th), the four Standing Commissions of Coppem have been invited to focus their works for 2004 on the following themes:

I Commission: Experiences of participation of the Euro-Mediterranean local and regional powers

II Commission: Immigration and Emigration, actions and instruments of Cooperation between Euro-Mediterranean Cities and Regions

III Commission: The Euro-Mediterranean Integration of strategic infrastructural networks: the example of transport

IV Commission: Culture and Tourism: promotion and running of cultural areas

For a closer examination about these themes which, as they are really wide – ranging, can be dealt with from different perspectives, of course it is useful that the members of each Commission (firstly the rapporteurs together with the Presidents and Vice-Presidents), with the support of the persons reporting to the Secretariat, as well as the experts from public and private sectors, or institutional and academic world are called to cooperate. In such a perspective, of course Coppem News can give to the Local Authorities representatives as well as to the Euro-mediterranean Countries experts, in particular from the Mediterranean Partner Countries, a large-scale visibility to their own experiences, requirements and points of view. It is obvious that their contributions, besides their diffusion through the bulletin, could also provide with weighty arguments to be included in the reports which the Commissions are called to write on the themes, so enriching them with a plurality of voices. For this reason, starting from this number it will be dealt with the theme set to the III Commission, which concerns, as above-mentioned, the transport issue as instrument for the euro-mediterranean integration. We hope this editorial line of Coppem News can be regularly successful, as evidence of the lively and active cooperation which numerous members from the euro-mediterranean community express.
FEMIP PROGRAMMES. STRATEGIES AND GOALS

More opportunities for environmental protection, and for information and media

**The** 3rd Regional Environment Programme (SMAP III) - The Programme aims to support the Local Governments from Mediterranean Partner Countries and their efforts for preventing environmental deterioration, promoting environmental standards by including them in all the active policies, and implementing integrated coastal zone management, in order to prevent the rapid deterioration along Mediterranean coastal areas. The programme will be supplied with 15 million euros.

Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership – FEMIP - The initiative mainly aims to enhance private investments in the Mediterranean region, as a key to economic growth. A special budget line for pursuing these objectives has been arranged with a financial support for 19 million euros and 6 million euros to Turkey.

In the light of what is above outlined, MEDA Regional Financing Plan – the first Part is supplied with 78 euro million, while the second Part, that will be produced by MED Committee on June, will supply with 8 million euros, of which 4 million are earmarked for the “Energy” Program and 4 million for the Programme in favour of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

**Natale Giordano**
Copperr Secretariat – Programmes and projects area

**Woman's Role in Economic Life** - The Programme will promote women's participation in the economic life, also by improving their access to the labour market, and by developing measures which can remove the obstacles to equal opportunities. The programme has been supplied with 5 million euros.

**Euromed Audiovisual** - The Programme is aimed at enhancing the objectives stated in the Conference of Thessaloniki which are also aimed at supporting development, promotion and distribution of production as well as protection and preservation of the Mediterranean audiovisual heritage. The Programme is supplied with 15 million euros.

**Euro-Mediterranean Satellite Navigation** - The Programme is included in the regional programme “Transport III”, and it will allow to improve training and demonstration initiatives on the satellite navigation services in the Mediterranean area, and in particular on the applications of EGNOS and GALILEO satellites, in order to adopt concrete and achievable measures with regard to their applications. The financial support for this Programme is estimated at 4.5 million euros.

**Cooperation on maritime safety and prevention of polluting waste (SAFEMED)** - The Programme envisages to achieve initiatives aimed at waters protection in the Mediterranean region and prevent ecological disasters caused by the discharge of polluting substances from ships. The Programme is connected with the test on the new navigation and maritime safety regulations enacted by the EU's Institutions. The Programme has a financial support for 4.5 million euros.

**Education and Training for employed people** - The Programme is aimed at supporting education and training institutions in the Mediterranean Partnership Countries, in order to fight as well as prevent unemployment. It also provide for measures aimed at information diffusion, and good practices exchange in the professional training field. The financial support arranged is for 5 million euros.

