EDITORIAL

by Piero Fagone

Coppem General Assembly, is held after two foundamental stages for the history of the European Union and, therefore, very important for the development of the relations with third Countries, first of all Southern Mediterranean and Middle-eastern countries. The two relevant targets achieved by the EU are: the enlargement to East together with the entry of Malta and Cyprus; and the signing of the european Constitution, in Rome. Of course, Europe starts a new phase and, today, we are wondering about which kind of position it will adopt for the euro-mediterranean region. Coppem, which during these last years has been particularly engaged to keep the feeling that gave life to the Conference of Barcellona going and to disseminate it, with its imminent Assembly, has the occasion for thinking over the experience developed, the results achieved, and the definition of new and even more effective strategies, in order to make the role of local Self-governments stronger as an essential key aspect for the economic, social and cultural cooperation policy as well as ground of common awareness to fully assert peace and democracy values. Just the new european decisions and the prospects originated from these press for, within Coppem, a close outcome of the activity carried out (documented moreover by a dense press review) and the definition of the peculiarities to be attributed to the new series of activities.

To these topics, Coppem News gives wide space with the article of President Fabio Pellegrini, the report of the forum held in Brussels with Jacques De Grave and Marc Thoulen, the article of the dutch Jan H. Mans. From all these contributions arise a large and detailed range of evaluations about the absolute validity of the presence and the function that Coppem plays in the euro-mediterranean partnership both to support the early community guidelines, expressed at Barcellona and also to improve the network of the local Authorities, which are actors able to give voice to the ambitions and problems of the different communities as well as to give to the citizens answers as soon as possible. The recent enlargement of Europe brings about a higher consideration for european East, a necessary and right attention that, however, cannot be developed at the expense of the redressing along the axis North-South. In the framework just outlined which will be the role of the European Parliament? We asked this to vice president Luigi Cocilovo that, in an interview gives a series of answers widely grounded with a strong awareness and a problematic view of the future and international role of Europe. This issue of Coppem News reports also some interesting and original initiatives as, for example, the Council of Foreigners of Alanya, in Turkey, a diversified european community that forms an extraordinary example of integration, the signing of the Chart “Mediterranean Together” to favour a sustainable economy and, furthermore, the exeprience undertaken also in Italy by the euro-mediterranean Foundation for the dialogue among cultures “Anna Lindhi”, the projects for the preservation of the Madina in Kairouan. On this field an important instrument is, of course, the decentralized Cooperation that, as the portuguese Antônio Murta points out, is an opportunity that shall be used by the European local self-governments.

Coppem News dedicates a monographic issue to Jordan, in order to document a political, social, cultural, economic reality in constant progress. A very significant news, which risks to be overcome by the intense information flow. In the Arab United Emirates, for the first time, a woman becomes minister: Sheikha Loubna al Qassemi, responsible for Economy and Plan. It is a good news, and it follows another one: in Jordan the female minister are five by now.
GET OVER GAPS
THE NEW EUROPEAN CHALLENGE

President of Coppem, F. Pellegrini, outlines the situation of the early years Committee activities

Today, as the euro-mediterranean Partnership joins 35 Countries, and not any more the 27 Countries joining the Barcellona Declaration of 1995, it should be said very clearly that the goals established about ten years ago should not be changed, if anything a consideration must be done on the results achieved as well as on the times necessary to establish the free trade area by 2010. Local and regional Authorities have played a great role in the european political life and just starting from this experience, in full agreement with the arab towns organisation and many other Associations (Turkey, Israel, Cyprus and Malta), four years ago an Association of local and regional Authorities, Coppem exactly, has been established in order to contribute to a real Partnership policy, by making Cities, Provinces and Regions which are democracy as well as peace keepers the leading actors. Cities are home of democracy, free ideas circulation, as well as civil expression of different ideas and points of view. In the cities solid bases of democracy and good governance are built up. It is just relying on these themes that Coppem, an organisation consisting of institutional representatives of local and regional authorities from the countries joining the euro-mediterranean partnership which, during these four years from its creation, has already achieved concrete and significant results in the framework of the euro-mediterranean cooperation among cities. I would like only to remind the numerous initiatives in some of the main maghrebi cities, on the immigration, culture, economy as well as trading cooperation fields, among these initiatives we mention the Conference on migratory movements in Tunis where the representatives of the most important international organisations dealing with such a topic took part in, and furthermore the Conference on Cultural heritage in Cairo whose works were opened by Ebeid’s speech, who is the Prime Minister of the Republic of Egypt. Still on Coppem's initiative the ASEM has come into being, the euro-mediterranean development agency which will work for coordinating and proceeding with finding sources of finance on cooperation projects between cities and regions, it has been also established the euro-mediterranean socio-medical coordination Centre, a body consisting of some representatives of the national health systems from the 35 euro-mediterranean countries and it will work to compare the various national health systems, as well as for know-how exchanges. Today Coppem is going to hold its VI General Assembly on the next 20-21 November, in which all the delegations from the south mediterranean countries will take part. It must be pointed out that the Standing Committee applauded the epoch-making date of the 1st of May 2004, in the prospect to build up a solid tie, based on the interdependence created by the common mediterranean dimension. Incidentally, it must be re-
minded that on the occasion of the next General Assembly, Coppem will introduce the necessary modifications to its Statute to assure the involvement of the institutional delegations of local and regional authorities from the enlargement Countries.

