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Review of activities Coppem 2003
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“I have always been deeply interested in the work and activities of the Standing Committee for the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership of Local and Regional Authorities, an organisation that works to foster mutual understanding and the removal of the stereotypes that stand in the way of real dialogue and cooperation. The European Union aims to give a new impetus to relations with Mediterranean countries and spur a more active policy in this region. We are fast approaching 2010, the year in which the world’s largest free market will be established. In view of this, the European Union intends to engage local communities in this seminal process of economic, trade, social and cultural cooperation. As the representative body of local authorities in the Euro-Mediterranean area, COPPEM plays a vital role in the process of ensuring that the European Union is responsive to local situations, a process to which the European Union is actively committed. In the light of its successful performance in previous years, COPPEM must therefore continue to contribute to the achievement of these central strategic goals. With this in mind, I wish the Committee every success in its activities.”

Romano Prodi
For COPPEM, the year 2003 can be seen as one of further political and institutional growth. Three years since its formal establishment, with the full agreement of the Sicily Regional Authority as the main funding body and wholly consistent with the Euro-Mediterranean policies of the European Union, COPPEM has been working primarily to strengthen ties with its members, extend its network of contacts with other international organizations and act as spokesman to bring the requests of member local authorities to the attention of the relevant international representative bodies. In terms of their work programme, the Commissions have followed two main lines of involvement. The first has been concerned with cultural heritage, with the International Conference in Cairo as one of the major events held on this topic. Various leading figures from the Euro-Mediterranean world participated in this meeting including, among others, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Egypt, S.E. Atef Ebeid. The second line of involvement has been concerned with Euro-Mediterranean welfare policies. These topics were discussed extensively at the International Conference held in Caserta, attended by over 50 delegations from Euro-Mediterranean countries and organized by COPPEM in conjunction jointly with the UNDP, the network of National Health Service Organizations in Italy and the APS Domiziana. As requested on several occasions by our members and the international organizations with which COPPEM now has well-established links, a number of proposals were outlined to guide transnational cooperation activities in the context of these topics. Based on this logic, the Euro-Mediterranean Development Agency was set up to provide Euro-Mediterranean Local Authorities with all the necessary technical-operational assistance for the design and implementation of local development projects.

The final events of the current year will be the General Assembly meeting, due to be held in Siracusa on 14 December, with the participation of delegations of local authorities from the 27 COPPEM member states. At this meeting, the final Reports of COPPEM’s four Standing Commissions will be discussed. The “6th Mediterranean Colloquium”, organized in conjunction with the Sicily Regional Authority, will be held subsequently in Siracusa on 15 December. This meeting will deal with the topic of “Women Administrators and Women’s Associations in Euro-Mediterranean Cultural and Social Policies”. Leading figures from the Euro-Mediterranean world of women have expressed their willingness to attend this meeting.

Finally, also on behalf of all those working in the Secretariat, I would like to thank the President of the European Commission Professor Romano Prodi for the message he delivered for the publication of this Review of the Activities undertaken by COPPEM in 2003.

Carmelo Motta
Secretary General
In its third year of activity since becoming established in Palermo in 2000, COPPEM has further intensified and expanded its activities in 2003, within the framework of its final statutory structure approved by the Plenary Assembly in December 2002. With this review, which is a logical continuation of those published for 2001 and 2002, the Secretary wishes to provide a brief perspective of the main activities which have contributed to strengthening the representative quality and drive provided by the Committee in the process of advancing the Euro-Mediterranean partnership.

To help the reader, the document is divided into four sections. These focus respectively on the meetings and decisions of the Presidency Bureau (which has political and institutional tasks), the activities relating to the topics assigned to the four COPPEM Standing Commissions (which have a consultative role for possible COPPEM actions and positions), the Mediterranean Development Agency which is in the process of being created and is to provide support for designing local development projects under the aegis of COPPEM, and finally, COPPEM’s new website which will improve access to information for a vast international audience and provide a vital tool to facilitate dialogue and working relations among Standing Committee members and between them and the Secretariat.

To avoid overloading this publication, the documents and reports referred to in the review have been quoted in part or not at all. However, many of them can be consulted on the following website: http://www.coppem.org. All the documents can also be requested by writing to the Secretariat (E-mail f.sammaritano@coppem.org Fax +39 091 6622304 - Tel. +39 091 6622238).
IV GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The works of the IV General Assembly of COPPEM members was held on December 14th 2003, at Villa Politi Hotel in Syracuse (Italy). The works began on the second call at 9.00.

Presents:

Fabio Pellegrini, President COPPEM, Secretary General AICCRE (IT)
Nikos Papamikroulis, Vice President COPPEM; Mayor of Nea Halkidion (GR)
Adly Hussein, 1° Vice President I Commission COPPEM; Governor of Qalyubiya (EG)
Jacques De Grave, President II Commission COPPEM; Deputy of Brussels capital city, Councillor Municipality of Ixelles (BE)
Daniele Rey, Town Councillor Perpignan Municipality (FR)
Carmelo Motta, Secretary General COPPEM (IT)
Petros Filippou, IV Commission COPPEM; Mayor of Kalivia (GR)
Abdullah Bayram, III Commission COPPEM; Mayor of Samandira (TR)
Yilmaz Bayat, COPPEM member; Mayor of Uskudar (TR)
Muzzafar Baca, II Commission COPPEM; Town Council member - Samandira (TR)
Abdelkarim Mosbah, III Commission COPPEM; Secretary General Regional Council of Kairouan (TN)
Moncef Ben Gharbia, IV Commission COPPEM; Mayor of Biserte (TN)
Antonio Maria Farinha Murta, Rapporteur IV Commission COPPEM; Mayor of Vila Real de Santo Antonio (PT)
Malachy Godfrey, I Commission COPPEM; Town Councillor of Drogheda; former Mayor of Drogheda (IE)
Vincenzo Farinella, President Casa Italia Dublin (IE)
Gulgin Guner, IV Commission COPPEM; Town Councillor of Antalya (TR)
Ramon Polo Bernardo, III Commission COPPEM; Council of Province of Jaén (ES)
Joseph Borg, 1° Vice President II Commission COPPEM; Vice President Local Council Association of Malta (MT)
Jan Micallef, III Commission; President Local Council Association of Malta (MT)
Harrie Jeurissen, II Commission COPPEM; Secretary General CEMR Dutch Section (NL)
Gina Fasan, II Commission COPPEM; Regional Councillor of Friuli Venezia Giulia (IT)
Mohamed Said El Dakkak, I Commission COPPEM; Vice Rector University of Alexandria (EG)
Alberto Botta, III Commission COPPEM; former Mayor of Como (IT)
Kiriakos Virvidakis, III Commission COPPEM; Mayor of Chanca (GR)
Falal Al Omoush, I Commission COPPEM; Dean - Town Planning Department University of Amman (JO)
Ali Abu Ghaniemeh, IV Commission COPPEM, Dean - Town Planning Department University of Amman (JO)
Claudio Basso, II Commission COPPEM, Town Council of Genoa (IT)

