SPECIAL ON CASERTA CONFERENCE
While this issue of “Coppem News” is going to be published, from Naples word comes that the Euro-mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly is born, an institution strongly wished for by the Parliament’s representatives of the Countries within the Barcellona Process, to which Regions and Municipalities of this wide area look with particular interest as it anticipates new institutional order in which to play a direct role.

At any rate, the Assembly seems to be established for strengthening and developing partnership’s relations between European Union Countries and the 12 Countries of the Mediterranean south side which have taken up a joint course under the mark of cooperation and solidarity. The new Assembly had the approval by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the countries interested, in the full awareness, as the President of the European Parliament Mr. Pat Cox stated, “of building a feature of modern history”. But the local authorities representatives assert that such a building would be incomplete if there isn’t another official seat for euromediterranean local self-governments.

This is the proposal reintroduced by the President of Sicily Region, Salvatore Cuffaro, who has reminded us what, in this sense, the Regions’ Committee and the Interinstitutional Conference - promoted to define their role in developing the political, social, economic, cultural and human integration policies-declared. Just during the Conference held in Palermo for the first time an important step has been achieved with the agreement, in practice, of creating a network, to be called together every sixth months, and on political level reaffirming the role of the regional institutions in the partnership activities.

The resolutions adopted at Naples formally follow a resolution of the European Parliament but they are also the result of that wide movement developed at local level for reintroducing the Barcellona process which is somehow bogged down at national level but supported by Cities and Regions involved in researching original and productive forms of cooperation. The basic question of the Union’s euromediterranean policy shall be inscribed in this framework, recognizing that local authorities are able to produce effective cooperation guidelines for development. In this perspective COPPEM have always worked, also on the occasion of the last Conference on welfare systems, aiming at a variety of euromediterranean partnerships for local development.

This Coppem News issue is dedicated to the wide debate held in the glamours and picturesque Royal Palace of Caserta, pointing out that the leit-motiv of the discussion was the close correlation among good welfare service, fair and enduring development and socio-political reforms to lay the basis of a real both economic and civil growth.

But, today, what kind of scopes and means Cities and Regions have to give substance to the euro-mediterranean partnership? The eight years went by the Barcellona Conference have not resolved this question and even the project of a Constitution for Europe seems to ignore political-institutional potential of local authorities whose role not seems to be completely recognized.

The recognition assumes a form almost indirect when the article 5 merely states that “the Union respects the member Countries national identity linked to its own basic, political and constitutional structure, including the local and regional authorities system”. It’s true that the presence of Regions’ Committee as Union’s consultive body together with economic and social Committee is confirmed in the EU regulations but it is also true that the role and functions of Cities and Regions to realize EU policies, for example the cohesion policy, could be better identified because, very often, the EU strategies ended up by playing on Municipalities and Regions, which give to Europe that “richness of its own diversity” proclaimed by the Union as one principle of the Constitution’s Project.
EUROMEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP FOR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT: WELFARE SYSTEMS

It was that the theme of the conference held in Caserta on the last September 27th and 28th. The gorgeous Royal Palace of Caserta framed the international event. The participation of the health world’s and institutional representatives was noteworthy. The contributions with planning purposes for social, economic and cultural development was full of meanings so we publish them in succession. On the opening, COPPEM’s President Fabio Pellegrini; the following contributions are by Jeremy Smith, Anouar Ibrahim, Keith Whitmore, Roger Bodin, Marc Thoulen and Abdelfatah Skir.

Fabio Pellegrini
President Of COPPEM

The presence in this conference and the participation of the President Jacques Blanc made me feel again the “Sherpa” of the european territorial communities. The President Mr. Blanc was the last President of the Local Authorities Advisory Council and the first President of the Committee of the Regions and Local Authorities both of them established with the Maastricht Treaty in 1992. The “Advisory Council”, established by resolution of the Commission in June 1988 and settled in Brussels on Christmas Eve of the same year by the president Delors, represented the continuity of an “Advisory Committe for Regions and Local Authorities” established by CCRE in 1977 for a permanent dialogue with the Committee. Therefore it took fifteen years to reach the Maastricht resolution. But the work we made was of great value, and the President Mr. Blanc will well remember it, also for the start of the Regions Committee in 1994. Now we have this important constitutional body we have to work for establishing the “Chamber or Senate of the States” each one represented as its own internal costitutional regulations, without necessarily prefiguring a unique model for everyone. Even today I feel again a “Sherpa” as President of the Standing Committee for Euro-Mediterranean Partnership of the Local and Regional Authorities (COPPEM) which consists of local and regional elected representatives of the 27 countries of the Barcellona process. Also this Committee is been required by CCRE and its national Sections in order to give voice and role to local authorities in the euromediterranean partnership. In Barcellona an euromediterranean parliamentary Assembly mentioned today was expected, but nothing concerning territorial communities. A role in decentralised cooperation was acknowledged for them, but it was quite marginal and during the last eight years nothing was made to extend our role and range of action. I think that one of the reasons for the Barcellona process didn’t go ahead, as shown even by the data that Mr. Shumaker produced, is due to the small power given to local authorities in developing the euromediterranean partnership. The general framework prefigured as condition for achieving the targets of the free trade area in 2010 (a term that today seems too close to be honoured), consists in promoting a set of social, economic and political-institutional reforms as necessary condition for a growth through sustainable development and so territorially spread. The same reform and the strengthening of the democratization processes, get through the growth of a very well-organized society in the form of social, professional, cultural and sports associations, of voluntary work, etc., that it is possible only with the incentive and support from local and regional communities. The projects for realising the great infrastructure works are necessary, but they do not establish the benchmark for socio-economic growth and employment and even for pointing at the use of the available financial resources. For achieving a suitable growth, innovation and employment it is necessary developing a widespread production system of small and medium-sized enterprises linked up with the local resources promotion. The decisive role of territorial authorities is essential for realizing all this. The decentralized cooperation shall not be
considered as a sop to be allowed to us: the intergovernmental standard of the European Union and the outgrowing of the bilateralism between the European Union countries and the Mediterranean non member countries shall be overturned. But this is all within the reforms to do. I exactly know how complex and difficult (also dangerous) this reforms process is. It is a question of proceeding with caution and determined will in the direction of making socio-economic and political – institutional bodies which need the overcoming of the present power structures and a reality that forbids the development of those societies. Without this awareness, damage with no foreseeable effects can be produced. In a way Iraq teaches us. Of course the term year of 2010 is to be revised, but the targets still stand if we want to contribute to achieving them. For this reason the method of an integrated and strategic view suggested by the President Claudio Martini, seems to me right also for achieving practical results. As well as we have to support with determination the proposal of the Honourable Mrs. Pasqualina Napoletano consisting in the overcoming of the bilateral agreements between Countries to move on agreements made by European Union in order to speed things up, make the relations systematic, define the law conditions and the necessary guarantees to the investors in the Mediterranean Third Countries. The support from the European Parliament will be useful mainly for the recognition of an advisory body of the euromediterranean territorial authorities. Most probably in Naples, it will be taken some step forward to the establishment of a Foundation for the multicultural dialogue and also to an Euro-Mediterranean parliamentary Assembly; about this one there is already a coordination and the person in charge takes part in the works of our Committee. With our commitment, with the Committee of the European Regions and Associations of local and regional authorities, with the European Parliament support, we have to ask, without ditherings, already on the occasion of the VI Euro-Mediterranean meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs foreseen in Naples on 2nd and 3th December prox., for the establishment of this body. With such a wide front the achievement of that objective shouldn’t be far or impossible. It is very clear that our request does not start from a corporative view or for ambition of the elected members of the european local, regional and non member countries. For the European Union, the Regions Committee, as well as for the euromediterranean partnership and for the achievement of the Barcellona ’95 targets, if we do not go in this direction we wouldn’t go very far and today’s delay runs the risk of becoming tomorrow’s failure". 
May I thank the organisers of this important conference for inviting me to give this short contribution, and may I express to you the greetings from the Council of European Municipalities and Regions. I would like to look at the issue from two perspectives. First, a European perspective. Second, from a global viewpoint. Europe is on the verge of its most substantial enlargement, with 10 new member states due to join the European Union next year, and with more due to join in the coming years. This means that, to the east and south-east, Europe will have new frontiers, new neighbours – Russia, the Ukraine and Moldova, for example. But even where our nearest neighbours remain unchanged – the south bank of the Mediterranean in particular – there are vital developments which require our attention. A few days ago I attended the Annual Assembly of CRPM, the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions. Michel Barnier, Commissioner for Regional Policy, gave a keynote address on the future of European cohesion policy. In this speech, he pointed out that in the coming decades, there will be enormous demographic changes on both banks of the Mediterranean. The population on Europe’s side is due to fall by 40 million, whilst the population on the south bank is due to grow by no less than 140 million. This represents a huge strategic issue and challenge. Moreover, it requires new instruments for co-operation at regional and local levels between the EU and its neighbours, if we are to ensure peaceful co-development. Let us be clear. There can be no national development without regional and local development. What happens on the ground, in our cities and communities, is essential – and national governments cannot themselves manage the fast-moving cities of tomorrow. Moreover, if we are to achieve an equitable development, there must be effective basic welfare services. And governments at all levels – in particular the local level – which have a strong capacity. This is beyond question of vital importance for Europe. We have to assist this process of development. Let us look at these issues from a world perspective. We have to reach the same conclusions. That is why the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are so important. They represent the only set of agreed goals that the member states of the UN have agreed. They have the backing of 185 member state governments. Taken together with the Johannesburg Declaration and Plan of Action, at the end of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, they represent the essential international set of commitments for development. Most of the MDGs have a strong local dimension. Unless the local level is involved, they will not be achieved. They require a strong partnership across all levels of government. They are set out in a single small document – potentially one of the most powerful pieces of paper in the world, if we all work together to implement them! Most Goals are aimed at the year 2015. There is the commitment to halve the numbers of those living in absolute poverty. To achieve universal primary education. To eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education. To improve health, and to halt the spread of HIV / AIDS, malaria and other major diseases. To reduce by half the number of those without access to safe drinking water. To achieve a significant improvement in the lives of over 100 million slum-dwellers. These goals are fundamental to the creation of a fairer and safer world, for all of us, over the next 10 to 20 years. In order to follow up the MDG implementation process, the European Commission and the Regional and Local governments, to make the MDGs a focal point for its actions, as it starts work next year. The first Congress of CRPM is to be in Paris in the first week of May, and the MDGs will feature in the programme. Development, including local development, is an issue for us all, whether we live in the North or the South, on the north bank or the south bank of the Mediterranean. The future of our world and our region depends on how successfully we can act together."