European Union has been built up through two generations of statesmen as well as citizens who firmly have believed in it and then also benefited from. Today for the new generations, an Europe made of frontiers and national currencies is going to be a memory of the past. In the new framework occurred after the 1st of May 2004, the new countries joining the EU can give an important contribution to the political project of an European Union strengthened on costitutional bases. Then it is essential today for Coppem to get the support of the institutional representatives of local and regional Authorities from the new Countries joining the EU, because with your involvement the euro-mediterranean cooperation process can be improved. The link between Europe and Mediterranean means to take part in a continuous dialogue between different cultures and historic experiences, which are confident of their respective peculiarities and able to keep them without closing to new experiences, and people and trade movements. Millennums of history show that when there was cooperation, civilizations have developed, and there has been considerable progress in the field of economy as well as in living conditions in both of the shores. In the Mediterranean there are the same ambitions to achieve peace, stability and nations welfare, as well as a common vision, a strong will, which is widespread in all the cities of the countries along the coasts, to work together for the economic, civil and social development, in mutual respect and open dialogue. The euro-mediterranean Partnership is the main way to promote stability and development in this area and also for achieving a positive development of the relations between Europe and arab world. If divided, the Mediterranean would go towards marginalization; but united it will get back to be the basic heart in the global relations. Much is still to be done. The economic gap between Europe, on the one hand, and North Africa and Middle East on the other hand it is still very high. The realisation of a free trade area is very far; the slowness of the reformist process has weighed heavily on markets integration and on exchanges growth; Mediterranean uses up only 1% of the direct global investments. But today we have to look over this dimension. We must work in order that this new century can be marked by closer relations between North and South, East and West and also by the overcoming of the gap existing between prosperity and poverty as well as between optimism and despair among both the euro-mediterranean local communities. This a great challenge.

An united Europe is a very important development also for the Mediterranean Countries. On the basis of a dual legitimacy - States, citizens as well as cities – the European Union has carried out an epoch-making widening aimed at improving its government power, as well as at being a real international actor. Such an Europe will be authoritative if it will going on keeping the attitude which has marked fifty years of integration with coherence and continuity and if it will remind, also in the most difficult crises, that unity is a need that cannot be renounced. Finally I remind that Coppem, in its next General Assembly, will provide for introducing changes into its Statute in order to allow the Institutional delegations of local and regional Authorities from the new Countries joining the EU to take part in it. In this seat, therefore I invite you to send to Coppem Secretariat your official adhesion to our organisation as soon as possible.
and half. “Europe - he states - is much more over a political experience, it is a vital project”. The Parliament elected also the 14 Vice Presidents, among those there are two italians, Luigi Cocilovo (Liberals and Democratics Group) and Mario Mauro (European Populat Party Group).

Roma, 29th October 2004: in the Hall of Horatii and Curatii on the Capitol, the Leaders of State and Governments and Ministers for foreign affairs of the 25 EU member Countries sign the new European Constitution. The Constitution not only consolidates the political-institutional system of the institutive Treaties of the European Community but it brings about great innovative elements which will make European Union more democratic and effective as well. From Rome to Rome, various treaties have marked this path. From 1957 to 2004 the story of a success has been written: continent reunification, peace among nations, integration among the economic systems, solidarity with the most underdeveloped regions.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES LEADING FORCE OF THE PARTNERSHIP

Interview with Luigi Cocilovo, vice president of the European Parliament

by Giovanna Cirino

Dublin, 1st May 2004: Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Republic Ceca, Slovakia, Slovenian Republic, Hungary, Cyprus and Malta join Europe. An epoc-making date, a whole flag from Tago banks to Baltic shores.

Strasbourg, 20th July 2004: European Parliament lives an important day: for the first time on Parliament high-backed chairs, at consultive session, there are also the Euro MP elected in the enlargement Countries. A concrete symbol attesting the definitive overcoming of the European ancient divisions imposed during the Cold War. The moment is a solemn and exciting one, President of European Commission, Romano Prodi states: “We have peacefully exported democracy, and now the European Union must become world leader”. The new European Parliament consists of 732 deputies and works in 20 official languages: each deputy of the 25 countries has the right to communicate in his own mother tongue. The President of the European Parliament is the spanish socialist Josep Borrell Fontelles, elected with 388 votes (absolute majority of votes expressed in first turn) at the first ballot, he will be president for the first part of the legislature, two years
In Palermo we meet with MP Luigi Cocilovo, Vice President of the European Parliament. Which future prospects the signing of the Constitution create for Europe? The European Constitution preamble talks about an “Europe united in its diversities”, even if in the first stage it will be rather a sort of “open yard”. The Constitution is a fundamental act, of course a positive one, that at the same time brings about a radicalization of the basic political question: does integration mean improvement? In the Chart of the basic rights there are some limits indicating a few’s opposition, which have first name and surname. And they are the global market minimalist forces, that, with their narrow view, represent the resistences and selfishness of national and lobby interests that should be overtaken if we want a future. The Constitution is a necessary and vital step, a stepping-stone to keep on working for the great European project.

“The world will knock at Europe’s door, especially at the Parliament’s one”, President Josep Borrell said when he took his office, considering the dramatic situation in the Middle East as the most urgent theme. How do you think this dramatic problem can be faced? Europe is necessary. In the international political framework great and urgent themes are tied to the European Union development. Many things have still to be done, at present there is not a full unity, especially as regards foreign policy, but the basis to work all on the same wavelength have been laid. Only a Europe united with a multilateral vocation can be a reliable political subject at international level; on the contrary an unilateral tendency would decrease Europe’s selfpromotion. If it wasn’t consolidated all the world would question the role of Europe.

You are among those Italian Eurodeputies of the centre-left alliance that have joined the appeal, addressed to the European humanitarian organization, to cease bombing Iraq. What do you think about Zapatero’s proposal addressed to UNO, to create an alliance between western and Muslim world as solution for the international terrorism? On Iraq, the Italian centre-left alliance asked to cease military operations first of all for making the release of the hostages easier. All the hostages, the European and not European ones. At political level it has been asked also to discuss the dramatic situation that Iraq is living in order to find a solution. Only the respect for human rights and not the logic of war and repression can stop terrorism. It is necessary a change signal compared to the present situation. To cease bombings is one of the possible solutions, because it aims at creating a different climate: today the troops in Iraq are considered, especially by the iraqi people, as occupation troops. It is so necessary to change the army role, turning its direction on the field. Being considered no more as “occupiers”, an idea that makes any effort vain, but as watchers of the law and order. It is necessary a new fact for empowering UNO and favouring democratization process of Iraq with new opportunities, reaching at new elections that even though can achieve a partial solution, they will be the beginnning for a legal government as well as for a lawful path.