Also present as guests:

Fadi Hajj Ali, Chargé d'affaires Council of Lebanon in Italy (LB)
Antoine Azzam, Consul General of Lebanon in Italy (LB)
Calogero Speziale, Deputy Sicilian Regional Assembly (IT)
Ferdinando Reis, Journalist (PT)
Gino Gennaro, Responsible for socio-sanitary services ASL Messina (IT)
Gaspare Motta, Manager ASL (IT)
Piero Fagone, Responsible for press office COPPEM (IT)
Francesco Romeo, deputy Secretary General AICCRE Sicily (IT)
Marcello Modena, External Auditor COPPEM (IT)
Giuseppa Terranova, Accounting Manager COPPEM
Michele Raimondi, Coordinator Programmes and Projects COPPEM (IT)
Franco Sammaritano, Expert I Commission COPPEM (IT)
Natale Giordano, Expert II Commission COPPEM (IT)
Vittorio Buscema, Expert II Commission COPPEM (IT)
Paolo Carrara, Expert III Commission COPPEM (IT)
Alessandra Prudente, Expert IV Commission COPPEM (IT)
Giovanna Cirino, Responsible for External Relations COPPEM (IT)
Stefania Di Caro, External Relations COPPEM (IT)
Roberta Italia, External Relations COPPEM (IT)
Agenda of the General Assembly

1. Approval of the agenda;
2. Election of the Vice-President;
3. Report on the activities carried out during 2003;
4. Report by Secretary General Carmelo Motta;
5. Report by President Pellegrini on Political-institutional programme 2004;
6. Recognition of alterations to the budget 2003;
7. Budget Estimate Fiscal year 2004;
8. Authorization to the Secretary General in order to ask for eventual cash advance to Banks

The works open with the welcome address by the President of COPPEM Fabio Pellegrini, who brings the works’ agenda to the present delegates’ notice that is approved unanimously.

• They then take into consideration the second item concerning the election of the Vice President of COPPEM. On the advice of the Presidency Council, the President suggests assigning this position to the Governor of Qailobiyah (Egypt) Adly Hussein. The proposal put to the vote is accepted unanimously.

• They move to the report analysis of Secretary General Carmelo Motta who has presented COPPEM activities carried out during 2003. His report is recorded in the minutes.

In 2003 substantial financial resources have been tied up, and considering that activities will become greater and greater, we expect that in 2004 COPPEM can receive further financial support apart from those already guaranteed by the Sicilian Region.

To that end Secretary General Motta thanks publicly the deputy of the Sicilian Regional Assembly, Calogero Speziale and the President of the Sicilian Region, Salvatore Cuffaro for their concrete and steady interest in the activities of COPPEM, what make us hope for an increase of the financial support in favour of the Committee for next year. The report of Secretary Motta is approved unanimously.

• They move to the report of the political-institutional programme for 2004. President Pellegrini reasserts that since its establishment, COPPEM has worked in order to represent requirements and problems of Local Authorities of the Euro-Mediterranean area, in the best possible way. It is hoped that this organization can soon be recognized by the Organizations in charge (E.U.) as an institutional body, on behalf of local and regional Powers of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. To that end, the requests from the Committee of Regions and the representatives of the Euro-Mediterranean local and regional Authorities, met in Livorno, in Palermo and in a number of Italian regions, during the Italian Presidency semester of the European Council are to be accepted in a positive way.

President Pellegrini examines another item concerning the themes that Commissions shall broach during 2004. It being understood the two essential themes debated during 2003: Euro-Mediterranean Partnership for Cultural Heritage and Partnerships for welfare systems, Pellegrini stresses the necessity to resume the topic of the role of women within Euro-Mediterranean socio-cultural policies and he advises to broach the very current theme of infrastructural systems. In order to fulfil Barcelona Declaration objectives, an essential role should be exercised by the Euro-Mediterranean bank that is hoped to be soon realized and could be act as financial backer body of projects in the sector of transports, commerce, and environment. Finally, Pellegrini suggests a programme of initiatives and meetings that have been already approved by the Presidency Council of Rome and it is recorded in the minutes.

• They then move to the analysis of the following item on the agenda: the recognition of the alterations to the budget 2003. Secretary General Carmelo Motta points out that these alterations are required because COPPEM is partner of two projects approved by the EU (Unimed Cultural Heritage and Domitiana-APS- Equal Project). The Presidency Council of Rome, receiving positive opinion from the external auditor Marcello Modena, has approved the alterations. Following the Statute, the alterations have been submitted to the General Assembly for the recognition. The Assembly takes note of the presented alterations.

• They then move to the item concerning the budget estimate for the fiscal year 2004. The Secretary General informs all the present that the Presidency Council of Rome (8th Novem-
ber 2003) has shown its consent to the budget estimate 2004, following the Statute; on the budget estimate, the external auditor Marcello Modena expresses his consent and the Accounting manager of COPPEM Giuseppa Terranova dwells upon it, in detail. The financial document is approved unanimously and it is enclosed to the present minutes, of which it is an integral part.

- President Pellegrini suggests the authorization to the Secretary General in order to ask for eventual cash advance to Banks. The proposal is approved unanimously.
- Within the works on the agenda they move to the item concerning the appointment of the external auditor. On behalf of the Presidency Council, the President suggests reassigning this position to the external auditor Dr. Marcello Modena. The proposal is approved unanimously.

The works continue with the presentation of the reports carried out by the Commissions 2003.