Jeremy Smith
CCRE Secretary General

"May I thank the organisers of this important conference for inviting me to give this short contribution, and may I express to you the greetings from the Council of European Municipalities and Regions. I would like to look at the issue from two perspectives. First, a European perspective. Second, from a global viewpoint. Europe is on the verge of its most substantial enlargement, with 10 new member states due to join the European Union next year, and with more due to join in the coming years. This means that, to the east and south-east, Europe will have new frontiers, new neighbours – Russia, the Ukraine and Moldova, for example. But even where our nearest neighbours remain unchanged – the south bank of the Mediterranean in particular – there are vital developments which require our attention. A few days ago I attended the Annual Assembly of CRPM, the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions. Michel Barnier, Commissioner for Regional Policy, gave a keynote address on the future of European cohesion policy. In this speech, he pointed out that in the coming decades, there will be enormous demographic changes on both banks of the Mediterranean. The population on Europe’s side is due to fall by 40 million, whilst the population on the south bank is due to grow by no less than 140 million. This represents a huge strategic issue and challenge. Moreover, it requires new instruments for co-operation at regional and local levels between the EU and its neighbours, if we are to ensure peaceful co-development. Let us be clear. There can be no national development without regional and local development. What happens on the ground, in our cities and communities, is essential – and national governments cannot themselves manage the fast-moving cities of tomorrow. Moreover, if we are to achieve an equitable development, there must be effective basic welfare services. And governments at all levels – in particular the local level – which have a strong capacity. This is beyond question of vital importance for Europe. We have to assist this process of development. Let us look at these issues from a world perspective. We have to reach the same conclusions. That is why the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are so important. They represent the only set of agreed goals that the member states of the UN have agreed. They have the backing of 185 member state governments. Taken together with the Johannesburg Declaration and Plan of Action, at the end of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, they represent the essential international set of commitments for development. Most of the MDGs have a strong local dimension. Unless the local level is involved, they will not be achieved. They require a strong partnership across all levels of government. They are set out in a single small document – potentially one of the most powerful pieces of paper in the world, if we all work together to implement them! Most Goals are aimed at the year 2015. There is the commitment to halve the numbers of those living in absolute poverty. To achieve universal primary education. To eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education. To improve health, and to halt the spread of HIV / AIDS, malaria and other major diseases. To reduce by half the number of those without access to safe drinking water. To achieve a significant improvement in the lives of over 100 million slum-dwellers. These goals are fundamental to the creation of a fairer and safer world, for all of us, over the next 10 to 20 years. In order to follow up the MDG implementation process, the European Commission and the Regional and Local governments, to make the MDGs a focal point for its actions, as it starts work next year. The first Congress of CRPM is to be in Paris in the first week of May, and the MDGs will feature in the programme. Development, including local development, is an issue for us all, whether we live in the North or the South, on the north bank or the south bank of the Mediterranean. The future of our world and our region depends on how successfully we can act together."

Jeremy Smith
CCRE Secretary General

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have taken two initiatives. The first is the establishment of a group of Task Forces, under the co-ordination of Professor Jeffrey Sachs, to look at how each goal can be achieved. I represent local government on the Task force on Improving the Lives of Slumdwellers. The second is the MDG Campaign, under Evelyn Herfkens (formerly the respected Dutch Minister for International Development), which aims to get public opinion mobilised in favour of tackling poverty and delivering the Development Goals. Her first “target” country is right here, in Italy. At the global level, we in local government are also taking new steps. We want our new unified world organisation, United Cities and Local governments, to make the MDGs a focal point for its actions, as it starts work next year. The first Congress of UCLG is to be in Paris in the first week of May, and the MDGs will feature in the programme. Development, including local development, is an issue for us all, whether we live in the North or the South, on the north bank or the south bank of the Mediterranean. The future of our world and our region depends on how successfully we can act together.”
It is with great pleasure that I give you the regards of Farouk Hosni, The Minister of Culture of the Arab Republic of Egypt. The Minister asked me to express his deep interest for this meeting and he hopes it can achieve the prearranged objectives and for this he is ready for employing all the resources of our cultural institutions.