In these years the third world, deprived of any mean of subsistence, is pressing on Europe doors. Syrian poet Adonis asserts that our future is going to be “hybrid”, a sort of human and cultural “hybridization”. Do you think that future will be in the integration between the poor part of the world and the so-called West? Berlin is the most turkish city after Istanbul, and also Brussels is an hybrid city. Racial integration is hybridization. The key words can be only the dialogue, cultural exchange, reception. Immigration is also an European problem, and not only of the countries along the Mediterranean shores. Europe must recognize to be a privileged destination of international flow of workers and favour the immigration of the qualified ones with determination. European vocation is that to be open, and based on work, solidarity, and integration at economic and social level. The European project is an integration plan, taking in legal migration flow, by trying to harmonize both the worlds, the rich and the poor, through social justice forms, and cooperation and economical development. An interaction dealing with differences and providing for essential equal rights it is necessary because without this context the cooperation would not be useful. It is right to invest on confrontation without isolating diversity.
Among the activities of the European Parliament there is that of making the contacts between citizens and European institutions easier. But Europe seems to be still far, as evidence of this there is the high rate of abstentionism also in the recent elections of June. How this problem can be solved? Of course the signing of the Constitutional is a first step, the objective to be reached is that of creating an European citizenship, or a common European identity. Our diversities are even more significant today with the enlargement to East, but it is necessary to find the way to go beyond, without removing them, through common efforts. Much will depend on information, media communication offered to the public opinion to ensure daily political answers which are not tied only to elections time. Europe shall give a very good account of itself, by leaving the old mechanisms, the burocratic impediments, that more than yesterday would cause paralysis and insecurity. Building up an European public opinion, means also to inform on the actual questions of the Union. The agenda of the new Parliament is very rich: stability and development agreement, future developments, new Parliament legislative powers, migratory issue and the prosecution of Pat Cox work with the national parliaments and euro-mediterranean assembly. Very actual and important themes, whose solutions are not round the corner; it will be necessary to give effective answers not for each single State, but with a community approach. Single national choices could create only tensions among the States, subsidiarity is a luxury that Europe can’t afford. Defending the national government choices with short-sightedness would make community work critic.

President of the Italian Republic, Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, recently has declared that is necessary to relaunch the Barcellona process. What European Parliament will be able to do in this direction?

For relaunching the Barcellona process, we have to face three open problems: the framework in which the implementation of the partnership shall be developed, the actors and the policies to be adopted. Europe is to assert its political role in the international framework. It must build peace, starting with middle eastern region as a matter of urgency, facing all the problems from a realistic point of view, but with the full awareness that any kind of efforts shall be done. Secondly, the actors: Who are the actors? They cannot be only the governments, the Barcellona process cannot be an exclusive Governments’ responsibility. Especially local Authorities, both parliamentary and interparliamentary Assemblies like that established in Naples must be involved, but not only. It is necessary to involve the social subjects of culture, education and research fields, as well as to improve the basic principles of Barcellona Process whose objectives cannot be achieved in a short time but through constant paths at political and institutional level. Finally, the policies: till now other events distracted Europe, as the enlargement to East, so keeping the Mediterranean and South in the background. Now we must relaunch it with new forms of cooperation in order to enhance the actors peculiarities in the local development framework where the public administration can more easily improve the social tissue.

**EURO AS CURRENCY OF THE PARTNERSHIP AREA AND AS MEAN OF PAYMENT FOR THE ENERGY RESOURCES.**

It was the theme of a workshop held in Palermo and organized by the European Federalist Movement in collaboration with Banco di Sicilia Foundation, under the aegis of the Sicilian Region Presidency. During the meeting, among those present, there were Salvatore Bufera, President of the Banco di Sicilia Foundation, Domenico Moro, national deputy secretary of the European Federalist Movement, Alfonso Iozzo, managing director of San Paolo Imi, Abdullah Jeber of the Arab League and Marcello Massinelli, economic advisor of Sicilian Region President.

**CIAMPI RELAUNCHES THE BARCELLONA PROCESS**

The President of the Italian Republic, Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, following the meeting with the Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, has launched an appeal to the new European Commission for relaunching the Process of Barcelona for the euro-mediterranean partnership. “Nine years have passed: the President of the Italian Republic stated, since in Barcelona the EU and the countries of the Mediterranean coast undertook an epoch-making commitment: the realisation of a common peace and development area. But that target is still far”. Then Ciampi has closed his speech by reminding that it is necessary to share with Egypt common goals of stability and development, in order to improve the dialogue between the West and Islamic world.
COPPEM OUTGUESSES THE PROXIMITY POLICY

The experience developed up to now in Jacques De Grave’s and Marc Thoulen’s opinions.

On the occasion of the 4th anniversary of Coppem, Jacques De Grave and Marc Thoulen draw up a first account. Two different expressions, two fully convergent point of views...

Belgium is not a coastal Mediterranean country but is one of those taking part in Coppem’s activities, as it is a signatory country of Barcelona Declaration. By what is motivated this interest?

• Jacques de Grave: It seems to me quite obvious that Belgium is particularly interested in the Mediterranean area that is without any doubt the cradle of our European civilization. And as it is also an European practice of association with all the Mediterranean coastal countries, it was right for Belgium, which has always considered very important the common processes carried out, to be in the heart of the action. This is the aim of our thorough presence in Coppem.

• Marc Thoulen: I use to say, joking, that the Mediterranean starts in Brussels at Gare du Midi, and it is true that Brussels, as the most European capital city, or maybe even more, hosts a large percentage of people coming from Mediterranean basin. Of course, the result is a problem of integration for this people, as well as of integrism-refuge, which is fomented by their disperation. The challenge is that of changing what today is considered a problem in what, tomorrow, will be a richness for our societies. And obviously these problems are closely connected to peace topic. An harmonious development of Mediterranean, made of shared economic development, respectful of environment and different cultures, ensures a space of peace and security to our borders but, it is necessary to say it, considering the forms of modern wars, even inside our homes.

You didn’t mention the opening to East. Which are your expectations?