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SICILY SPROUTS “WINGS”

Approved the new plan of infrastructure

The Sicilian Region has recently established the realization of new infrastructure (customs inspection area for transport vehicles, freight villages, roads, railways, parking areas, etc.) summarized in the “Regional Plan of transport and mobility – Directive Plan”, in the “Regional Plan for goods transport and supply service” (previously published on GURS n.11 of March 12th 2004), also speeding up the realization of the customs inspection area for transport vehicles System in Sicily- D.A. (published on GURS n.12 of March 19th 2004). During a meeting held in Palermo, the most important issues concerning the road transport sector has been discussed, with special consideration for the following aspect: the necessity of a legislative intervention on the law on June 6, 1974 n.298 (introduction of the national roll for the hauliers of goods on somebody else’s behalf, rules and regulations of the hauliers of goods and introduction of a dual fares system for goods road haulage). On this occasion Undersecretary Mr. Uggè presented the Bill of the delegated law for reforming the system, at issue in the Senate, which includes among its basic principles the joint responsibility of the subjects working in the goods transport field (primary clients - intermediation agencies - haulage contractors - controllers). As for the checks it is going to be strengthened the mobile overhaul points for the inspection of technical compatibility of the motor vehicles and it will be established a check network, which is at the planning stage, by creating mixed patrols, at provincial level, consisting of members of the Traffic Police, Traffic Authority, and Financial Police as well, at a rough estimate of 240,000 yearly checks; the request expressed by the hauliers, and many times pressed for, of realising parking areas with facilities near the main warehousings and along the most busy roads. In particular the financial aid of the national Government will be achieved through the publication, by the Central Road Transport Roll, of a new announcement for financing projects amounting to 80% of work cost. This sum of money could also supplement the estimated amount for infrastructure already planned in the regional framework and which has the same purpose, and so it could be use for implementing the sicilian customs inspection area for transport vehicles system as well.

Sea highways

The communitarian initiative known as “sea highways”, aims at implementing the transit of trucks on roll-on roll-off ships, rather than making them travel on roads, in order to reduce goods road haulage and traffic on motorway network on the whole. For the project centred on the mediterranean maritime mountainous region, which includes Italy, France and Spain, a document that will allow it to get going has been presented to the Council of the EU’s Ministers of transport. In order to coordinate the projects concerning the sea highways realization, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport established a company named “Mediterranean Highways Network PLC”, which will have the task to work out a “master plan” of the intervention.