In Egypt We, I’m using the plural because I speak on behalf of Egyptian intellectuals and cultural leadership, value very much the cooperation spirit which this meeting embodies. The subject of the meeting is extremely interesting in Egypt and it is very important for more than 15 years, during these years we have invested a lot of resources.

During these years we have established a series of modern museums which keep the cultural heritage of our country since earlier periods. We also arranged policies and projects, and we opened the procedure to establish another group of museums under the great new National Museum. In the same period of time we spent many efforts for organizing preservation and restoration projects of antiquities. In the framework of international cultural agreements with other countries, we worked very much for retrieving the cultural value of the stolen things which are abroad and actually we got to retrieving a few and we are still going to retrieve the rest.

In the cultural cooperation with other countries, we have tried to sign new cultural agreements renewing the old one and integrating them with particular and more detailed articles concerning cultural heritage safeguard. We have developed safeguard, organization and management systems for museums and archaeological sites. Moreover we have established education and training systems for cultural heritage management, renovated and developed the documents and national archives preservation systems.

This means that our interest in this meeting and our participation in organizing practical activities within its framework doesn’t start only from our involvement in Euro-mediterranean partnership agreements and activities, but rather from an integrated, complete and right awareness. Through our own national experiences in the cultural heritage preservation field, now we are aware of this activity and therefore do not consider it far from the spirit of our meeting, nor from the spirit that created the way toward cooperation framework in which we are working. This awareness will have three perspectives. The first one suggests that any preservation attempt of cultural heritage couldn’t be really successful and able to have supporters and diffusion only under the aegis of an international system of widespread relationships with the outside world. It is a system which represents a source of continuity and development of technologies, management systems, know how and technical expertise.

The second perspective suggests that the work in overnational system development for the cultural heritage preservation is not a mere necessity to provide a general framework of our personal efforts and protection, but it is also an expression of the nature of the world where we live.

It is a permeated, united and interdependent world, the world of the global village, common challenges and joint destiny. This second perspective brings us from the taking sphere to the giving one and defines our duties or rather commitments with the “heritage” of the others, to the extent that we ask the others respect our own heritage. This awareness in the third perspective suggests that between national and world cultural heritage there is always a link which has been represented by regional culture or wider regional cultures that were and still are a source for the processes of its creation, heritage and cultural identity feeling; or in other words they are the big units by which national culture have complemented each other and work for renovation and modernization on the basis of the cultural action that their heritage plays. In our particular case it represents one of these large “civilization unit” to which we belong, of which we have always to be proud and to rely upon it. We work for its renovation and modernization which can represent a source not only for a complete awareness of our own national heritage but even a rich, renewable and integrated for our efforts in its safeguard. I would like to thank you for your positive efforts and I hope to have given you some experiences we have realized and intend to carry out through your support as better as possible.”

Anouar Ibrahim
Vice Minister of Culture - Egypt
Since its creation and especially during the last few years, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, one of the pillars of the Council of Europe, has tried to develop on a regular basis cooperation links with local and regional authorities from Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries. The first step of this Euro-Mediterranean partnership took the form of a series of conferences of Mediterranean regional authorities that were jointly organised by the Congress and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. The first conference was held in Spain (Malaga) in 1985 and the last one in Turkey (Marmaris) in 1999. During these conferences, representatives of national Parliaments, local and regional authorities and NGOs from Southern and Northern countries of the Mediterranean tried to propose common solutions to some of the most crucial issues in the region, such as the critical state of the environment, the migrations, the promotion of human rights and democracy and local and regional self-government issues.

Peace promotion was also one of the main topics of the last conference of Mediterranean regions in Turkey and it is in this context that the Congress and the Parliamentary Assembly organised in July 1998 a joint visit in Israel and the territories under Palestinian authority. The Congress was at that time and still is, convinced that towns have an essential role to play in the dialogue between Israel and the Palestinian Territories, probably because it seems very often easier to establish and maintain direct contacts between mayors than between national leaders. The local and Regional representatives that the CLRAE met in Jerusalem, Tel-Aviv and Ramallah all expressed the wish for Europe and especially for the Council of Europe and the Congress to have a more active role, so as to assist their co-operation. The visit to the Middle East helped the Congress to become increasingly aware of the necessity to develop its own knowledge of the situation of local and regional self-government in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries and to adapt consequently its co-operation with its Mediterranean partners. This explains the creation at the end of 1998 of a new working group on Euro-Mediterranean co-operation on local democracy, called the “Euro-Med working group”. The specific objectives and tasks of this working group were to spread information about the principles of the European Charter of local self-government; to favour the democratic management of local authorities and to organise activities in the field of training of staff of local authorities. So in the context of the Euro-Med working group, several activities were organised, and particularly:

- a research on the situation of decentralisation and local self-government in Mediterranean non member countries the countries concerned were Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Israel. This research showed that, while there is in these countries a well-established institutional framework governing the activities of local, and, where they exist, regional authorities, a number of difficulties remain, such as: the small number of local authority staff managers; inadequate possibility of collecting taxes and fees and a limited capacity for international co-operation projects - which require prior authorisation by central government;

- the Euro-Med working group also organised in Turkey a seminar on training administrative staff and elected representatives of local and regional authorities in the Mediterranean basin;

- and at the end of 1999, the Moroccan authorities invited the Euro-Med working group to hold in Rabat its international seminar on “Local Self-government and Regionalisation in the Mediterranean Basin” which analysed the responsibilities, financial resources, co-operation with NGOs and the role of associations of municipalities and regions in the Mediterranean.

Since then, the Congress has tried to keep the contacts with its Palestinian and Israeli partners but unfortunately it has not been possible to bring them together again, under the auspices of the Congress. Recently though, the Congress has been approached by the Union of Local Authorities in Israel with a view to granting its patronage to an agreement between the Israeli Association, the Association of Palestinian Local Authorities and the Central Union of Municipalities and Communities of Greece.

A Conference of Mayors dealing with peace in Israel and the Territories under Palestinian Authority was also planned for the end of 2003. These two projects have been postponed in relation to the current situation in the Middle East.

This is why COPPEM is such a valuable organisation in bringing together local and regional politicians from both sides of the Mediterranean to discuss and act in a united stand on common issues such as heritage and culture and I will continue to play my part both as first Vice-President of COPPEM Commission 4 and President of the Sustainability Committee of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities.”
I have the honour to represent local governments of Sweden at this conference. I was formerly for nine years chief executive officer of the city of Gothenburg in Sweden. In Sweden self-government is inscribed in the constitution. The local and regional level represent the major part of the public sector. They levy taxes and the local tax rate on income is over 30 percent in Sweden. Gothenburg was founded in 1622 with the specific intent of becoming Sweden’s gateway for trade and commerce. The city grew and developed in pace with its role as an international trade and commerce centre. In recent years the growth of research and expertise-intensive high-technology companies has increased rapidly. However during the last ten-fifteen years the change from a traditional industrial city to a city characterized if the new industry, “the new economy” and this change in development has influenced the well-fare system very much. Further more during the last 15-20 years the number of citizens with back-ground abroad have increased rapidly. Among 20-25 percent of the population are either born abroad or have there parents born abroad. I have chosen the word “healthy city” as similar to the term “local well-fare management system” as health is not only the absence of disease but also encompasses enjoyment and well-being. Health is created and maintained in daily living and is a resource in everyday life. In almost any city today the joint activities and programmes will be guided towards the following objectives or challenges:

1. Equality in health – equal conditions between groups in the population, between women and men and between different residential environments.
2. Good conditions for children and adolescents to grow up in – good child care, school, parents support and active leisure.
3. A drug-free city – childhood, adolescence and work free from alcohol and tobacco. A city free from drugs.
4. Secure, safe city for everyone – multicultural city with a rich and good opportunities for education, work, employment and recreation. Safe traffic, secure homes, roads and streets. Access to clean water and clean air.