• Marc Thoulen: I don’t think there is a contrast between the opening to East and the chance to develop the cooperation with Mediterranean. In my opinion, it is also a basic mistake to see in it a competition. Of course, at short-term, the resources are limited and it is possible that what is earned on the one hand is than lost on the other. Instead, at long-term there is the risk that the game do not proceed at the same rate of the other. In spite of the strategic considerations, which have also their importance, if Europe makes an investment in the East, it is because it knows that enlarging its range, it will produce a rate of growth. The real problem is that Europe doesn’t make investments in the Mediterranean with the same strength and intensity as well. Maybe because it doesn’t realize how much important is the stake. Maybe because to understand this we would need that Europe has more influence. We must not choose the wrong objective, the problem is not that the east is superfluous, but that Europe is not enough.

• Jacques de Grave: the recent enlargement of the European Union to the new ten member countries have brought forward all the European poli-
Marc Thoulen: Coppem is in advance on the implementation of the Euro-mediterranean proximity policy. And it is also a specific place of analysis for local and regional authorities and not for central Governments.

Which is Coppem’s identity?

Marc Thoulen: I would define it as NGO (not exactly, because it consists of elected representatives) which sets as spreading vector of the Barcellona process among local and regional authorities. This process involves three part: a political part, that we could define as a strategic-institutional one, an economic stage, that should be better focused on the exchanges development rather than on structural development of the economies. Finally, a socio-cultural part, centred around education. Coppem is dealing with these topics but it goes over. For example, the idea of the euro-mediterranean Foundation for intercultural dialogue, is a topic that has been widely discussed at Coppem. There is also the topic of the free trade area, which seems to go towards that concerning the structural development. It is a project supported by Coppem, through the Development Agency. Coppem plays a role of closer examination and enlargement, sometimes of creation in comparison with the Barcellona process, so it has its own dynamic.

Jacques de Grave: Coppem really extends the horizon of all the participants. It is a privileged place to think over all this topics. It is a place for building up close relations among local authorities and I think it is necessary to stress this point as it is relevant. It is an extraordinary place where create personal and deep human relations, which make the exchanges more productive.
Both of you have defined Coppem as a place of reflection. Does it represent only this?

- Jacques de Grave: I have just said, Coppem goes over the simple reflection, it consists of responsible, open and active representatives. Coppem has, Marc thoulen and I are agreed, an excellent communication policy which have been developing and consolidating even more, in the communities of the regions involved. Today Coppem needs only that one or two important projects can be carried out. I wish that the euro-mediterranean Development Agency can become active as well as an actor benefiting from the necessary credits to carry out concrete facts and projects in the interests of all the partners.

- Marc Thoulen: through its communication policy, Coppem imposed itself as unique place of exchange, human relations and best practises. The recognition of Coppem, must be pointed out in all the countries that are part of the proximity – still virtual- and Union (I think in particular about some arab countries that tend to give to Coppem the role of ambassador in the EU). In a short time, it would be necessary to work on some “Phare-projects” which would start a more concrete dynamic and show Coppem’s objectives potetials. I am agree with Jacques de Grave in confirming the interest for the Development Agency, which should carry out concrete projects, without these the Agency could seem a toolbox, but an empty one.

What leads to this difficult passage: from reflection to action?

- Jacques de Grave: the necessities are too much and the means are too limited. So it is necessary the firm support of the European Union, Arab League and other important instruments of the international co-operation. A support in the spirit, financial resources, cooperation and project implementation.

- Marc Thoulen: the problem consists in the different approach with which the problems are faced. Every Country, in fact, has a different approach connected to its experience and framework. Let’s suppose that with a strong infrastructure, concrete proposals can be made, studied, and projects can be drawn up, just to implement a dynamic. Maybe it is not enough but it is a necessary condition. With a basis of sure means, we should overcome the first stage of projects: the bridging loan of the studies could be a first stage in this direction. But don’t delude ourselves, it is only a first stage, but I believe that Coppem has the resources to overcome the following stages.

Is this the challenge for the future?

- Marc Thoulen: We can reduce the problem to a question of resources. The most important thing is the consent. I already consider as a tour de force the fact to have been able to get in touch with a considerable number of Countries, that, without being necessarily coastal Mediterranean Countries, share the common objective of an harmonic development of the Mediterranean basin and Europe as well.

- Jacques de Grave: the challenges are all those we are able to imagine. Coppem has already faced the important test to get in touch a considerable number of countries, regions and local authorities, and municipalities with different culture, all together to achieve a specific objective of mutual understanding, peace, good governance, organic development, at cultural, economical and commercial level. The common good and the progress for everybody are the basis itself of Coppem’s power of persuasion.
Around the year 1070 the whole of Southern Italy was in the hands of the Normans. Palermo fell in 1072 and Robert Guiscard and his brother Roger I were to be the undisputed rulers of the region for many years thereafter. When Robert died in 1085 he was succeeded by Roger, who appears to have been an enlightened man who dealt with the problems of his time with great wisdom. Under Norman rule, Greeks, Arabs and Jews were able to go about their daily lives as they wished and without interference and also, therefore, to practise their respective religions freely. In the 11th century, Sicily was the only place in Europe where genuine freedom of religion existed. The followers of the three main religions - Islam, Judaism and Christianity – lived side by side in harmonious co-existence. Saracens, Greeks, Jews and Italians were thus able to ply their trades and live their lives in peace. Sicily became, both historically and geographically, the point of contact between Roman, Greek, Byzantine and Arab civilisation. In 1130 Roger II was crowned king in Palermo by a representative of the Anti-Pope Anacletus and was later confirmed as king in 1139 by Innocent II. Princes in other parts of Europe – in particular the Holy Roman Emperor – regarded the developments in the south with envious eyes and made frenetic attempts, as was then usual, to destabilise Southern Italy. This appeared briefly to have succeeded, but Roger II’s skilful manoeuvring prevented them from doing any real damage. In fact, he managed to turn the external threat posed by his enemies to his own advantage and was even able to expand his dominium. As a lawgiver and administrator he followed in the footsteps of his father. He was also a great defender of religious tolerance; the arts and sciences flourished during his reign; and Palermo was adorned with numerous castles and churches of great architectural beauty, of which the Palatine Chapel is a very fine example. Sadly, when Roger II died, the hatred between Christians and Moslems immediately revived and took on even more extreme forms. Around 1200 the Arabs were forced to leave Palermo and were driven into the mountains. A hundred years later Arabs were being sold as slaves.