- The works of the I Commission “Territorial communities in the 27 countries of the Barcelona Process” begin with the report of Mr. Falal Al Omoush (Jordan) and Mr. Francesco Sammaritano, who presents a document concerning the legislative composition of Local Authorities within the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. In the following debate intervene: Mr. Said El Dakkak (Egypt), Mr. Moncef Ben Gharbia (Tunisia), Mr. Ali Abu Ghanimeh (Jordan), Mr. Muzaffer Baca (Turkey), Mr. Alberto Botta (Italy). The report is approved unanimously.
- II Commission “Euro-Mediterranean cooperation between cities in the management of Cultural Heritage” begins with two reports, the first one presented by the rapporteur Nikos Papamikroulis (Greece) and the second one developed by the rapporteur Abdel Fatah Skir (Morocco), but read by the expert Natale Giordano, since the relevant rapporteur is not present. Mr. Abdullah Bayram (Turkey), Mr. Antonio Maria Farinha Murta (Portugal), Mr. Harrie Jeurissen (Holland), Mrs. Gina Fasan (Italy) intervene in the debate. The reports are approved unanimously.
- For the III Commission “The role of local and regional powers within social policies”, Mrs. Gabrielle Rey (France) takes the floor, presenting the report of the Commission’s rapporteur Mr. Maurice Halimi, who is absent due to institutional reasons. Afterwards Mr. Abdel Karim Mosbah (Tunisia) intervene presenting the report of the President of the III Commission, also absent due to institutional reasons. In the debate intervene: Mr. Malachy Godfrey (Ireland), Mr. Jan Milicev (Malta), Mr. Alberto Botta (Italy), Mr. Abdullah Bayram (Turkey), Mr. Abdel Karim Mosbah (Tunisia), Mr. Vincenzo Farinella (Ireland). The reports are approved unanimously.
- IV Commission works “Methods and studies for the rediscovery of Cultural Heritage within the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership” are open by the report of Mr. Antonio Maria Farinha Murta (Portugal), rapporteur of the above-mentioned commission. Afterwards Mrs. Alessandra Prudente present a report on the carried out activities; the works continue with the report of Mr. Ali Abu Ghanimeh (Jordan). In the debate intervene: Mrs. Gulcin Guner (Turkey), Mr. Moncef Ben Gharbia (Tunisia), Mr. Petros Filippou (Greece), Mrs. Gina Fasan (Italy), Mr. Vincenzo Farinella (Ireland), Mr. Jacques De Grave (Belgium). The reports are approved unanimously.
- In coherence with the agenda, they move to the illustration of Gold project, which has been prepared by Mr. Alberto Tulumello, who is absent for health reasons; then this report is presented by the expert of the III Commission Mr. Paolo Carrara. Subsequently, Mr. Gino Gennaro, responsible for socio-sanitary services of ASL Messina, explains the project on the coordination centre of the Euro-Mediterranean socio-sanitary Authorities; such project results from an initiative of COPPEM, UNDP, WHO, APS Domitiana-Equal and the network of Italian Health Authorities. A debate follows.
- Mr. Claudio Basso intervenes, reminding al the present that the city of Genoa will be the European capital of culture in 2004; he suggest holding next General Assembly and next VII Mediterranean Colloquium in Genoa, on November 19th and 20th 2004. The President puts the proposal to the vote, provided that the Sicilian Region gives its consent and he asks the Secretary General to verify the feasibility. The proposal, in those terms, is approved unanimously.
- The resolutions of I, II e IV Commission are approved unanimously; an amendment is presented to the resolutions of the III Commission, which is approved unanimously.
- At 19.00 the debate about the Rules of Procedure begins. Five amendments are presented but one is retracted. Amendments are accepted unanimously. The Rules of procedure, put to the vote in their entirety, are approved unanimously. They advice the Presidency to fully make use of alternate members contributions. The Presidency accepts the recommendation.
- The works close with the presentation by Mr. Michele Raimondi about the plan of action of COPPEM LOCAL DEVELOPMENT concerning politico-institutional activities of COPPEM in years to come and that will be submitted to the European Commission.
- At 19.40, taking note that there are no more interventions, President Fabio Pellegrini, closes the works.
REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES 2003

1. MEETINGS OF THE PRESIDENCY BUREAU
1. MEETINGS OF THE PRESIDENCY BUREAU

1.1 INTRODUCTION

In the course of 2003, several meetings of the Presidency Bureau were convened by the President Fabio Pellegrini, to discharge the Bureau’s statutory powers and perform its political and institutional tasks relating to COPPEM. As provided by the Statute approved by the COPPEM General Assembly held in Palermo in December 2002, the Presidents of the COPPEM Standing Commissions are all members of the Presidency Bureau. The Presidency Bureau meetings were held in Rabat (26 January), Cairo (9 March), Milazzo (Messina, 29 June) and Caserta (24 September), mostly in conjunction with other international events promoted by COPPEM in the same towns. The work carried out at the meetings covered several subject areas, ranging from the establishment of Euro-Mediterranean Development Agency to formulating the Internal Regulations of COPPEM, setting up the Coordination of Euro-Mediterranean Health and Social Services with headquarters in Messina and providing a strong impetus toward further development of the Committee.

1.2 MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE OF THE 2003 PRESIDENCY BUREAU

PRESIDENT
Fabio PELLEGRINI
AICCRE Secretary General (ITALY)

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
Omar BAHRAOUI
President of the Rabat Urban Community.
Member of the National Parliament (MOROCCO)

VICE PRESIDENT
Louis LE PENSEC
Senator, AFCCRE Presidente (FRANCE)

VICE PRESIDENT
Fernando GINER GINER
President of the Province of Valencia, President of International Relations among Municipalities, Provinces and Regions (SPAIN)

VICE PRESIDENT
Nikolas PAPAMIKROULIS
Mayor of Nea Halkidona, Local Governments Representative (GREECE)

MEMBERS:

Carmelo MOTTA
COPPEM Secretary General (ITALY)

Adly HUSSEIN
Governor of Qalyubiya (EGYPT)
First Vice President of the 1st COPPEM Commission

Jacques DE GRAVE
Bruxelles Member of Parliament (BELGIUM)
President of the 2nd COPPEM Commission

Abbes MOHSEN
Mayor of Tunis (TUNISIA)
President of the 3rd COPPEM Commission

Nidad AL HADEED
Mayor of Amman (JORDAN)
President of the 4th COPPEM Commission
1.3 MEETINGS

Meeting of COPPEM Presidency Council
Rabat, Morocco, January 26th 2003

Participants:
Fabio Pellegrini, President of COPPEM
Carmelo Motta, Secretary General
Jacques De Grave, President II Commission
Joseph Borg, I Vice President II Commission
Nikos Papamikroulis, Vice President of COPPEM
Keith Whitmore, I Vice President IV Commission
Michele Raimondi, Coordinator of COPPEM Experts
Wadad Al Suwayeh, Vice President of COPPEM
Omar EL Bahraoui, I Vice President of COPPEM
Touhami Midani, Deputy Mayor of Tunis

Agenda:

• Approval of the minutes of Palermo Presidency Council
• Presentation of Syracuse General Assembly and of the VI Mediterranean Colloquium
• Presentation of the International Conference of Caserta on Welfare Systems
• Appointment of the new speakers and themes of the Commissions

Summary of the Minutes

President Pellegrini opens the meeting at 9.30 a.m., thanking the I Vice President Omar Barahoui both for the warm welcome at Rabat and the organizational contribution for the carrying out of the meeting.

The President presents the draft minutes of the Presidency Bureau meeting, held in Palermo on December the 12th 2002. Those present approve the text unanimously.

He asks the Secretary General to present the activities for 2003.

• Carmelo Motta informs that 2003 Plenary Assembly will take place in Syracuse and followed by the VI Mediterranean Colloquium about "The role of both the Administrators and Women Association in Euro-Mediterranean policies". Syracuse was chosen by the President of the Sicilian Region since La Pira, Mayor of Florence and initiator of the Mediterranean Colloquium was born in that province.

Motta presents the Conference of Cairo scheduled on March 8th and 9th 2003, and the visit to Alexandria (Egypt) on March 10th, and he dwells on the planned Agenda.

Another Conference is due to be held at the Royal Palace of Caserta on June 19th, 20th and 21st
2003, about Welfare system in the Mediterranean (the title will be “Euromediterranean Partnership for local development: Welfare systems”), organized by COPPEM, by some agencies of United Nations (OMS, UNDP, UNOPS, EDIFONTEC) and by a network of local health Authorities having a marked interest for Welfare. It is very likely that President Prodi will attend the meeting on June 20th. On this occasion the four COPPEM Commissions will debate about their themes.