The tasks for decision-makers and professionals are give strategies to mobilize the resources in a city to meet these challenges. Now what is public health or local well-fare management systems? Local well-fare systems comprise of: medical, hygienics, physical, social, city architecture, cultural and environmental aspects. Work with well-fare management must function simultaneously at every level; locally in residential areas and in centrally city, nationally and internationally. It must be based on knowledge, be long-termed and be accepted and supported by politicians and other decision-makers. Before going in to the subject of an example from the city of Gothenburg I will give you my experiences of what we have found characterize successfully cities and regions whom have developed good well-fare systems. When we in Gothenburg have analysed these examples we have found that the solution is not primary financial resources. We have found that a very important factor is the method of working we use. The method of working that is used for involving different actors and sectors in development is very important. We have found that for a successfully result you have to work firstly with co-operation, secondly boundlessly, thirdly by learning. Co-operation and boundlessly are key-words and means that you have to work together with many levels, many professionals and so on. Many levels means from individuals in residential areas to decision-makers in local governments, to national and international level. Many sectors means from public sector to private sector, from schools to universities and research. Many professionals means citizens (they are the most professional
we have on matters concerning living), scientists, social workers, teachers, doctors, architectures, cultural-workers, entrepreneurs and so on. Learning means that we have to keep our own situation clear by continuing following up with key-indicators and by developing new methods such as benchmarking, benchmarking and balanced score-cards. Now, listening on the conference so far I have heard so many wisdom-words about co-operation, partnership, participation, solidarity, democratisation so a legitimate question is “Why a conference, why problems”. Could it be the fact that we representatives here are part of the power that has to been changed. As you know power is not something you get, power is something you take. In the democratic world you take power by knowledge. In the EU-community we see that by increasing knowledge local and regional levels takes increasing power. Now within local and regional levels we have to get knowledge to the citizens in order to get them to take power. Is this understandable? I do not know but to describe our efforts let’s symbolize the city of Gothenburg as an “municipality factory”. In this factory we will and hope that life consists out of god schools, employment, leisure, no diseases, non-violence, no drugs solidarity and so on. To summarize we work at create ourselves to be good citizens in a god city. But looking in budget-figures we see that a huge part of our resources goes to efforts to take care of the fact that we have problems in our factory. Out of the factory come also problems with well-fare diseases, crimes, drugs and so on. Paradoxical instead of having major resources to improve ourselves in health, education, behaviour and so on a major part goes to take care of problems in our factory. And paradoxical one of the solutions to this problem does not cost ! At least very little compared to the costs for treating the consequences of the existing problems in the factory. The solution is the method of working with co-operation, boundless, learning; in order to do the right thing from the very beginning rather then correcting things afterwords. In 2000, the city executive board took the initiative to setting up a crime prevention council. The mission is to co-operate with the various actors already active in relation to crime prevention. The activities have three main orientations: Coordinating positive initiatives, collecting and circulating knowledge and generating public opinion. The city is working on various fronts and in various ways to improve the city environments to make it more attractive to residents and visitors. “Safe and beautiful city” is a co-operation between various city bodies with different assignments, responsibility and competence and private organisations to ensure that Gothenburg becomes a safe, clean and attractive city, with potential for economic growth and increased well-fare for its citizens. Within the framework for co-operation there are various projects in progress. One includes an urban programme ensuring that the appearance of public space in each district reflects the individual character of the district with a policy for lighting the city and actions against graffiti etc. Present projects deal with upgrading the environments for pedestrians in the urban districts, special care is taken to main paths and streets that are connecting public housing areas with public transport stops. The property-owners in Gothenburg are working hard making their properties safer and more secure, often in co-operation with local public health groups to improve the qualities of the environment and make it more safe and secure. We started with “safe and secure walks” to make inventories of the neighbourhoods to identify places were people felt unsafe to walk in or stay at.

We have also a unique co-operation with the police force in Gothenburg. GIS (Geographic Information System) and crime on map is an important co-operation-issue. Finally let me quote from one of our documents on this project to give content to the working method we use.

Cooperation and Collaboration: “The Council works in partnership with the Gothenburg district councils for crime prevention, the public health council, the police, the city planning authority, the traffic and public transport office, the arts administration, the information administration, the unit for diversity, the public education administration, the university and institutions of higher education, the correctional services, youth workers, drug prevention organizations and local clubs and associations”. Further more… “Crime prevention strategies entail much more than youth issues relating to violent crime. We also direct public attention to other problems: white collar crime, racism, issues concerning elderly, issues of democracy, the role of business in work with crime prevention and many others. We have also initiated collaboration with a number of departments of Gothenburg University and Chalmers University of Technology.”

About learning: “We already know a great deal about the social triggers of criminality. We know that one of the main explanations for why young people lose the ability to feel empathy and become drawn into criminal patterns is that they were not loved as children. We also know a great deal about crime patterns. Nevertheless, we know too little about the true scope of crime and about the interplay between how the inhabitants of our city perceive crime and how crime is portrayed in media. We need to understand what gives rise to a sense of insecurity among the people who live in Gothenburg”.
Welfare is a developmental notion that cannot be found in the various countries at the same level, this means it can receive a different content. So it’s essential to clarify the notion to which we refer in order to understand the situation of Belgium and the contribution of its local bodies, which is the outline of my speech.

Without dispute the early Welfare notion concerned about salary. The Welfare State assures a basic wage both in the social dimension, thanks to transfer payments and redistributive taxation system, and in time thanks to an anti-cyclic policy aiming to assure the permanent full employment; in our country, such a policy has found itself boosted by a structural policy for employment. Regardless of any long-term efficacy matter, in Belgium, particularly with an open economy, the State trend activity has quickly found itself held up by the extent of public sector deficit, but the employment policy remained widely overriding and the panoply of the measures especially developed in France and Great Britain has been recreated.

Eventually, on the other hand it will be not avoided to look into this priority considering the demography conditions and the more and more important significance of the elderly people in Belgium. If we follow this early welfare notion in terms of salaries and employment, the Belgian situation looks relatively creditable. The classic ratio of the revenues of the richest and the poorest at 20%, is 4.2 subsequent to transfer payments, and this puts us between North European and Latin countries. The remaining 13% of people is at less than 60% of the wage-average, a threshold that we explain as the one in which the shortage of revenue is a risk for individuals, and more exactly a social isolation risk. Without social transfer payments this percentage shall be of 25% and, without pensions it’ll be of 40%. That means the basic revenues distribution is much less fair than what is expected in a country that has the higher unionization rate of the world. Whereas the figures gap previously and afterwards transfer payments even attests to the efficacy of its social covering system. The remaining 13% also shows there is a hard core in the salary range. Of course, this reference is self–regulating since the poverty is defined as to its own median, by the way that means it never goes to zero. It should be noted that revenues reallocation, though with its macroeconomic effects on the expenditures, but has few direct effects on employment, possibly even negative effects as it doesn’t foster in itself the autonomy of individuals. In unemployment terms, Belgium is slightly beneath the community average which it’s also a respectable one at macroeconomic level. But even here, the figures analysis shows the presence of a hard core that is in the long time unemployment. So it makes us notice that the employment policies, however elaborate they are, remained relatively ineffective: the diagnosis is unanimous, they are not very effective without their inclusion in a global policy which also concerns, in addition to salaries and employment, education, housing, health, mobility. What we mostly define as the inclusion policies. Also in this way we touch on welfare notion, which consist in the will of providing each person for decent life conditions. Also here the idea of common decency refers to a social, self–regulated and developmental standard.