The Directive Plan

And now let us outline what the Directive Plan provide for. The strategic planning is divided into Directive Plan, Operating Plans and Feasibility Studies of transport systems, characterized by an increasingly higher detail level. The Directive Plan, pinpoints the “macro” op-
tions, which are important at institutional, managerial and infrastructural level, pointed out for regional transport reorganization, and it provide for general policies of transport services planning within the competence of local authorities in order to ensure the coordination at infraregional planning level (Provincial and Basin Plans, Municipal Plans, Town Mobility Plans, etc.). The Operating Plans concern detail options integrable, keeping close to the general options, dealing with the specific themes on each transport procedure, according to the method of "process" already indicated in the Directive Plan. The Feasibility Study, meant as specialist analysis, completes the strategic planning process through a very detailed evaluation of the interventions, with the following acceptance or exclusion of the intervention at issue. However, on the basis of requirements pointed out in both the plan typologies above mentioned, the Feasibility Study may also concern interventions which are not expressly indicated in the Directive Plan and Operating Plans as well. Tactical Planning is related to the planning of short-term interventions aiming at organizing and optimizing the use of what already exists (Town'sTraffic Plans, Provincial Suburban Traffic Plans). It is obvious that the options included in Tactical Planning should be in keeping with the strategic planning general policies. Following PTGL guidelines, the regional transport planning is taken as "System Project", by which starting from the pinpointing of mobility needs, passengers and goods, it can be achieved the definition of a "Plan for integrated transport services" capable of meeting the demand with a proper service level and, eventually, the individuation of new transport infrastructure needed to implement the Services Plan. Both the Services Plan and the Infrastructure one are set considering Local Authorities budget ties in working account and stock account as well. The Directive Plan is estimated on the basis of the real public financial resources available both for infrastructure realization and local mobility management. The Plan is not to be seen as a detailed, exhaustive and unchangeable list of the interventions considered necessary, but as a combination of rules, guidelines and objectives to follow in order to pinpoint, with respect to a general strategic framework, the options to do and it will be after specified as well as enriched following a "Process Plan" logic, which allows to build, progressively, the Plan through a series of documents drawn up step by step – each time. In Sicily the lack of integration between public transport by road and by rail caused duplicate services in some places and shortages in other ones, by making the public means of transport less and less competitive in favour of the individual ones. In order to close this gap, the railway system as innovative solution should play the basic role for an integrated and multimodal transport system which can move considerable shares of users to a public transport system able of supplying services with less environmental impact, a safer and more reliable road system as far as method and punctuality are concerned. A significant datum is that concerning the distance covered by trains (trains*Km). Sicily is actually the sixth region in Italy as production of regional trains*Km (6,3% as to national total). Such production will allow the Sicily Region, in the framework of three-year programmes for services, to set out a train services supply suitable for the basic role which the railway network shall play on the very busy link roads, like Palermo-Messina, Messina-Catania-Siracusa, Palermo-Agrigento. This role will establish the strategy for the local public transport to be taken, in order to achieve the following main targets: - implementation of the accessibility standards in the region - to minimize the general costs of mobility – to reduce noise and chemical pollution levels; improvement of transport safety; to achieve european standards in order to affect the productive system competitive edge of our Country. For the achievement of the above-mentioned targets it will be necessary to implement a policy not only of infrastructural interventions, but also providing for a diversification of actions directed to optimize the railway network efficiency by implying an increase of the traffic higher than the present potential. It will be necessary to pinpoint the interventions which are required for carrying out an integrated system of strategic transport so as it is provided for in the SNIT priority interventions (SNIT network – National Integrated Transport System), the infrastructural and technological development of the railway ridge: Palermo-Messina and Messina-Catania-Siracusa, by keeping from occasional interventions based on occasional demands. As for ports and airports, what is necessary to point out is the absence of a "systemic" view which allows to set out the roles of each terminal as to all the exchange mobility of Sicily. Just the above-stated terminals are the basic points of the whole regional transport system which allow the implementation of the territorial continuity in Sicily, as well as they are the only infrastructural components which get in touch the smallest islands with the rest of the Region. So the overall view of the ties system must be the directions for those in-
EUROMED. THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS ASKS TO REVIVIFY THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN POLICIES

"To try to build up Europe ignoring the Mediterranean world, that is the cradle of civilization, would be a serious mistake" the President of the European Commission Romano Prodi said. For Jacques Blanc (FR/PPE) and Gianfranco Lamberti (IT/PSE), spokesmen of the report on prospects "The Euro-mediterranean partnership and local authorities", adopted at the Plenary Session on April 21st, the Mediterranean basin represents a strategic area of crucial importance for the EU’s present and future member Countries. Concerning this issue it is requested "the creation of a strong economic area, able to contribute towards the regional equilibrium of the EU". For CdR the situation of the countries of the region requires a significant strengthening of the EU’s action in order to promote the human rights and democratization. The Barcellona process, the most important framework of dialogue and cooperation between the EU and its Mediterranean interlocutors will allow to achieve these objectives. To create a forum which represents the local authorities of both the EU and the countries which are candidates to join it. Local Authorities are the most suited level for decentralized cooperation actions, and so the CdR asks for the creation of a forum "for representing the sub-national decentralized authorities from both the EC and partner countries of the Mediterranean basin". The CdR regrets the resources earmarked for financing the MEDA program have not been used to a greater extent. "Despite the improvement established with the MEDA II program, by a real charge rate for about 50% of the amount committed in 2001, and for about 70% in 2002", the situation is far from being good enough. The Committee asks the Commission to increase its information efforts and the other measures aiming at improving the resources use level. The CdR suggests also a coordination – as soon as possible – of the two programs Meda and Interreg, in order to establish a community initiative program which is specific for "safeguarding, developing and making the dialogue among the different cultures of the Mediterranean basin easier". 2008 could be declared "the year of proximity". Cultural events, meetings and exhibitions arranged by local authorities which involve the NGOs, the society, EU’s citizens as well as those from neighbouring countries, could be useful to illustrate the new cultural and economic dimensions both of Europe and the neighbouring countries.