• Concerning Commissions’ works, **De Grave** suggests studying in depth the topics already approved by the Assembly through further researches and concrete initiatives;

• **Borg** reminds that the Plenary Assembly in Palermo adopted some resolutions starting off the development of many activities, which could be gradually improved as COPPEM is now economically better supported.

• **Papamikroulis** suggests concentrating on some matters of priority, whereas Whitmore stresses the need of Commissions’ works not to be only theoretical, but mostly directed to practical aims. He claims the resolutions of the Plenary Assembly of Palermo have to be carried out, by carrying on the Commissions’ activities as indicated in the resolutions, and ensuring the continuity of the works concerning the topics already broached. In the end he suggests to take care of the involvement of the greatest number of people in the Commissions’ works.

• **Pellegrini** is convinced that COPPEM has to reinforce its knowledge about interdepartmental resolutions concerning Barcelona process, so the Secretariat has to make further efforts in this direction.

• **Raimondi** informs that, according to the resolutions of the Plenary Assembly of Palermo, a research on Euromediterranean context with regard to the Commissions’ topics have been started off, and the next step is sending a questionnaire to every COPPEM member in order to know needs, experiences and programmes of the Administrations they represent.

• **AlSuwayeh** suggests both keeping activities in line with the Commissions’ works and reaching an agreement with the Commissions’ works of Arab League.

• **Pellegrini** suggests elaborating single reports about the situation of the 27 Euromediterranean Countries local Authorities and a report supposing possible relations among them.

• **Barahoui** agrees with what has been argued till now, and he stresses that they expect COPPEM to achieve concrete results for the benefit of the represented Administrations. He claims it is of overriding importance to increase communication towards both every local community and among COPPEM members, in order to put needs into concrete projects. He suggests COPPEM News could be the spokesperson of Euro-Mediterranean needs, so they could ask the single Administrations what needs are of overriding importance for realizing projects in this direction.
• **Motta** says that the fast growth of COPPEM made some problems and needs come out:
  1. to get further financial means in order to satisfy several demands;
  2. to improve the means of communication, by using Internet fully. In particular the Bulletin must reach a wider audience, which involves not inconsiderable costs that could be nevertheless covered by an advertising campaign, run by the members;
  3. The Development Agency could be the more suitable subject to satisfy the most concrete demands, particularly concerning project organization.

  He hopes for an active contribution by every member of the Commissions.

• **Midani** and **De Grave** think that technologies can be helpful for the communication. They hope both for the opening of a COPPEM web site where to load the Bulletins and the creation of a computer forum between the members of COPPEM Commissions.

• **Papamikroulis** argues that the Bulletin could be published only in two languages, English and French and the members could be charged with the task of gathering advertising.

• **Pellegrini** asks to set out the new topics of the four Commissions.

After a wide debate the following is agreed:

**I COMMISSION**
The territorial Communities in the 27 Countries of Barcelona process.  
*Speakers*: Andreas Karavolas (or Luigi Minardi) and Falah Al Omoush

**II COMMISSION**
Euromediterranean cooperation between cities for the running of Cultural Heritage  
*Speakers*: Nikos Papamikroulis and a Moroccan Representative

**III COMMISSION:**
The role of Local and Regional Authorities in social policies  
*Speakers*: Maurice Halimi: and Touhami Midani

**IV COMMISSION**
Methods and studies for the rediscovery of Cultural Heritage within the Euromediterranean Partnership  
*Speakers*: Antonio Maria Farina Murta and Ali Abu Ghanimeh

• In the end, the Presidency Council certifies that, the Statute grants the Secretary General signature powers towards third party.
Minutes of Presidency Council meeting  
Cairo, March 9th 2003  
Royal Nile Tower hotel, Corniche El Nile  

Participants  
Fabio Pellegrini, President of COPPEM  
Carmelo Motta, Secretary General of COPPEM  
Wadad Al Suwajeh, Vice President of COPPEM  
Jacques De Grave, President II Commission  
Adly Hussein, Vice President I Commission  

Guests:  
Batoul Badraoui, Vice President of the Urban Community of Rabat (MA) (on behalf of Mr. Omar Barhaoui, I Vice President of COPPEM)  
Sanchez Fernandez, Deputy Mayor of Valladolid (on behalf of Mr. Giner Giner, Vice President of COPPEM)  

Also present:  
Said El Dakkak, Vice Chancellor of University of Alexandria  
Michele Raimondi, Coordinator of COPPEM experts  
Natale Giordano, Expert II Commission of COPPEM  
Giovanna Cirino, Responsible for External Relations of COPPEM  

Agenda  
1. Approval of the minutes of the Presidency Council meeting (Rabat, January 26th 2003)  
2. Approval of the “Euro Mediterranean Development Agency” Statute  
3. Report by Mr. Touhami Midani on Internet-COPPEM project  
4. Any other update on the activities planned during Rabat meeting  
5. Information by the Secretariat about the Decisions of Barcelona Process Committees of Ministers  
6. Miscellaneous  

Summary of the Minutes  
President F. Pellegrini opens the meeting at 21.30.  
On his request, the agenda of the present meeting and the minutes of Rabat Presidency Council (January, 26th 2003) are approved.  
Afterwards President F. Pellegrini moves to point 2 of the agenda and opens the debate.  
• The Secretary General C. Motta presents some alterations to the provisional text of the Statute of the Euro-Mediterranean Development Agency.  
• W. Al Suwajeh things worth to establish ASEM management immediately, in order to start up both Associates search activities and their association fees collection.  
• Sanchez Fernandez, Motta, Hussein, De Grave and Badraoui intervene too, with a close examination of the Agency methods of establishment.  
• Finally, President Pellegrini, having taken note of the unanimous agreement among the present members, asks the Secretary General C. Motta, together with a representative of a second associate to be identified, to proceed to the establishment of ASEM Association, starting the search of new associates.  

The allocation of funds for the establishment of the Association is then authorized.  
• COPPEM PRESIDENCY COUNCIL reserves the right to indicate the Directors who shall represent COPPEM in the Association Board of Directors, as quoted in the Statute.  

Finally, President Pellegrini confirms the scheduled activities as decided during the Presidency Council of Rabat. Moreover, he repeats the request to the Secretary General for collecting, for next Commissions works, both the issues of the Committee of Euro-

review of activities 2003
Mediterranean Ministers meetings and the works issues of Cultural Heritage Conference, held in Cairo on March 8th 2003.