Marc Thoulen
Director of Cities and Towns Union
Association of Brussels (BE)
employment intensity on the whole public authorities, local authorities don’t make a significative impact on economy as well as on economic trend. At microeconomic level it’s necessary aiming at the closeness actions implemented for a disadvantaged public: in particular I think about local employment agencies which try to place the unemployed in welfare services and this causes various discussions. Local authorities have a significative action especially in lateral measures, the one that just extend welfare notion. Municipalities are the first social housing suppliers, through real building firms. The whole social housing is often dated, causes profitability problems that sometimes contradict the pursued target and above all it is not enough, considering the rents increase in some cities. In the light of this they more and more frequently get in touch with private sector and they act as intermediary (go between) in order to offer the owner the indispensable guarantees if he agrees to renovate and let out his own property. Municipalities also intervene in mobility through intercommunales for public transport, with the perspective of a universal service ahead of its time. Nowdays these problems which are gone further its social aspects in order to face environmental and common mobility aspects, tend to be charged to Regions. Municipalities are also the authorities arranging an unmarginial education share, especially the basic one, but I would focus on training schools, which are in effective and direct connection with disadvantaged groups – we have to recognize and without any doubt regret it -. They manage a great deal of public hospitals, and they intervene in individualization campaign or in educational attendance: also in this case we refer to universal service notion. I think these are the classic intervention areas of local authorities in support of basic action. Therefore the belgian system peculiarity is the welfare policy division in a some number of basic functions that are rather a central (and regional) authorities responsibility and in complementary functions that are mostly a responsibility of local authorities and communities. Granting the individual social assistance is the second peculiarity of our system. First of all because this action is entrusted to a local political institution, specialized in this area: social assistance public centre (in dutch language of social welfare) since a quarter of a century. The 1976 organic law with these centres wanted to make them a body separated from municipalities that can benefit from a relative autonomy as to the municipalities. This can produce conflicts as the municipalities have to allocate the resources for these centres. Then and first, with the creation of a right to social assistance for the individual, which totally reverses the Welfare-State notion on this point. Till now the State followed a ethical duty, now it is an objective right, established by law, which is offered to individual. Since it is an objective right, it is very organized. There are rules, and important contentious proceedings produced a plentiful jurisprudence that counts. The autonomy of action of the centre charged with giving such a help is rather limited and we can talk about deconcentration rather than decentralization. Maybe at last this arrangement together with their relative autonomy from communes, placed the centres more under another service. The action of the center must be residual and it shall intervene only after using up every social security as well as family solidarity resources, but it is not so evident we can do it in our countries as in the mediterranean world. In this sense the center plays both intermediation and redistribution role. The development of the centers has been also feed by introducing various additional warranties. For istance, “minimélec” is a minimum electric current to supply also in default of bill payment: it is intended to avoid the alienation consequences that power cut could bring about people. System unselfulness asked us some questions. Before limited resources, it stir up clash of power in a such divided institutional framework. On the other hand it helps its own perpetuity. Documents exhibited by smugglers of illegal immigrants network praise Belgium’s merits, because “their centers give good wages”. The social backing of our country maybe has become an attraction element as its health. This unselfulness goes along with, it is true, in an increasing way, urging to employment setting and the role of the centres in matters of socio-professional insertion. But the relation between help granting and professional insertion it is a very difficult and still open debate. Moreover various specific functions have committed to these centres. A typical example is the reception of asylum seekers, so every single centre has to take in a number of people with waiting situation. Another example is the socio-professional insertion which the centres are compelled to develop. Also here, we talk mainly about deconcentration and decentralization. Maybe the residual autonomy plays mainly on the production of targeted services, in particular on those addressed to senior citizens, as rest homes, service centres, assistance, home care and meals service which answer directly the needs due to demographic development. In short, the belgian local authorities give an important contribution to Welfare by completing the general action of central authorities with proximity action, “lateral” services, intermediation work and personalized assistance. All this has a real effect, but also limits, a cost and a complexity which make us question on the exportability of our system and it put questions that – I hope – could be useful for your countries”. 

Welcome Country and civilizations crossroads, Morocco consists of a mosaic of cultures as result of an ethnic mixture. Actually, this country derives its roots in amazigh, arab, islamic, andalusian, african, jewish, phoenician, cartaginian, roman and european culture. These various relations and external influences have created a rich and varied heritage.

- Phoenician civilization contribution is realized in the city of Lixus, its archaeological evidences represent one of the most ancient phoenician settlement.
- About the Punic period, the moroccan coasts and some cities keep still the vestiges of the colonies founded by the carthaginian explorer Hannon around the fifth century B.C.. At Volubilis, Banasa and Kouass, the punic influence is very diffused, it is shown through the artefacts (ceramics and jewels) which made possible to unearth excavations.
- About the Mauritanian Reign that ruled over all Morocco and was subjected to Rome in 25 B.C. especially after the appointment of Juba II as chief of the country, its influences appear in the town planning, decoration, writing and beliefs fields.
- During the Roman Domination in Morocco since 42 A.D., the latin influence was very strong so much that we saw the creation of new cities, the growth and rearrangement of many other cities (Volubilis, Sala, Banasa, Thamusida, Zilil...) and the romanization in the shape of marble statues, mosaics, bronze and ceramic artefacts.
- The Islamic period saw the sequence of various dynasties (Idrissidi, Almoravid, Almohad, Merinidi, Wattasidi, Saadian, Alauiti), it is under the reign of Senhaja and Lemtuna that the country has known the emergence of great art hotbeds as Sijilmassa, Marrakech, Fès, Rabat, Tétouan, Ceuta. Among all the aspects of this rich cultural patrimony, our interest will be only about its expression in the shape of buildings that is the historical monuments of which the imperial city is full as the Necropolis of Chellah, Kasbah of Oudeya, the Almohade walls of Ribat el Fath with its walls and its doors, the andalusian walls, its alauite towers, doors and walls. Here we give an historical idea of the main monuments of which the inhabitants of Rabat are proud that are the Chellah and Kasbah of Oudaya.

**Chellah**

Chellah is situated on a rise out of almohadi walls, with its privileged site it was taken over since prehistory and founded about VII-VI century B.C., the excavations allowed the discovery of a built-up area dating back to II century B.C. at least, the Phoenicians, the Carthaginians, the Romans and the Muslims followed one upon the other but the Merinidi are those who have given its present and definitive shape to it. Actually, in the XVI century, the merinid King Abou Youssef Yaacoub and Abou El Hassan elected it as royal necropolis. Abou Youssef Yaacoub built here an oratory, in 1284 he ordered a small shrine to be built here in order to bury in it his best-loved wife Chems Eddoha, Abou Said (1310-1331) took up building the walls which was completed by Abou El Hassan in 1339. He added here a medersa and a new mosque with funeral rooms. Hence its monuments are:
- the Sanctuary
- the mosque of Abou Youssef
- the oratory, the mihrab and the gate
- the marble tombs of Abou Youssef and his wife.