There can be no doubt that the Norman kings bequeathed a highly significant cultural legacy to Sicily. Their vision was rooted in the idea that the various different races and religions did not have to be compelled into an artificial unity. On the contrary, the aim of their policy was to ensure that, within the ground rules that they had established, all their subjects could retain their own culture, which was to lead to an unprecedented flourishing of human society in Norman Sicily. The mutual cross-fertilisation to which they thereby gave free rein had unprecedented, positive effects. Social energies, because there were not expended in nationalistic or religious recriminations, were harnessed towards the creation of new, economically and culturally positive, possibilities which gave an enormous stimulus to both man and society.

This may be something of a platitude, but all the same, history really can teach us a great deal, provided that we are prepared to listen to the lessons of the past. I mean really listen, which, therefore, also means to act in consequence. This year the European Union has undergone its first major expansion. Ten (North) Eastern European countries have joined the EU in the hope and expectation that their membership will bring them peace and prosperity. This has set the whole of Europe trem-
bling, and I use the word ‘trembling’ advisedly. Some have said that Europe is being shaken to its foundations, now that so many countries are suddenly to have a say in the political order in Brussels, but this picture is incorrect. Europe trembles, nothing more, but also nothing less - and understandably so. Naturally, the expansion of the EU is bound to have tremendous consequences, politically and administratively and, of course, also in a financial and economic sense. It is clear that Brussels will have to find a way of dealing with this and that this is obviously going to ruffle a few feathers. It is also clear that this is going to give rise to a more inward-looking modus operandi. A reorientation on Europe's external borders is also inevitable. These last two observations bring me to Coppem.

Does the expansion of the European Union represent a threat for Coppem? The answer is: yes and no. Just as the Norman kings of Southern Italy managed to turn the external threat they were facing from the rest of Europe (the Roman Emperor in the East and the Holy Roman Emperor of Germany, acting in unison to bring their combined forces to bear against them) into a shining example of good governance, so Coppem will have to deal with the “threats” which EU expansion has brought in its train. The “new” Europe will have its hands full on its external borders. Byelorussia is a case in point. The behaviour of Alexander Lukashenko, who has managed to secure a third term as president by means of flagrant manipulation of the country's electoral system and who has shown a breath-taking disregard for democracy, has caused such an uproar that the European Union cannot just sit idly by and do nothing. Lithuania, Latvia and Poland are its neighbours. Their anxieties over what is happening on their borders have now become European (border) anxieties. The same is true of relations between Poland and the Ukraine. An editorial in the Dutch newspaper NRC-Handelsblad of 19 October 2004 described the situation in the following terms: “The eastern border of the European Union is a subject which we know too little about and whose problems we have underestimated. Recent events in Byelorussia are forcing EU members to formulate a position. For new members such as Poland, Latvia and Lithuania, and to a lesser extent for Slovakia and Hungary, the question is more urgent than it is for Brussels. Looking westwards from Warsaw a landscape with perspective unfurls, but to the East one sees only a black hole, a new Iron Curtain”. An important mission for Coppem will be to prevent something like this happening on Europe's southern border and an equally important task for Coppem is to ensure that the focus in Brussels in the coming years does not get skewed towards what is going on in the east.

In the first place we need to continue along the course which we have already chosen, with vigour, with rational argument and with a renewed propagation of our conviction that the objectives of Coppem have great benefits to offer, not only for the whole Mediterranean area, but for Europe, as well. Secondly, we can show that, acting within from your own identity, you can achieve things that others can't. By 'own identity' I refer here to the historically incontrovertible fact that the countries around the Mediterranean have so much in common that, provided their efforts are appropriately focused, this can only mean that the right things will come out of it. Thirdly, we must make room for what history teaches us: the example of Sicily under its Norman rulers demonstrated that cultures can cross-fertilize each other, and that this cross-fertilization brought genuine peace and prosperity to Southern Italy.

Lastly, this is now the time for us to call on Brussels to give its full support to the activities of Coppem, as Coppem's work is an example, par excellence, of activities which are targeted at preventing and solving exactly the sort of problems such as those which are manifesting themselves on Europe's eastern borders. It was foreign conquerors who brought prosperity, order, culture and peace to Sicily and to a large part of the Mediterranean. These conquerors understood the language of wisdom. They were well aware of the enormous potential that a genuine meeting of different cultures and races could unleash. I believe that operating from this historical perspective is an historical mission for Coppem.
AN ITALIAN NETWORK FOR THE ANNA LINDH FOUNDATION

For the dialogue among cultures in the Mediterranean and assertion of the human rights

Anna Lindh’s death, the swedish minister for foreign affairs, who was murdered on the 11th September 2003, has not deleted the years she spent in fighting for human rights. Memory cannot be killed, but it keeps on living. The Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for dialogue among cultures is dedicated to her that was a fervent supporter of Europeanism. Anna Lindh Foundation, whose seat is at Alexandria, has the purpose of “becoming a catalyst element for all the initiatives aimed at developing dialogue and mutual understanding”. The cities put forward to host this foundation were four: Valletta, Nicosia, Alexandria (on joint presentation of Egypt and Sweden) and Naples (italian Government initially proposed Rome and then Naples). The decision was taken in Dublin during the summit of EU ministers for foreign affairs and their counterparts of the euro-mediterranean partnership (Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Turkey, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria and Palestinia Authority). Wished for by the European Union in the euro-mediterranean partnership framework and launched during the italian semester Presidency, Anna Lindh Foundation is present even in Italy. On the last 8th September, in fact, in the International Conferences main hall of Farnesina the “italian Network” was officially established and it will jointly work with the main seat in Alexandria and euro-mediterranean countries networks. Anna Lindh Foundation plays a basic and important role in the dialogue among cultures of the Countries of both Mediterranean shores and in human rights assertion. It is a Foundation “network of national nets” jointly working for a common objective, that is dialogue promotion, as well as for the assertion of the principles ratified in the Barcellona Declaration in 1995. Said El Dakkak, vice-Chancellor of the Alexandria University and Member of the I Coppem Commission, being a strong supporter of this Foundation, explains role and functioning of this Organisation dedicated to the young swedish Minister.