Minutes of Presidency Council meeting
Milazzo, June 29th 2003
Silvanetta Palace Hotel

Participants
Fabio Pellegrini, President of COPPEM
Carmelo Motta, Secretary General of COPPEM
Nikos Papamikroulis, Vice-President of COPPEM
Jacques De Grave, President II Commission
Adly Hussein, Vice President I Commission
Keith Withmore, 1° Vice President IV Commission
Ramon Polo Bernardo, III Commission

Also Present:
Michele Raimondi, Programmes and Projects Coordinator of COPPEM
Giovanna Cirino, Responsible for External Relations of COPPEM
Stefania Di Caro, External Relations COPPEM
Roberta Italia, External Relations COPPEM

Agenda
1. approval of the minutes of the Presidency Council meeting of Cairo;
2. approval of the proposal project on Global Allocation “ COPPEM Local Development”;
3. appointment of three members of the Board of Directors for the Euro Mediterranean Development Agency;
4. appointment of the External Auditor (COPPEM's Statute art. 17);
5. information about Caserta Meeting;
6. miscellaneous
Summary of the Minutes

President Fabio Pellegrini opens the meeting at 9.30 a.m, he suggests to integrate the meeting agenda with two new items:
- internal regulations
- calendar of the meetings

- The PRESIDENCY COUNCIL approves the modified agenda unanimously. The minutes of Cairo Presidency Council meeting (March, 9th 2003) are approved.
- President Fabio Pellegrini thinks that the project proposal worked out by the Secretariat is in accordance with the needs of political and programmatic activities and he invites all the members of COPPEM to make their best and give their contribution in order that the European Union can approve the above-named project. He invites Eng. Raimondi to explain the submitting procedures of the project.
- Michele Raimondi suggests the members of COPPEM should awaken the Ambassadors of their countries at the European Union and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs to this initiative. President requests the Secretariat for proceeding in close contact with Regions and Cities in order to get synthetic forms.
- Adly Hussein agrees with him and suggests that a note of the action to carry out, should be distributed to the members.
- Keith Withmore reminds that the European Community (EU) is going to extend itself eastwards; in his opinion it is the right moment both to intensify the relationships with the Third Countries of the Mediterranean area and involve them in our activities.
- Ramon Polo Bernardo guarantees Spanish local institutions support to the proposal project.
- The PRESIDENCY COUNCIL approves the project proposal and the suggested initiative and asks the Secretariat to proceed.
- The President introduces the subject on the Development Agency, informing that several parties are showing a keen interest in the initiative. The Agency shall involve a lot of local and regional institutions within the 27 countries members of the Euro-mediterranean Partnership. Moreover, the Agency shall work out projects and apply for loans; it will be a self-governing body under the aegis of COPPEM. He points out that, in conformity with the Agency’s Statute, it will be necessary to provide for appointing three Directors, who should establish the Agency’s highest management authority. He suggests that Omar Barhraoui should be appointed as the President, Giner Giner as the Vice President and Carmelo Motta as the managing director. It’s obvious that the above mentioned appointments shall be approved by the Agency’s Board of Directors.
- Adly Hussein agrees with the proposals put forward by Pellegrini. He invites to contact the new Secretary General of ATO.
- The President invites the Secretary, Carmelo Motta, to keep on committing himself for COPPEM and Agency as well.
- The PRESIDENCY COUNCIL gives its approval on what proposed by the President and approves unanimously.
- Concerning the following item on the agenda, the President proposes Dr. Marcello Modena as the external auditor, since he is a professional with high experience and well-known expertise.
- The PRESIDENCY COUNCIL approves unanimously.
- Carmelo Motta explains the agenda of Caserta meeting (September 24th -25th 2003): Workshop within the context of UNIMED C.H project addressed to the local authorities representatives of the 11 Countries involved in the project; meeting of the four COPPEM Commissions (24th), according to what decided at Rabat and considering the preliminary meeting of Palermo and Messina; meeting of the Presidency Council (24th); International Conference (25th and 26th ) on the topic of “Euro-Mediterranean Partnerships for Local Development: Welfare Systems”, organized by ONU Agencies, ASP Domiziana, in collaboration with the Italian Local Health Authorities Network. Moreover, he reminds the dates of both the next COPPEM General Assembly at Syracuse (14th December) and the VI Mediterranean Colloquium (15th December).
- The President stresses the necessity that the Secretariat should establish an internal Regulation of COPPEM, before the next Presidency Council meeting of Caserta to be submitted to the next Plenary Assembly for approval. The President addresses a recommendation to the Secretary so that contacts and involvement of all COPPEM members, even those who don’t take part in the meetings, can be strengthened.
Minutes of the Presidency Council
Caserta, September 24th 2003
Holiday Inn Resort CastelVolturno – Naples

Participants
Fabio Pellegrini, President of COPPEM
Carmelo Motta, Secretary General of COPPEM
Nikos Papamikroulis, Vice President of COPPEM
Jacques De Grave, President II Commission - COPPEM
Ramon Polo Bernardo, Member III Commission - COPPEM
Said El Dakkak, Member I Commission - COPPEM
Falal Al Omoush, Member I Commission - COPPEM
Touhami Midani, Member III Commission - COPPEM
Batoul Badraoui, Member IV Commission - COPPEM

Also present:
Michele Raimondi (Coordinator Programmes and Projects - COPPEM)
Giovanna Cirino (Responsible for External Relations - COPPEM)
Roberta Italia (External Relations - COPPEM)
Flavia Marzialetti (External Relations - COPPEM)
Donatella Sannino (Secretariat - COPPEM)

Agenda
1. approval of the minutes of the previous meeting (Milazzo, June 29th 2003);
2. rules of procedure proposal to submit to the General Assembly;
3. approval of the political document in view of the VI Euro-Mediterranean meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs;
4. organisation of the IV COPPEM General Assembly and the VI Mediterranean Colloquium (Syracuse, December 14th and 15th 2003);
5. miscellaneous.

Summary of the minutes
President Fabio Pellegrini opens the works at 09.15 p.m. and asks if there are proposals for the agenda.
• As there is no proposal, the PRESIDENCY COUNCIL approves unanimously the present agenda.
• He moves to the 1st item on the agenda: approval of the minutes of Milazzo Presidency Council (June 29th 2003). The minutes are approved.
• The President reminds those present that this meeting is held before the session of December 2003, at which COPPEM rules of procedure shall be approved. He begins to examine the provisional text of the rules of procedure, referring to the rule concerning both the procedure of appointment and regulation of the substitutes and the methods of voting.
• Interventions follow by Said Dakkak, Ramon Polo Bernardo, Carmelo Motta, Nikos Papamikroulis, Batoul Badraoui, Ali Abu Ghanimeh, President Pellegrini, discussing, explaining and defining passages concerning both the Statute and the Rules of procedure in order that they don’t contradict each other. Substitute status is also defined. They then move to rule 9 point 5 and rule 10 “Secretariat and Secretary General” who establishes powers but not obligations.
• The President suggests moving to art.12 that, in his opinion, has to be rewritten in a clearer way in order to regulating working groups in a more detailed way. Procedure and deadline are fixed for defining the text of the Rules of procedure to be submitted to the next General Assembly. The President explains the text of the political Document on which intervene: Batoul Badraoui, Touhami Midani, Falal Al Omoush, Said Dakkak and Ali Abu Ghanimeh, who suggest some alterations as to items concerning extremist and terrorist positions. President Pellegrini accepts the suggested alterations; the text is then approved unanimously and registered and shall be sent to:
  - the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, rotating Chairman
  - the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the other 26 Countries
  - the President of the European Commission
  - the President of the European Parliament
1. meetings of the presidency bureau