**The Kasbah of Oudayas**

The history of the Kasbah of the Oudayas starts just under the Almohadi rule although ancient authors are not unanimous about the date of the almoravidi fortress seizure by the Almohads, some authors date it back to 1132 and others to 1146. In 1150, Abdelmoumen, the first caliph of the dinasty orders the building of a fortress on the left bank of the estuary, which originated the city of Rabat and he called it Mehdia in memory of Mehdi Ben Toumert, spiritual leader of the Almohads. The Ribat lost importance after its founder’s death, and it would diminish more and more through a new foundation that would assimilate Ribat al fath. When in 1609 Philip II decided to expell nearly a million of moorish people
from Spain, two thousand of Hornachers settled in the Kasbah. The saadian sultan Moulay Zidane recruited them in his army for fighting against his enemies and he relied on them the care for defending Rabat and Salé, so he organized militarily and installed them in the old Ribat of Abdelmoumen, the Kasbah was very ruined and the Hornachers arranged the boundary wall with repairing the walls and placing embrasures. The occupation of the Bourregreg estuary by Alauitis put an end to the troubled historical events this area experienced since 1609. Moulay Rashid right from 1666 seized the kasbah of Oudayas which from then till french protectorate turned into a makhzen fortress. It is just during this period that the Kasbah will be subjected to the great works of the alauiti period. Moulay Rashid extended the walls to south-west and completed them with two solid borj, he began on magnificent residence building which will be finished by his brother Moulay Ismail. Between 1757 and 1789 Sidi Mohammed ben Abdallah made great planning-works inside the Kasbah, the most important building is Borj Sqala. Eventually, under Sultan Moulay Al Yazid’s Kingdom (1790-1792) other works inside the Kasbah were made, mostly the warehouses which dominate traffic-lights platform. Anyway, the conditions of this rich heritage leave much to be desire, the situation is almost alarming, and the authorities of the french and spanish protectorate were the first in becoming aware of it or rather in starting a preservation policy of the heritage in Morocco.

The Heritage preservation policy in Morocco under the Protectorate

The Authorities of french Protectorate astonished for the cultural and heritage variety of the country (architecture, furnishing, inlay, ceramics, jeweller's craft, embroidery, leather production, cabinet-making) and especially for its deterioration, established the first laws and institutions for safeguarding this civilization heritage and so was promulgated the first law on historical monuments and archeology by dahir the 26th of November 1912. In 1915 we would be present to the creation of two overhauls and local arts museum at Rabat and Fès, starting from 1918 these were all joined and supervised by “the Local Arts Office” in 1920 it was replaced by the “Local Arts Service” whose mission was:
• the research of ancient artistic objects in order to increase the museums established or to be established;
• the retraining of craftsmen and initiation into their own country arts the new generations;
• census of all the craftsmen capable of working together on the renewal undertaken;
• production of the necessary artistic documentation;
• promotion of local artcrafts in Morocco and in foreign countries;

In the area of Spanish Protectorate, other different institutions were born:
• the retraining of craftsmen and initiation into their own country arts the new generations;
• census of all the craftsmen capable of working together on the renewal undertaken;
• production of the necessary artistic documentation;
• promotion of local artcrafts in Morocco and in foreign countries;

Istitutions and Regulation Directory of the heritage preservation

In the first Law decree defining the functions of the Ministry of Culture, the first subsection of the article 1 states: “the Ministry of Culture is charged to protect country’s heritage, to assure its integrity, to realize all the wherewithals in order to ensure its spread and diffusion, and supervise the enforcement of the legislative and regulation texts that regulate the artcrafts, archaeologic sites, and historical monuments protection”.

At organizational level

At Present the totality of patrimonial actions is ensured at the ministry of culture level by the “Heritage Department” whose creation follows the recommendation of expertise reports that are in demand to UNESCO by the moroccan government from 1970. This Department includes:
Division of Studies and Technical Interventions which put together:
* Studies and scientific documentation Service
* Technical Interventions Service
• Division of historical monuments and sites management which put together:
  * Management Service
  * Monuments and historical sites enhancement and classification Service
• Division of general inventory of cultural heritage which put together:
  * General inventory and surveys Service
  * Publications and Promotion of cultural heritage Service
  * Traditions, habits and customs Service
• Division of Museums that put together:
  * Operation of museums Service
  * Collections Preservation and acquisition Service

However, the Ministry assures of a national territory backing through technical institutions specialized in this matter; they are involved:
• 10 regional inspections of historical monuments
• 11 Preservations of monuments, sites and medinas of which the oldest is that one of Volubilis
• 8 qualified Research Centres
• 15 Museums

At normative level
The first laws establishing the basic principles of the historical monuments Law realized by the Protectorate government, would be revised only in 1980 date of dahir no. 1.80.341 of 17 Safar (25th December 1980) which regards the law 22.80 concerning the preservation of the historical monuments and sites, enrolments of the artifacts and antiquities; This law will be followed by the decree no. 2.81.25 of 23 Hijja 1401 (22nd October 1981), its article 1 states that “the real estate, fixtures and fittings whose preservation is interesting for the art, history or civilization of Morocco can be object of an inscription or classification”. These laws envisage a number of legal measures protecting the cultural heritage as the classification, enrolment, right of pre-emption and exportation monitoring.

Limit of the cultural heritage preservation policy in Morocco
Since 1990, every year UNDP produces a report on human development, in its report of 1999 a statement related to Morocco is drawn up, and it is resumed in the following points:
• From 15 to 1800 sites and monuments are enrolled but they are not yet studied
• many archaeological sites are not explored
• cultural heritage of the country is not yet inventoried
• neither catalogues nor national repertoires there are
• there is not any global policy for cultural heritage and the directives are dispersed in various documents
• development policy documents often leave out the cultural sector
• the activities for cultural heritage preservation are not included in the strategies and global programmes for national development.

As to the inventory, we point out that the moroccan cultural heritage so how it has been inventoried, consists of over 250 km of walls, over 15000 historical sites of various kind, about forty medinas, seven of them have been declared Universal Cultural Heritage: Fès in 1981, Marrakech in 1985, Ksar Ait ben Haddou in 1987, Meknes in 1996, Volubilis in 1997, Tétouan in 1997, Essaouira in 2001 and the square of Jamaa El Fna at Marrakesch in 2001. Now among these 15000 sites, only 360 are classified and protected representing just the 20-25% of the monumental and archaeological heritage. Anyway, the shortage of this policy reveals at material and human resources level:
• the shortage of financial resources is such that in 1982 the FNAC has been established (National Fund for Cultural Action) as further financing source of the Ministry appointed to collect the planning and realization of recipes out of budget realized for historical monuments and other in the form of special account.
• the shortage of human resources is well-known at museums level, and manifests itself through a technical and scientific staffer-shortage and permanent staff modesty (archaeologists, curators, ethnologists, photographers, designers...) for the historical monuments, this in spite of the creation of the National Institute of Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Sciences (INSAP).

Conclusion
In short, notwithstanding the wealth of archaeological heritage and historical monuments of Morocco, finally we could asked us about the existence of a real policy in the preservation of moroccan cultural heritage, the increase of public works as well as every kind of operations at ground level, very often and casually let us find archaeological treasures and the cultural heritage administration has the authority to identify and safeguard them; so as example, in the beginning of ‘90, during the construction of the motorway which connects Rabat to Fès, at Salé exit, on the west bank of oued Bouregreg, there was a little altura called Khédis, it is an ancient roman defence ground which consists of stone walls, monumental door and other vestiges. This site was evacuated without any precaution because the Ministry of Culture make neither the classification nor enrollment which could have assured a legal protection, as the public works experts calculated the cost for turning off the motrway was too expensive, the site is just destroyed, and this remarks the unefficacy of cultural heritage administration that powerless watches to the destruction of the archaeological sites under its look.”
EU; THE ASSEMBLY OF THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WAS ESTABLISHED.