work, concern not only the operational field of the goods transport, but they also deal with delicate aspects which have a great influence on the territory and economic-productive system, because such network has to be considered as an important instrument for the reconstruction and rationalization of those productive fusions which today have been developed especially in the urban frameworks. Eventually the infrastructural supply for alternative transport systems with low or with no environmental impact, like bicycle mobility, meant as a combined transport modality both in urban and suburban context, it absolutely lacks. So it will be necessary to develop a planning of such transport systems in terms of a network integrated with other common transport systems – train + bicycle, bus + bicycle, by promoting an organic regional bill in order to contribute to the improvement of the ecological entry in the urban areas with the diffusion of a tourist use of the territory and old town centres as well.
MORE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE FREE EXCHANGE AREA

New projects to bring the Mediterranean shores closer

Ramon Polo Bernardo
IIIrd Cappem Commission

The improvement of the infrastructure and means of transport has as its main objective the achievement of a better and higher goods canalization and a more fluent people’s mobility through a transport network suitable for the development of society and cultural exchange. Just in order to develop a common policy it has been established in 1995 at Barcellona the euro-mediterranean Partnership which establishes three specific points: the definition of a peace and stability area; the realization of a network for shared prosperity; making peoples closer. This ambitious initiative will go down in history as an attempt to create close ties between the two Mediterranean shores. In this area the main means of transport are sea and air transport. Today the reorganization of this sector is very important for attracting investment in the region and allowing the good running of the free exchange area, arranged for 2010. Even though the framework of the terms for new transport dynamics has been created, “Euromed Forum”, the results achieved up to now are only a little part of the political mandate established in Barcellona, and it can be summed up in a few key-points: infrastructure, organization of the transport operations and free supply of services in the international transport field; safety and respect for the environment. It is necessary now to mark out how important the provincial road system is, as basic element for the territorial organization and development. The rural areas development it is a necessary condition to achieve economic and social cohesion. These requirements could and should have a punctual and suitable answer by preserving the rural areas people in order to protect their culture and background. In this perspective the preservation and implementation of the road system, as essential factor for people stabilization and keeping the limited industrial, agricultural and tourist structure, has a special importance. Only through the realization of local infrastructure with the aim of closing the gap between different territories due to economic, social and demographic as well as geographical factors, it is possible to talk about territorial readjustment. The intention, therefore, is that of defining a more homogeneous and balanced region. So it will be necessary a structural intervention which goes beyond the present circumstances by implementing an effective and sound policy.

THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN INTEGRATION OF THE STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURAL NETWORKS: THE EXAMPLE OF TRANSPORT

On the next 26 of June at Biserta (Tunisia), the representatives of the 3rd Commission are going to discuss this topic. Among other things, sectional meetings on telemedicine and agricultural production of quality have been planned. Integration, therefore, among sicilian and tunisian craftsmen as well as manufacturers. It is also arranged a meeting among the delegation from the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Messina and its tunisian counterparts.
FRANCO-EGYPTIAN PARTNERSHIP GETS STRONGER

Agreement in support of the arab civil aviation

The Egyptian Government together with the French Ministry of Transport and Tourism have recently reached a bilateral cooperation agreement aimed at developing training institutes for the Egyptian civil aviation. Egypt will get a financial support from France for 22 million euros in the form of training systems and programmes supported by some French experts. This cooperation agreement has been signed during the workshop, held in Cairo on the last December, focusing on the partnership between France and Egypt both in public and private sectors in which the Minister of transport, the Minister of Tourism, Egyptian government representatives and 25 Egyptian companies of this sector have taken part.