- the President of the Committee of Regions
- the President of the European Council
- the President of the Congress of the European Local Authorities and Regions
- the Presidents of the Commission for Foreign Affairs of Chamber of Deputies and Senate of the Republic
- the President of the Commission for Foreign Affairs of the European Parliament
- the President of the Commission for External Relations of the Committee of Regions
- the President of CEMR
- the President of ATO
- the European Officer Chris Patten
- the European Officer Pascal Lamy
- the President of Sicilian Region

Declaration of the Presidency Council

The Presidency Council of the Standing Committee for the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership of local Authorities and Regions (COPPEM), met in Caserta on September 24th 2003, in view of the meeting of the Committee of Ministers of Barcelona Process of 1995, due to be held in Naples on December 2nd and 3rd 2003,

1. expresses its greatest concern for the difficulties put in the way of the Road Map process for a pacific solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict with the creation of an independent Sovereign State of Palestine, as well as a security and inviolability guarantee of Israel State;
2. shares condemnation of violence that is practiced everywhere, and foment a vicious circle and an inextricable tangle, favouring only the enemies of peace;
3. thinks that peace advance, which also requires unilateral actions such as the withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territories and the attacks end to territorial integrity of Israel, is the more effective political reply to extremism, which isolate those citizens who seek peace, liberty, individual and community security: essential conditions for an economic, social, political and democratic growth for everybody;
4. thinks that for achieving these objectives it is necessary to extend and strengthen the role of local and regional communities, even though in the different existing realities, as the only way both to open institutions to the democratic participation of citizens and to be able to unfold and enhance creative potentialities and initiatives of single and associated persons in the many forms of civil society;
5. considering that COPPEM was established for contributing to the achievement of those objectives provided for by the “Barcelona Process ’95”, and that it has been working for some years with many actions and initiatives, which have been already producing profitable results and greater and greater perspectives,
6. asks, once again, the Committee of Ministers, who are meeting in Naples on December 2nd and 3rd 2003 a concrete and fervent support, by creating normative and procedural conditions for a growth of decentralized cooperation as a requirement for reinforcing links between cities and regions, for realizing a growing number of projects and exchange.
7. repeats, once again, the request of establishing a line of balance, or something else, in order to sustain a training programme for representatives and managers of TMC. This programme is essential to start up the processes of political, institutional, economical and growth reform of civil societies, which is the will of those who have committed themselves in achieving Barcelona ‘95 objectives;
8. finally, advises the activation of a financial Institution (Euro-Mediterranean Bank) to be placed the nearer and nearer to the Mediterranean operational area.

Caserta, 24th September 2003
2. WORK UNDERTAKEN ON THE TOPICS OF THE COMMISSIONS
2. WORK UNDERTAKEN ON THE TOPICS OF THE COMMISSIONS

2.1 INTRODUCTION

In 2003, The Presidency Bureau allocated the following topics to the respective Commissions:

1st Commission Local Communities in the 27 countries participating in the Barcelona process
2nd Commission Euro-Mediterranean cooperation between towns in cultural heritage management
3rd Commission The role of local and regional authorities in social policies
4th Commission Methods and analyses for reassessing cultural heritage in the context of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership

It can be seen that there are overlapping areas of interest between the topics dealt with by the 2nd and 3rd Commissions, and between those of the 1st and 3rd. Thus, regardless of the specific issues the Commissions dealt with, the overall subject areas they addressed are Cultural Heritage and Social Development and Welfare. Within these overarching areas, the activities promoted by the Secretariat to facilitate and support the work of the Commissions have been as follows:

CULTURAL HERITAGE

With reference to the topics of the 2nd and 4th Commissions, an International Conference was held in Cairo on 8 and 9 March on the topic of “The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership for Cultural Heritage”. The conference was organised with the active collaboration of the Governorship of Qalyubiya (Egypt). Subsequently, a meeting of international experts in the field of Cultural Heritage was held at the COPPEM Secretariat Headquarters in Palermo on 31 March. These meetings brought forth ideas which resulted in the formulation of two project proposals. One of these, dealing with “Local Cultural Systems”, had already been experimented with in Sicily by the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Palermo, and could be extended to other areas of cultural interest from the Euro-Mediterranean area. The other was a proposal for the “Restoration and Valorisation of a Mediterranean Cultural Heritage Asset of Symbolic Significance” put forward by the COPPEM Secretariat for an initiative to be undertaken in collaboration with the same faculty. Meetings with international organizations and potential sources of financial support have been arranged in connection with both these project proposals. In addition, the issues raised by the proposals formed the core of the debate between the members of the 2nd and 4th Commissions, who met in Caserta on 24 September 2003. Finally, an international seminar addressed to local administrators from the 10 member states was held in Caserta on 23 September. The seminar took place under the framework of the MEDA Project “UNIMED Cultural Heritage II”, in
which COPPEM is a partner, and was organised in collaboration with UNIMED (Union of Euro-Mediterranean Universities) acting as coordinator. The goal of this seminar was to introduce the project to the participants and discuss with them the benefits that can accrue to local administrations from the project and, conversely, how the administrations themselves can contribute to it.

**SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE**

Within the framework of the activities concerning to the topics of the 1st and 3rd Commissions, a review is being undertaken of the powers of Local Authorities in the 27 countries of the Euro-Mediterranean area, due to be published by the end of 2003. The Secretary also focussed on the project proposal entitled “COPPEM Local Development”, designed to investigate in detail the issues tackled by the Commissions so far which seem to have been given priority by the Local Authorities of the 27 countries. There are plans to apply for European Commission funding for the project, based on joint participation by all the COPPEM members. Finally, an international conference entitled “Euro-Mediterranean Partnerships for Local Development: systems of local welfare” took place in Caserta on 25-26 September 2003, organized in collaboration with UNDP and the Italian network of Local Health Services. The initiative is also linked to the framework of the “Domiziana” project, funded by the European Commission’s “Equal” Programme. The conference was very well-attended by representatives of local authorities and health services. It was concluded by the “Caserta Declaration”, in which the organisers expressed their commitment to undertake concrete joint initiatives. The conference was immediately followed up by the introduction of a programme to set up a Coordination System between Local Health Services in the Euro-Mediterranean area with offices based in Messina.

**QUESTIONNAIRE-BASED SURVEY**

The COPPEM Secretariat introduced a further initiative to send questionnaires to members in order to gather information regarding the topics of the Commissions, the activities experienced so far, as well as the needs perceived by local authorities and the priorities they feel should be given to the various initiatives. The aim is to use this information to identify the main requirements, so that, in line with the goals of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, COPPEM’s actions in dealing with the relevant organizations of the European Commission are more clearly targeted and can increase the Commission’s attention to the problems experienced by Local Communities.