Why the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation “Anna Lindh” was created?
The Euro-Mediterranean Foundation “Anna Lindh”, is an initiative for improving the relations, and therefore for promoting the dialogue among the Mediterranean cultures and asserting political rights in the Mediterranean Countries.

The head office of this Foundation is in Alexandria. This choose wasn’t a casual one, from what is it originated? The reasons for which the city of Alexandria was identified as the main seat are very significant. In this egyptian city, in fact, three centuries B.C the famous Library that was conceived as Egypt’s window looking out on the world, arose. In particular, the Foundation “Anna Lindh” promotes tolerance,
dialogue and mutual acquaintance, as values that also the Alexandrian Library embodies by taking in all the human knowledge with its seven hundred thousand volumes.

In actual fact, which kind of relation there is between the Library and the Foundation?

It is a relation established on a mutual coordination and collaboration basis, actually both the Library and Alexandrian culture Institution promote intellectual and sociologic meetings in order to make the dialogue easier, a clear dialogue aiming at making peoples closer. Diversity among cultures exists and it is an undeniable fact, but we must work in order that common ties can create joint aims.

Nine years later the “Barcellona Declaration”, do you think that the principles of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership have been carried out?

In some fields the Partnerships standards have been carried out, for example, it is enough to consider that now we are talking about the dialogue between Southern and Northern Mediterranean shores, and it has almost become not only a culture but also a necessity. Actually, exchange as well as interaction involve and improve the Counties in their social, economical and cultural aspects. Of course, many other fields are still ignored: contacts among universities are still feeble and this brings about a lack in dialogue especially in the young people which represent the generation change and then openness and continuity of the dialogue itself. Just the youth represent today the greater part of the people and so they have to get ready for the exchange, and to know the things which are different from the culture they belong to. This last aspect can be assured only if there is an interaction with other realities. Well the Foundation “Anna Lindh” is a bet for favouring the intercultural dialogue and to let the “project of living together” take off in the respect for diversities”.

IN ARAB UNITED EMIRATES FOR THE FIRST TIME A WOMEN BECOMES MINISTER

Sheika Loubna al Qassemi, in fact, has been appointed as responsible for Economy and Plan: therefore she is the very first women to be Minister in the story of the Eau, established as a federation of seven Emirates in 1971. Her ministry gets together two ministerial offices that were separeted till now, one dealing with economy and commerce matters and the other with Planning.

STOCKHOLM. NOBEL PRIZE FOR PEACE TO KENYAN ECOLOGIST WANGARI MATHAI

The kenyan ecologist Wangari Maathai, 64 years old, won nobel prize for peace 2004, she is the first woman in central-eastern Africa to get a research doctorate, as well as the first woman to be Head of a Department of the University of Kenya. In 1977 she founded the green movement Green Belt, and thanks to a project, that she thought up, which involved particularly women, she has seen to it that 10 million of trees were planted in order to prevent soil erosion and to provide with wood.
NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERIPHERAL AREAS

They are offered by decentralized cooperation, an original development policy

The Enlargement of the European Union to the Eastern Countries, a fact that I appreciate and I think it will strengthen the position of our Continent in the world, is intended to delocalize Europe geopolitical centre in the same geographical direction. Such a new reality represents a series of further challenges for small and medium cities, in particular for the cities located in most peripheral regions and countries of the European Union. For this reason I think that decentralized cooperation, through financial resources managed by the European Commission, is an opportunity of which all the European Local Governments have to make a good use. In my opinion to take part in cooperation projects can give a lot of advantages to the local Governments involved.

In addition to available financial resources through well-founded projects, presented by various partner authorities in a joint and integrated way, maybe the most important advantage is that the Organizations might share learning and find solutions for common problems that, somehow, end up by affecting citizens. In an even more enlarged Europe, in which higher cohesion between the countries and citizens at economic and social level is wished for, the participation in decentralized cooperation projects is an opportunity for peripheral cities. I also think that in the new financial planning for the period 2007-2013, the European Union should implement the importance of this kind of cofinancing programme. Programmes as INTERREG, URBAN, URBAL, ASIURBS and other like these should be further promoted and see implemented their financial means, since they are territory development inductors. Cooperation allows the Local Governments, through exchanges and education visits, to make lightning progress in the research of solutions to their specific problems. Observing best practices and the respective adaptation to each different situation, allows us to find more quickly the solutions for the questions that get us anxious and for the problems that concern us as well.
Turkey has already expressed her will to strike out on a difficult path leading to the integration with Europe. This can only be achieved if religious, ethnical and cultural tolerance is promoted both in Turkey and Europe. In this regard, the process will eventually lead to the strengthening of the democratic structure of Turkey; and thus offers gains in many aspects. We, as Alanya Municipality, believe that most of the work in this process is to be done by elected political representatives at all levels and above all the people. Having this vision in our minds, we started a process that has been designated to integrate the foreigners living in Alanya in the decision making process at the local level, or simply to integrate the daily lives of people living in Alanya with our guests who have chosen to live in Alanya.

About 7 or 8 thousands foreigners are living in Alanya, and most of them are from Europe. In addition to Germans, who are the most crowded foreign population in Alanya, people from Holland, Austria, United Kingdom and Denmark have chosen to live in Alanya on a permanent basis. In this regard, Alanya provides a basis for the integration of the people in the daily life, before the political integration at the national level. We believe that people coming from different realities and cultures have come together, created and given example of the Mediterranean fraternity in Alanya; and this process will eventually provide solutions for many local problems and enrich the daily lives of both local people and our guests, who have chosen to become citizens of Alanya.

I would like to draw an outline of the studies that have been initiated in Alanya in order to secure the social and cultural integration of the people coming from different cultures. The first one of these efforts is the Council of Foreigners. This council is consisted of 26 people. Thirteen of these people are permanent members, whereas 13 others are reserve members.