The contribution of the Italian Parliament

The final declaration of the VI Euro-Mediterranean Conference of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs approved and spread today in Naples at the end of the meeting, is inspired by the Conference of the Euro-Mediterranean Regions held in Palermo over the last few days, it exactly states: “The Ministers, taking note of the conclusions of the Euro-Mediterranean Regions Conference held in Palermo on November 27th-28th, emphasized the importance of the cooperation among Euro-Mediterranean Regions as an instrument to make the Barcellona Process wider and richer, as well as in making partnership closer to society represented by the Regions”. The Sicilian Region’s President, Salvatore Cuffaro, who yesterday in Naples had given the results of Palermo, as leader of a transnational limited delegation consisting of some President of the Euro-Mediterranean Regions on the opening works of the Interdepartmental Conference, he expressed his satisfaction to have carried out a wide and complex initiative planned between Regions and Italian Presidency of the European Union and in which Sicily played a leader role in organizing the final event in Palermo. “This outcome - Cuffaro said – arrives nearly after the first community session meeting of the Conference of the Regions’ Presidents, which took place at Palermo and after a six-month period of the Euromediterranean Region Presidency: it is still in progress an effective replacing action of the Regions in the middle of the community and euromediterranean policy, and of Sicily in the middle of Mediterranean sea and in the same time at the top of Regions in the execution of new powers given both by the Italian Constitution and european constitutional treaty”. The recognition of this role as well as the outcomes achieved enable us to put forward Sicily also as the place of one of the strategic instruments pointed out in Naples to speed up the “Barcellona Process”, especially the Euro-Mediterranean Development Bank, and our Region has the functional hallmarks and all the necessary requirements for taking it in, as many authoritative Regions’ Presidents assert. On such point, the President of the Region talked about a “feasibility study” which the Region will arrange before the final decision which is expected by the end of 2004. Eventually the President Cuffaro has pointed to the awareness and mobilization of all the positive political-institutional, financial, cultural and human resources that Sicily has as important instrument to achieve the objectives of this replacing in progress.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Euro-Mediterranean Countries have approved the establishment of the Assembly of the Euro-Mediterranean Members of Parliament. The Sicily Region, COPPEM and the Italian Parliament has given a fruitful contribution. Last year in the Chamber of Deputies, the Association of the Euromediterranean Members of Parliament was established and in the same year it has promoted, in Sicily, an institutional body that can contribute to consolidate democracy and cooperation and to start a new course of peace and development. The last 1st of July the Chamber of Deputies with the approval of a motion (first signer the Hon. Massimo Grillo) committed the Government to foster the constituting process of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly. The Honourable Mr. Grillo, in his speech in the Chamber of Deputies, said that: “We need to give birth to the standing Assembly of the Members of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliament; because it would mean the birth of an institutional body that can strongly concur in the strengthening of democracy and cooperation as well as in the beginning of a new course of peace and development. The Hon. Grillo has reasserted on several occasions that a similar agency was established by those local and regional Authorities that gave birth to COPPEM, which the Assembly intends to set close collaboration relations with. For these reasons, for its cultural roots, its history and its geographic position, Italy has a definite talent that can turn into a decisive and important role, even considering the mediation that our country can offer, together with the parliamentary cooperation, between the European Union and the southern shore countries. A parliamentary cooperation that in the past years had been guarantied by President Violante, President Casini, which has given successful results and that we can still feel during the Italian semester. Mr. Grillo declared: “We promoters of the resolution, members of the parliament, met in an association, promoters of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliament, took up the challenge of the parliamentary cooperation, by furthering a dialogue regardless of belonging to different groups, but with a bond that can found unity among the several differences, by preferring common values of reference. The same cultural, political, religious and ethnic diversities, in Europe and in the Mediterranean, could be overcome and turned into richness if we commit ourselves to making fraternity become a new life category, as liberty and equality that have been achieved even if we still have to work on them.
On the 27th of November 2003 a delegation of 15 Mayors from the Principality of Asturies in Spain met the COPPEM’s Secretary General, Hon. Lino Motta, in order to identify the institutional collaboration chances and foster the involvment of local governments represented by COPPEM’s activities. The meeting arranged by Siderasis Ltd, responsible for transnational activities of the project called ARTE (Adaptability and pRmotion of Cultural Tourism) for financial in the framework of Equal project, was about the issues concerning local development as well as cultural and environmental heritage valorization. The interest shown by the Mayors of Asturies and the natural and artistic sights of this region lead COPPEM to analyze possible forms of collaboration on initiatives already under way and to be established as for example the Unimed Cultural Heritage project in which 21 Euro-Mediterranean Universities partners and local spanish administrations are involved. Moreover the Hon. Motta informed the participants on the establishment of the Development Agency, which is a very important instrument for euro-mediterranean cooperation among local authorities and also for territorial development of each geographic framework. Mr. Roberto Albergoni, Sole Director of Siderasis, invited COPPEM to partake in ARTE project works that will be held in Oviedo early in 2004 in order to develop planning ideas already worked out in the meeting just ended up.

On last November 27th and 28th the interinstitutional Conference for relaunching the Mediterranean Dimension “United by the Mediterranean” asked by the Italian Presidency of EU Council, in the Italian Semester wind-up, as well as by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs with the participation of COPPEM took place in Palermo. It was the last stage of a course which achieved its goal with the Naples’s meeting of the Euro-mediterranean Ministers for Foreign Affairs (Barcellona VI) in this occasion, for the first time, the Regions have taken part in relaunching table of the Barcellona process for the integration between southern and northern shores. At Palermo more than 200 delegates were present on behalf of European Union Member Countries, the Countries appointed for widening and on Regions’ request also the mediterranean non-member Countries. On behalf of COPPEM there were, among the others, the President Fabio Pellegrini (in the photo above) and the Secretary General, Hon. Lino Motta. Today more than ever the Regions’ role is central and the Sicily’s role is that of fostering the iniziatives aiming at dialogue in the Mediterranean by creating the preconditions both for the economic and social integration of the area, and for speeding up the standing partnership among regions in order to put into practice the Sicily’s proposal, a sort of Mediterranean Marshall plan which follows and strengthens the people’s common development. For the first time the italian Regions have been appointed on behalf of the European Union to foster the dialogue and social, economic and cultural integration among the local situations of the countries proposed as candidates as well as the mediterranean southern countries in order to find a joint course for speeding up the next interventions redressing between the east and south of Europe. As everybody knows, the final objective is to balance the euro-mediterranean policy and relative financial supports with what we are going to do in the new eastern frontiers, including Russia. A revaluation of the Mediterranean as place of economic exchange and institutional relations can contribute to make the european southern regions more important: no longer marginal areas but driving force behind development, active partners, heralds of knowledge and values to the countries of the southern shore and of the Balkans. The power to build a joint course, the interregional partnership, is just the most effective way to face the challenges dealing with the economic globalization, structural reforms, migrations, preservation of the cultural heritage, sustainable development and eventually to create the conditions for a lasting and enduring peace in the neighbours countries area.