**MEETINGS OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSIONS**

Drawing from the ideas that emerged from the meetings, conferences and work described above, the following additional and more specific meetings were held among the representative members of the COPPEM Commissions:
- Meeting of the rapporteurs of the Commissions in Palermo (30 August), to prepare the preliminary drafts of the reports of the four Commissions to be discussed at the meeting that followed.
- Meeting of the Commissions in Caserta (24 September) which included a number of presentations of the preliminary versions of the reports already prepared by the rapporteurs of some of the Commissions.

**OTHER PROJECT ACTIVITIES**

In addition to the projects outlined above, the COPPEM Secretary both launched and was invited to participate and collaborate in formulating a number of further project initiatives. It should be pointed out that COPPEM is primarily a “political” body and consequently focuses mainly on launching, fostering and promoting cooperation among Municipalities, Provinces and Regions in the Euro-Mediterranean area for the purpose of local development. In practice, this has meant launching ideas for projects, seeking out partners, ensuring its members are aware of the project opportunities that have gradually arisen, rather than proposing or coordinating projects, or of participating directly in the technical/operational development of the projects themselves. Indeed, also in connection with the future establishment of the Euro-Mediterranean Development Agency, the approach has been to tackle gradually the complex issues connected with the project design, preparation and participation, with applications for financial backing for the development of projects, and with coordinating all the component elements which actually make a project authoritative, interesting, and deserving of attention from the point of view of funding bodies. In this context, other activities pertaining to the “projects field” include the following:
- acceptance of an invitation received by the Portuguese Region of Murcia to take part in a proposal focused on the conservation of cultural heritage under the framework of the INTERREG Community Programme;
- formulation of a project proposal designed for the professional education and training of Local Authority staff to be submitted to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Development Cooperation;
- collaborating with the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Palermo to prepare a proposal under the framework of the INTERREG programme whereby the Sicily Region will coordinate the transfer of know-how and solution-seeking techniques for increasing free trade in the Mediterranean;
- setting up working relations with the UNDP (United Nations Development Program) to evaluate participation of COPPEM in the GOLD (Local Government and Development) programme now being activated in the Maghreb;
- assistance provided to the Ne.Ba.Me. project, supported by the Italian machinery supporting international cooperation and coordinated by the Inter-University Research Centre for Sustainable Development at La Sapienza University, designed for Administrators in Italy and in Mediterranean countries to share knowledge and experience; building up contacts with the company Busi for promoting among Euro-Mediterranean Administrations the use of the highly-tech systems which have been adopted by a number of selected towns to enhance their socio-economic development.

2.2 STRUCTURE OF THE COMMISSIONS IN 2003

I COMMISSION: “POLITICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL”

Chairman:
1st Vice Chairman: Adly Hussein (EG)
Vice Chairman: Halil Posbiyik (TR)

Theme of the report
"The territorial Communities in the 27 Countries of Barcelona process"

Speakers:
Andreas Karavolas (GR)
Falah Al Omoush (JO)

Secretaries/Experts
Angelo Lauricella (IT)
Francesco Sammaritano (IT)

Members
- Adly Hussein, Governor of Qailobiyah (EG)
- Halil Posbiyik, Mayor of Kdz. Ertegli (TR)
- José Moral Jimenez, Deputy Mayor of Burgos Municipality (ES)
- Salvatore Cuffaro, President of Sicilian Region (IT)
- Luigi Minardi, President of Marche Regional Council (IT)
- Ernest Maragall i Mira, Councillor of Barcelona Municipality (ES)
- Etienne Butzbach, Deputy Mayor of Belfort (FR)
- Christophe Chaillou, Mayor of Saint Jean de la Ruelle (FR)
- Rafaël Ripoll Navarro, Deputy Mayor of Valencia Municipality (ES)
- Ramón Ropero Mancera, Deputy Mayor of Villafranca de los Barros Municipality (ES)
- Andreas Karavolas, Councillor of Patrasso Municipality (GR)
- Sad Zo‘rob, Mayor of Rafah (Palestine)
- Ken Bodfish, Councillor, President of CCRE English Section (GB)
- José Macário Correia, Mayor of Tavira (PT)
- Hubert Falco, Mayor of Toulon (FR)
- Ertan Erdil, Counsellor for Foreign Affairs of Kdz. Eregli (TR)
- Falah Al Amoush, Undersecretary of Greater Amman (JO)
- Mohammed Said El Dakkak, Advisor of Qailobiyah; Vice Rector of University of Alessandria (EG)
II COMMISSION FOR THE COOPERATION BETWEEN CITIES AND REGIONS

Chairman: Jacques De Grave (BE)
1st VICE Chairman: Joseph Borg (MT)
VICE Chairman: Fidias Sarikas (CY)

Theme of the report
"Euromediterranean cooperation between cities for the running of cultural heritage"

Speakers: Nikos Papamikroulis (GR)
Abdelfatah Skir (MA)

Secretaries/Experts: Vittorio Buscema (IT)
Natale Giordano (IT)

Members-Membres
- Jacques De Grave, Deputy of Bruxelles, Councillor of Ixelles Municipality (BE)
- Joseph Borg, Deputy Chairman - Local Councils Association of Malta (MT)
- Fidias Sarikas, Mayor of Paphos (CY)
- Abdellatif Abdouh, President of Ménara-Guéliz Marrakech Municipality (MA)
- Manuel Sanchez Fernandez, Deputy Mayor of Valladolid Municipality (ES)
- Gina Fasan, Mayor of Sacile; Advisor of Friuli Venezia Giulia Region (IT)
- Nikos Papamikroulis, Vice President of COPPEM, Mayor of Nea Halkidona (GR)
- Avi Rabinovitch, Deputy Director General - Union of Local Authorities in Israel (IL)
- Adi Eldar, President - Union of Local Authorities in Israel, Mayor of Carmiel (IL)
- Moshe Elkasslasy, Member - Union of Local Authorities, Mayor of Gan Yavne (IL)
- Sara Akavia, Projects Manager – Union of Local Authorities in Israel (IL)
- Lellos Demitriadis, Ex Mayor of Nicosia (CY)
- Claudio Basso, Councillor of Genova Municipality (IT)
- Harrie Jeurissen, General Secretary of Dutch Section of CCRE (NL)
- Paz Fernández Felgueroso, Mayor of Gijón (ES)
- Giuseppe Chiaravalloti, President of Calabria Region (IT)
- Giovanni Antonino, Mayor of Brindisi (IT)
- Manuel Antonio da Luz, Mayor of Portimão (PT)
- Kari Nenonen, Mayor of Oulu (FI)
- Muzzafer Baca, Town Council member of Samandira; President of Blucrescent Foundation (TR)
- Jean Baggioni, President of Executive Council of Corsica territorial Community (FR)
- Abed Airahim Boucai, Deputy Mayor of Amman (JO)
- Christopher Newbury, County Councillor for Westbury Division Indipendent (GB)
- Marc Thoulen, Director of Cities and Towns Union Association of Bruxelles (BE)
- Adelfata Skir, Secretary General of Rabat Municipality (MA)