The Ministry for development announced to earmark 243m euros for service, transport and electricity sectors. These funds will be used for industrial infrastructure in the more depressed rural areas. The projects concern the two-year period 2002-2003 and are included in the renewal plans already approved by the Egyptian government. Moreover they have been planned partnerships between the government and research institutes in order to think up answers to the economic and social problems existing in this Country. Egypt is one of the countries more interested in making use of the programme of direct foreign investments. Through the resources and infrastructure which the Country already has – water, territories, energy, manpower – Egypt will be able to use effectively this investment project for development. The economic - fiscal reforms that the Egyptian Government is carrying out, attract foreign investors going to Egypt where it is planning the liberalization of the banking system for the foreign investment funds. As a result, a series of legislative measures for ensuring the success of this programme shall be established. At present the Arab Countries represent the 3% of the foreign direct investment programme and Egypt plays a special role for using these incentives within general economic development programme that is already in progress in the Country.

NEW FUNDS FOR THE SAFAGA PORT

Egyptian Minister of Industry and Technological Development Ali El Saeedi has announced to earmark 37,500,000 euro for the port of Safaga situated in the Upper Egypt. At present Safaga is one of the most important Egyptian trading port especially for metallurgic industry. The new allocation will be used to improve the exports towards the asiatic markets. It is also expected an increase in the Egyptian phosphate exports of about 2,500,000 tons for US $ 100 million.
ELECTRONIC TOOL.
LONDON IN THE FOREFRONT

The initiative against city traffic congestion experimented with success

“A FOOLISH ACT”, since a year ago driving in the centre of London was a hard task as well as in many other cities. London had become so congested that action was required urgently. So the Mayor Ken Livingstone, decided to introduce an electronic toll on traffic, a congestion charge of 5 pounds (7.20 euro) for drivers wanting to go into the city centre from Monday to Friday between 7 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. This measure initially blamed by some sectors of public opinion, including shopkeepers, today it’s very popular. After all the people of London had accepted the system: “people had realised that reducing congestion in the city centre was important”. This Livingstone said outlining a very positive statement about the impact of the electronic toll, during the seminar on “Implementing urban and national road charging policies, organised by the Commission for Territorial Cohesion Policy (COTER) in partnership with the Greater London Authority on the last March 22. Since the introduction of the congestion charge, the traffic in London had decreased by 15-18% and those who now opt for public transport are more and more numerous. London Municipality has used the income from this new charge to modernise public transport, in particular the bus network. The introducing of the toll had required heavy investments linked to managing the toll, technological equipment (setting up cameras, data collection) and investment in alternative forms of transport. Therefore it doesn’t concern with a system designed to increase public resources and it is recommended a town-by-town approach. The Mayor of London announced that he intended, if he were to be re-elected in June, to double the zone covered by the toll by extending it further westward. During the same seminar, after stressing that transport is a key feature in cohesion policy, Albert Bore, first vice-president of the CoR (Committee of the Regions) and Mayor of Birmingham, said that city tolls could only work in cities with a highly developed public transport system: therefore the system would be difficult to introduce in a city such as Birmingham which doesn’t have a metro. But it is basic for the European cities “to exchange best practises and the CoR is a good go-between”. In the opinion of Robert Neill, from the Greater London Authority, and member of CoR’s COTER Commission, it is important “to find a good balance between the environment and economic efficiency”. Bernard Soulage, member of the CoR’s COTER Commission, said that “London is an exceptional case” and he questioned whether this system could be introduced elsewhere. “Ken livingstone has taken a considerable risk imposing this unpopular measure: not all the politicians could dare as he did”, he said, highlighting the difficulty of introducing a city toll in cities as Stockholm or Oslo. (g.c.)