On the last 9th of September in the seat of the Mediterranean Laboratory Foundation of Naples, the solemn prize-giving ceremony of the “Mediterranean Culture Prize 2003” awarded to H.E. Suzanne Mubarak for her essential role in the realization of Alexandria Library took place. Among those present, the Egyptian Minister of Culture Farouk Hosni and the Ambassador of Egypt in Italy Helmy Bedeir. Mrs. Mubarak was received by Michele Capasso, the President of the Mediterranean Laboratory Foundation, Antonio Bassolino, the President of Campania Region, Claudio Azzolini, the European Council Vice-President, and by international cultural world representatives. Since five years the Mediterranean Prize is awarded to political, cultural, scientific and social world personalities that stood out because of their action in favour of Euromediterranean Countries. Among these the King of Jordan H. M. Hussein, Juan Carlos King of Spain, S.M. Hassan II, King of Morocco, Lea Rabin, the Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, the singers Noa, Nabil and Moni Ovadia, the President of the Republic of Macedonia Mr. Gligorov. Every year the Prize is awarded by the Mediterranean Laboratory Foundation together with the Mediterranean Accademy - Maison de la Mediterranea, a network consists of over 500 high culture bodies which has offices in Euromediterranean Countries and its head office in Naples. These are the prize-winners for the present year edition: H.E. Suzanne Mubarak (Egypt, Mediterranean Prize for culture); Father Elias Chacour (Palestine-Israel, Mediterranean Prize for peace); Her Royal Highness, Princess Lalla Meryem (Morocco, Mediterranean Prize for social promotion and sustainable development); Najib Mahfuz (Egypt, Mediterranean Prize for literature); Khaled (Algeria, Mediterranean Prize of art); Carla Guido (Italy, Mediterranean Prize of art); To the RAI-TGR programme “Mediterraneo” (Italy, Mediterranean Prize for the information).

Silver Dolphin Prize, In the memory of:
Francesco De Martino (Italy, expert of Roman Law); Izet Sarajlic’ (bosniac poet); Federico Bugno (Italy, journalist).
ANDALUCIA, COUNTRY OF COOPERATION AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES

COPPEM’S delegation guest of PRODECAN Association

Giovanna Cirino
COPPEM’s Responsible for external relations

The Main road runs southward straight and safe. A car track dividing Spain in two part from Madrid to Jaén. The meeting takes place in the heart of the Iberian Peninsula, the magic land of Al Andalus, an arabic term that means Paradise. It is a wide area, a paradise of sun, sea and mountains, a landscape with thousand shares of colour in which damp and marshy areas, desert, fields, grapevines and olive groves, pastures and parklands coexist and where every year migratory birds go through the course between Africa and Europe, the same ideal way of unity, cooperation and assonance of the euro-mediterranean partnership. It is the 10th of November 2003 and we are at Baños de la Encina as guests of PRODECAN, Asociación para el Desarrollo de la Campaña-Norte de Jaén (www.prodecan.org). The meeting between COPPEM’s delegation and Spanish Association is formal but the warm welcome makes all more natural, very true and not so much formal. It was a fruitful meeting that created a concrete and cooperation contact towards actions for cultural and natural heritage revaluation, for social and entrepreneurial interchange, for twinnings between municipalities, in the presence of PRODECAN’s President, Juan Balbin Garrido, the Province’s Councillor Ramòn Polo Bernardo and COPPEM’s Secretary General, Carmelo Motta, and many other entrepreneurs from this area interested in the chances we can offer us: experiences and expectations, projects and strategies. They believe in the chances of development, they are witnesses of it in their territorial dimensions; a huge increase of the living standards realized thanks to the expert use of the European Union funds. In five years the administrations of any political tendency, represented by PRODECAN, have carried out a perfect network of services consisting in socio-medical help (centres for drug addictions and help to disabled people, advisory centres for a correct medical information and help), the creation of artistic ateliers and vocational training centres, revaluation of the territory in terms of artistic and environmental heritage preservation. You arrive there with a preconceived belief that is to visit a province rich of fertile soil, fruits and deers, made of proud shepherds and countrymen. Maybe you believe in a updated preconception, that is an evolved mental picture of the agricolture turned into organic farming and a more modern and ecological ganaderìa. But you expect, however, a cliché. And you wonder why you feel sevillanas, the pleasant smell of iberic jamón and partridge gravy. Whereas under the shade profile of the Fundador bull the commonplace disappear facing the reality and you are answering thousand questions by entrepreneurs of small and medium-sized enterprises in growing with considerable turnovers making a good employment level. They are resourceful in a unassuming framework which shows us a great richness dealing with the fact it is a meeting place: between Mediterranean and Atlantic sea, Africa and Europe, among different people, cultures and religions. But it must be preserved with political ability, far-sightedness, cohesion and hard work.
LA CAROLINA, THE SPECIAL EMPLOYMENT CENTRE IS BORN

The Municipality finances a project for disabled people

Roberta Puglisi

As to disability there are subtle and impalpable barriers. Differences that are not related to locomotor or sensory apparatus, but to specific working modalities of mental processes, from which the very essence of human nature is descended. They are hidden disabilities as not evident or conspicuous, or because they intentionally are withheld for shame. Every language that speaks on rights has to start from the acknowledgement of everyone’s dignity, especially of the less strong people. It is necessary to provide for structures and resources in order that everyone can fully live on the basis of his own potential. The physical and metaphysical obstacles that hamper the people having trouble in expressing themselves as their own nature, shall be removed.

This is the purpose of the Centre for disabled people of “La Carolina”, a small but active town of the Jaen province, in Southern Spain. A civility and solidarity target because of the support of La Carolina municipality which, through a subscribed and financed project, has given to 32 disabled people, from 18 to 56 years old, the chance to be able to organize their own professional life in a self-sufficient way. They deftly move, their work is a precision one, they can’t mistake because everything must exactly coincide, in short, it is a very difficult manual labour for some major industries.

We are talking about the assemblage of small pieces which, once assembled, produce the ingenious electrical deodorant covers for rooms, destined for the american and english market, the supports for the jeep tops of Suzuki car manufacturer, the wires installation, where the colour is very important because the accuracy consists in connecting the twelve wires to the switches of Indesit refrigeretors and Brown mixers.
The Special Employment Centre is surrounded by vegetation and silence. Once there the first thing staring in the face is the joint attention and love in carrying out the activities. The coordinator is Juan De Dios Laguna Torres, a very watchful young man with his employees and above all he is very close and understanding with them. He is a disabled person too, he lost the use of his own hand, it is not a handicap for him but a resource for the others. Juan is proud to ask me to see the Centre. He explains that the structure is divided into sectors and provides with psychological support. The tasks are not due to chance, but everyone acts according to his own physical and psychic abilities. This means that, for example, the people with mental disorders are not able to work at the assembly of the deodorant cover pieces, actually such a job is given to the young men with physical disability. Everything follows a logical outcome. We are talking about an assembly line where solidarity, skill and love are the essential conditions for working. A production in credit expecting the monthly realization of 130 thousand pieces of “profumadores” for rooms, 400 supporting bars accurately felt covered for Suzuki and a great deal of electrical switches. The firms provide for raw materials and workers realize the finished product. So every morning for eight-hour day, the workers of that project, aimed at abatement of the barriers and integration of the disabled people in the world of work, are there in their workplace wearing their blue overalls and happy to be together and to share this great responsibility. They are, therefore, independent at economic and professional level. The project exactly has envisaged standard contracts of employment with monthly salaries ranging from 360 to 560 euros. A bet driven by feelings, a bet that has been won.