This council is a voluntary body working as a bridge between the foreigner and the local government in order to inform Alanya Municipality about the opinions, thoughts, complaints and requests of the foreigners on local issues. Alanya Municipality has assigned an office to this Council and two members of this Council work voluntarily and receive visitors at this office between 10 a.m. and 00 p.m. on Monday and Thursday every week. The members of the Council use the office any time they wish to. Suggestions and requests made by the members of the Council of Foreigners are discussed and reviewed by the Municipality organs, or taken to the civic organizations, including local NGOs. In addition, a Christian Cemetery has been established nearby the Municipality Cemetery. About 50 Christians have been laid to rest in this Cemetery up to the date. Burial ceremonies are carried out with the participation of the religion officer of the German Consulate in Antalya.

The foreigners, most of whom are German, are allocated a hall at Alanya Culture Center whenever they want to practice religious ceremonies. The German ZDF TV has been provided with a local channel in Alanya so that it is now possible to receive ZDF TV broadcast all over Alanya without a satellite dish. Most of the foreigners living in Alanya have also started their own business or do their own jobs in Alanya. These include a wide range including bakeries, real estate agencies, groceries, journalism and many other activities. There are 3 daily newspapers published in German. There are two civil society organizations, namely Turkish-German Association and Alanya German Aid Organization.
CULTURAL HERITAGE A DEVELOPMENT FACTOR

Substantial indications from the preservation project in the medina of Kairouan.

Fatma Zaghouani

University of Tunis 1, Unimed and Coppem organised on the last 25th June, in the Cité des Sciences, a workshop devoted to cultural heritage as sustainable development factor. In this important meeting, Tunisian and European experts, academics participated to discuss about their experiences concerning cultural heritage promotion and management. Especially the contribution of Mourad Rammah, Kairouan Medina keeper, aroused the attention of those present. The expert made a report on the experience of preservation in the Medina of Kairouan that was not limited to preserve the cultural peculiarity of Okba city. The priority purpose, in fact, was that of improving the idea on cultural heritage, which is considered as one of the driving forces for sustainable development. Actually, Rammah has pointed out, Kairouan, assessed as world heritage since 1988, contains several world-famous monuments with an urban extension of 54 hectares and it deserves to preserve its architectonic aspect as well as its patrimonial value. It is in this direction that the preservation strategy started, in the 70s a first stage for preserving those monuments which made famous the city, that are the Okba mosque, Aghlabite reservoir, Barber’s Mausoleum, the Three Stages Mosque. In the second stage, the various institutions involved (INP, ASM, anep, the governorate council and the municipality) focused their interventions on the bulwarks which are the string-course that allows to preserve the whole fabric of the city from modern urbanization threats. At the same time it was started the restoration of various monuments whose function has become obsolete like madrasas, mausoleums and marabouts which after the evacuation of their occupants, were restored and allotted again. We cite the example of Sidi Abid that today hosts ASM office, huseinie madrasa turned into town district seat of Medina, Sidi Ben Khoud, hosting the regional commission for culture, youth and leisure. Sidi Amor Adaba hosting the regional Conservatory and Oulakat Barrouta in which there is a crafts centre. At the same time, Dr. Mourad Rammah adds, the project aims at preserving about twenty suqs, inside the Medina, restored in order to preserve its economic life. In all, more than 25 mausoleums, 6 madrasas, thirty mosques and 20 suqs were restored, by enabling to face the third stage, the most difficult one, that is to preserve the whole urban fabric of Kairouan medina and the majority of its old buildings by keeping their authenticity. This stage started in the second half of 90s with the presidential project costed several millions of dinars and in which have taken part all the public institutions interested in the Medina, among those the Steg, Sonede and Télécom. Such a project concerned the main road linking up the Great Mosque with Sidi Abid Mausoleum and long 800 meters. These works are dealing with main road division, interment of electricity and telephone networks in the walls, restoration and ornamentation of all the facades along this tourist artery, by working even inside some buildings in order to better arrange them for modern life standards. Of course, this project has brought about new dynamics. Actually, the Ministry of Infrastructure has charged the Arru with the arrangement of a survey on Kairouan’s Medina redevelopment and, the World Bank has considered that such a project is a good and successful one and so agreed in financing other main roads by granting a loan of 750,000 dollars to the Tunisian State which is part of a general earmarking for cultural projects in Tunisia of 25 million dollars. At present, the ASM is starting a new partnership phase with the citizens that take up with pleasure in financing the restoration works of their houses, under ASM’s supervision: “from 7, in 2002, to 41 interventions in 2004. In the arab muslim world such an experience is unique of its kind and it will allow, of course, to preserve the authenticity as well as universality. This project will also contribute to the sustainable development of Kairouan through cultural tourism promotion, and specialized technicians training in the cultural heritage field and the takeover for a part of the local manpower!” Rammah said closing his speech.
THE CHARTER “MEDITERRANEAN TOGETHER”

Adopted by five Countries to promote a sustainable economy

Israel, Morocco, Tunisia, Spain and Italy together around a table to promote also economic exchanges among their Countries marked by sharing and peace on mutual terms. “Having no experience the other produces fear and unease and it can bring about – as the representative of the Israeli Embassy in Italy Elazar Cohen said – hatred that turns into terrorism. And hatred is opposite to the principles of all religious faiths”. In these words lies the spirit of the Conference “Cities together for a Renaissance of Mediterranean” that, in the first day, after the welcome of the Mayor of Marsala Eugenio Galfano and the other authorities, introduced the economic topic with the speech by Mario Baccini, Undersecretary of External Affairs. He has hoped for the development of sustainable economy exchanges among all the Mediterranean countries, as a basis for a wider development process. Then José de Carvajal, Ambassador of Spain in Italy, who has followed the Conference of Barcellona of 1995, born to create a common market among Mediterranean Countries.

The next meeting is due to be held in 2005 in order to check the results achieved ten years later, which unfortunately are not in step with its expectations. “It is necessary to act – the Ambassador said – in order to change a mere geographical relation in a political one by promoting equality and reciprocity”. Pierluigi Toti, President of Lamaro Contracts, hopes for an economic, ethic and sustainable growth. “The Mediterranean – Toti said – is an extraordinary laboratory taking in two different faces of the problem: opportunity and inequality. Enterprises should not consider the developing countries as a mere source of cheap labour, but as possible markets”.