TRANSPORT POLICY TO IMPROVE TERRITORIAL COHESION

Transport policy is one of the priorities of the Committee of the Regions as well as of COTER Commission, as it is closely connected with the territorial cohesion target. A transport policy well-defined is very important for a well-balanced and sustainable development of the european regions and it is basic for strengthening the territorial cohesion. The city toll is a new instrument within the debate which has become very important since it has been quoted in the White Paper on transport policy. About this topic the Committee of the Regions is working on two different lines: the line on Innovative Funding solutions for TEN’s, also referred to “Eurovignette” and that on electronic toll collection systems. These guidelines were illustrated during the workshop “The implementation of rate making policies for national and city road infrastructure” held in London on March 18th 2004.
I would like to address all the people who had the honour to know President Leanza, appreciating his own intelligence, his humanity and above all his ability to see into men’s heart. For them, for us, magniloquent adjectives are not necessary but it is sufficient to look inside us, our inmost and deep memories, to meet him again, alive more than ever, a real friend, a shrewd politician, model father and husband. It is how we, his friends, remember Vincenzo, he was always present, ready to give unselfish and wise advices, to act as a generous mediator, enlightened by a global view as well as by an ability to see the situations with the future in mind that few people have. As Deputy before, and then as statesman (he was Councillor responsible for labour, vocational training, emigration; and also for agriculture and forest conservation; for two times President of the Region) as President of the Statute Commission he never betrayed his style made of pleasant manners, kindness, and great care over the evaluation of the position, on each issue, of the government political forces, opposition, unions, local authorities as well. President Leanza did not love rhetoric and affected formalities but day-to-day and incessant work, far from media spotlights but in touch with his people that he knew and loved as well. It is following His teachings I’d like to say, with simple words, that he is gone away quietly. The personal history of politicians is always complex and it rightly depends on people’s judgment. I only wanted to underline an aspect of his own personality, maybe known by his friends and collaborators at least: his euro-mediterranean feeling. President Leanza thank you for all you did in favour of Coppem, we will never forget you.

Gaetano Scaravilli

WE WILL NEVER FORGET YOU

The Honourable Mr. Vincenzo Leanza, President of the Statutory Commission of the Sicilian Regional Assembly, former President of the Sicilian Region, left us on Wednesday 7th of April. Coppem lost a fervent supporter and a real friend as well. Under his chairmanship the law financing Coppem introduced by the Honourable Mr. Angelo Capodicasa, has been approved. The Honourable Mr. Cuffaro has carried on the work of his predecessors very enthusiastically. He took part in the inaugural ceremony of our Standing Committee for Euro-mediterranean Partnership at the Politeama theatre of Palermo. Despite his many institutional commitments, he wanted to take part in Coppem’s birth, voting together with us. On all the institutional occasions, in which the euro-mediterranean policies were discussed, he cited Coppem, of which he was a prestigious member. Recently he had appreciated the establishment of the Coordination Centre of the Euro-Mediterranean Health Authorities whose office is placed in his town, Messina. He wouldn’t missed the press conference which will illustrate the Agreement Protocol signed by Coppem and other important Institutions, like UNO, which will start up a significant international initiative. We have been in the same benches of the Sicilian Parliament for many years. For his shy personality, Leanza seemed to be almost carried away to assume institutional roles at the highest level. He wasn’t permeated by the haughtiness of power. He was always moderate and balanced, totally free from arrogance and self-importance as well. Sometimes he did it but I never heard him to shout. He has gone away quietly. The personal history of politicians is always complex and it rightly depends on people’s judgment. I only wanted to remember a friend of Coppem. I wanted to underline an aspect of his own personality, maybe known by his friends and collaborators at least: his euro-mediterranean feeling. President Leanza thank you for all you did in favour of Coppem, we will never forget you.

Lino Motta