Then a concrete objective is that of building up a basin of consumers enjoying better life standards; while politics’ task is that of making the birth of new enterprises in the southern Mediterranean countries easier, by opening subsidized credit lines. The objective to be achieved is – Toti said in conclusion - that the rules must be the same for everybody, otherwise the loss of a great opportunity”. The evening rounded off with a performance at Imperium Theatre, where about a hundred students from the Conservatory of Valencia affected the spectators. Today, finally, it has been signed the Chart “Mediterranean Together” by the institutional representatives from the following cities: Marsala, with its Mayor Eugenio Galfano; Castellón, represented by the Mayor José Luis Gimeno Ferrer; Valencia, with the general manager of the Region Doña Concepción Gómez Ocana; Effi Senzler, Mayor of the Israeli city of Givatayam; as well as Joushar Ben-sajr; deputy Mayor of Tunis; Jameled-dine Hammami, Mayor of Kelibia; and Abdellatif Achab, Mayor of Tanger. All together, in the presence of UNO’s representative Hassen Fodha, have signed the Chart “Mediterranean Together” that commits all the cities involved to the respect of equality, peace and reciprocity principles on which the Association Mediterranean Together is based, being promoter of this conference in collaboration with the Municipality of Marsala.

Riri Contiero/Alessandro Tarantino
Press Office, Municipality of Marsala

16 COPPEMNEWS
ON THE LAST 5TH AND 6TH NOVEMBER IT WAS HELD AT SIENA THE CONFER-ENCE FOCUSING ON "THE FUTURE OF EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP IN LIGHT OF 'WIDER EUROPE': THE HU-MEN DIMENSION". The initiative has been promoted by the Mediterranean Pro-gamme, the Robert Shuman Centre for Advanced Studies, and by the European Uni-versity Institute in collaboration with IeMed.

ON THE LAST 8TH NOVEMBER THE EXHIBI-TION "TODA UNA VIDA DE AYUN-TAMIENTOS DEMOCRÁTICOS", an event commemorating the 25th anniversary of FEMP Foundation (Spanish Federation of Mu-nicipalities and Provinces). On the occasion of its opening there were spanish king Carlos and queen Sofia, D.Francisco Vázquez, presi-dent of FEMP and mayor of La Coruña, Francesco Javier Raja, President of the Sen-ate, Jordi Sevilla, Minister of Public Adminis-trations and D.Alfonso Alonso, Mayor of Vi-toria-Gasteiz, the city hosting the exhibition.

TAORMINA: MEETING OF THE EURO-PEAN REGIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY. The presidents from 149 european regions, on behalf of the 25 member States joining the EU, have met at Taormina on last october to talk new policies of commu-nity development over. The Presidents of the Regions have worked out a platform that will be soon submitted to the Commission and european Parliament, in which the pri-orities deriving from the increase of the States which are members of the EU, as well as from the arising of new economic and social problems. It has been taken great attention the proposal by President of the Sicilian Region Salvatore Cuffaro, who is also the President of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe, to work out an european plan for internation-al cooperation: a sort of “Marshall Plan” able to improve the economic growth in the southern countries of the Mediterranean and to check illegal immigration movement to Northern Europe. A plan that could turn the mediterranean regions of Europe in de-volopment agents, by easing the high so-cial and economic costs caused by illegal landing and the following need to take in and support them, international policy poli-cies in the mediterranean area involving by now a lot of men as well as means.

EURO-MEDITERRANEAN: EURIMED HAS COME INTO BEING, SICILY AT THE HEAD OF MEDITERRANEAN ISLANDS. The re-gion of Crete has been joined Imedoc (the Association of insular Regions of Western Mediterranean) which, just in order to allow such a widening to this eastern mediter-ranean island, will change its own name in-to Eurimed. The entry of Crete in Eurimed was made official during the works of the seminar organised by Aebr (Association of the European Border Regions) together with Cpmr (Conference of Peripheral Maritime Re-gions of Europe), which was held in Taor-mina from 20th to 22nd of the last october. This initiative has been officially introduced by the President of Sicily Region, Salvatore Cuffaro, and by the Secretary General of Crete Region, Tsokas. Eurimed represents the political evolution of Imedoc Association, which get together the great western mediter-ranean islands. For the first time in this or-ganization, born under the sicilian Presiden-cy, all the great mediterranean islands have converged. “This is another appreciation of the central role that Sicily plays in the Mediterranean – President Cuffaro stated – as much important as it has been achieved through an institutional table consisting of all the european regions. This investiture con-firms that Sicily and sicilian people can play an authoritative role of catalyst among the different ethnic components of Southern Eu- rope at cultural and political level.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN SICILY AND GREECE. The President of the Sicilian Region, Salvatore Cuffaro, has signed an important agreement memorandum with the Secretary General of Patras region, in the western Greece, in order to improve cooperation in the Mediterranean area at social and cultural as well as economic and scientific level. Such an agreement is planning to establish joint ini-tiatives in the trasport field – especially re-garding infrastructure and port facilities and also the creation of direct sea links, the cre-ation of joint strategies aimed at tourism de-velopment as well as at cultural and natural heritage enhancement of both the regions, the realisation of programmes for the promo-tion of local products and mediterranean life model as a whole and also the exchange and development of research and technolog-ical development. Moreover, both the regions are going to promote the coordination of euromediterranean territorial cooperation efforts in order to reassert the mediterranean region-s role within the process of integration of the European Union with the countries along the southern coast.

SALVATORE CUFFARO PRESIDENT OF THE SICILIAN REGION WILL MEET IN MALTA THE INCOMING EC FISHERIES COMMISS-IONER, BORG, in order to define the poli-cies earmarked for Mediterranean. The ap-pointment was fixed at Taormina, on the last month, within the meeting of the european re-gions, in collaboration with the government of the Republic of Malta. This meeting has been asked for by all the representatives of such a field in Sicily, following the first state-ments of the incoming Commissioner, who promised a stronger attention for fishing workers' needs of the Mediterranean area.
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and Regional Authorities

6th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Palermo,
Villa Malfitano
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