III COMMISSION FOR THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL COOPERATION

Chairman: Abbes Mohsen (TN)
1st Vice Chairman: Jan H. Mans (NL)
Vice Chairman: Tommy Holm (SE)

Theme of the report
"The role of local and regional Authorities in social policies"

Speakers: Maurice Halimi (FR)
Touhami Midani (TN)

Secretaries/Experts: Alberto Tulumello (IT)
Paolo Carrara (IT)
Lorenzo Barbera (IT)

Members-Membres
- Abbes Mohsen, Mayor of Tunis (TN)
- Jan H. Mans, President of Dutch Section of CCRE (NL)
- Tommy Holm, Head of Section - Swedish Association of Local Authorities – Observer (SE)
- Alberto Botta, Former Mayor of Como (IT)
- Abdelkarim Mosbah, General Secretary of Regional Council of Kairouan (TN)
- Ramón Polo Bernardo, Councillor of Province of Jaén (ES)
- Francisco Javier Léon de la Riva, Mayor of Valladolid (ES)
- Jan Micaleff, President of Local Council Association (MT)
- Kiriakos Virvidakis, Mayor of Canea Municipality (GR)
- Marta Vincenzi, Facilities District Councillor of Genova Municipality (IT)
- Waleed Hamad, Mayor of Al Bireh (Palestine)
- Maarouf Zahra, General Secretary of APLA, Mayor of Qalkilia (Palestine)
- Hatem El-Bayate, Deputy Mayor of Damasco (SY)
- Maria Isabel Fernandes Silva Soares, Mayor of Silves (PT)
- Maurice Halimi, Vice Mayor of Perpignan (FR)
- Guy Milcamps, President of Province of Namur (BE)
- Ruhi Kumaz Mayor of Duzce (TR)
- Abdullah Bayram Mayor of Samandira (TR)
- Touhami Midani Deputy Mayor of Tunis (TN)

**IV COMMISSION: FOR CULTURE, TECHNOLOGY, TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENT**

Chairman: Nidal Al-Hadeed (JO)
1st Vice Chairman: Keith Whitmore (GB)
Vice Chairman: Lea Tolonen (FI)

Theme of the report: "*Methods and studies for the rediscovery of cultural heritage within the Euromediterranean Partnership*"

Speakers: Antonio Maria Farina Murta (PT)
Ali Abu Ghanimeh (JO)

Secretaries/Experts: Michele Raimondi (IT)
Alessandra Prudente (IT)

**Members-Membres**
- Nidal Al-Hadeed, Mayor of Amman (JO)
- Keith Whitmore, Councillor of Manchester Municipality (GB)
- Lea Tolonen, Mayor of Ahtäri (FI)
- Gülgin Güner, Councillor of Alanya Municipality (TR)
- Ahmed Maher, Central Department Chairman of Ministry for the local Development (EG)
- Hilal Kobrosli, Mayor of Sidon (LB)
- Petros Filippou, Mayor of Kalivia (GR)
- Efisio Serrenti, President of Sardegna Regional Council (IT)
- Pierre Wies, V. Pres. Cities and Towns Union in Luxembourg, Mayor Larochette (LU)
- Mars Di Bartolomeo, Member Cities and Towns Union Luxembourg, Mayor Dudelange (LU)
- Francesca Calvo, Councillor of Alessandria Municipality (IT)
- Amato Lambert, President of Province of Napoli (IT)
- Representative of Spanish municipality (ES)
- Moncef Ben Garbia, Mayor of Biserta (TN)
- Batoul Badraoui, Deputy Mayor of Municipality of Rabat (MA)
- António Maria Farinha Murta, Mayor of Vila Real de Santo António (PT)
- Charles Ginesy, President General Council of Alpes-Maritimes (FR)
- Representative of Montpellier Municipality (FR)
- Kevin Thorp, Mayor of Rush (IE)
- Ali Abu Ghanimeh, Professor of Architecture University of Amman (JOR)
2.3 ACTIVITIES

CULTURAL HERITAGE AREA

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE
Conservation, Promotion and Exploitation, Capacity Building

Cairo, Egypt – 8,9,10 March 2003
Hotel Royal Nile Tower, Corniche El Nil, Garden City

Agenda
Saturday, 8 March 2003
9.00 a.m. Registration of participants
9.30 a.m. Welcome address by H.E. the Chancellor Mr. Adly Hussein, Governor of Qalyubia, I Vice President of COPPEM Commission I
Opening statement by Mr. Fabio Pellegrini, President of COPPEM
Introduction by: H.E. Mr. Atef Ebeid, Prime Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt
H.E. Mr. Farouk Hosni, Minister for Culture of the Arab Republic of Egypt
Statements by: H.E. Mr. Salvatore Cuffaro, Governor of the Sicily Region, Italy
Mr. Antonio Vigilante, UNDP
10.30 a.m. Coffee Break
11.00 a.m. Papers presented by
Mr. Nikolas Papamikroulis, Mayor of Nea Halkidona, Greece
"The role of the Administrator in the old town development"
Mr. Ali Abu Ghanema, Jordan University: "Conservation of buildings in Jordan in the light of local and European experience"
Mr. Lorenzo Lazzarini, University of Venice, Institute of Architecture, Italy
"The conservation of Monuments in the Mediterranean"
Ms. Layla Takla, President, Board of Trustees U.N. Human Rights. Cairo
Mr. Issam Abou Ouf, Director of Information technologies IT
Ms. Hanaa Fayez, Coordinator of Urban Observatory at ATO (Arab Towns Organization), Kuwait: "The role of urban indicators and observatories in cultural heritage decision support systems"
Mr. Wolfgang Mayer, Director of the Conservation Department, Stuttgart; Professor of Architecture and restoration at Cairo University: "A challenge to preserve Cultural Heritage: 25 years sister-city arrangement Stuttgart-Cairo"
1.00 p.m. Lunch
3.00 p.m. Projects presentation:
H.E. Mr. Abdel – Rehaim Shebata, Governor of Cairo
"Preservation project on Cairo city", Egypt
Ms. Marika Di Marco, Councillor for Budget and Heritage of the Syracuse Province, Italy; "Alexandria-Syracuse joint programme for Papyrus restoration"
Mr. Zahi Hawas, Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities and Director of the Giza Pyramids Excavation, Egypt: "Secret of the Pyramids and the valley of golden mummies"
Mr. José Antonio Martinez, Region of Murcia, Spain
"URBAMED Interreg II/III Medoc Project"
Mr. Giuliano Leone, Dean of Architecture Faculty, University of Palermo, Italy:
"University course on conservation and restoration technologies of architectonic surfaces in Sicily"
Mr. Roberto Albergoni, Deputy Director of UNIMED, Rome, Italy
"UNIMED Cultural Heritage II" MEDA Project and Establishment of an Euro-Mediterranean Agency for Cultural Heritage"
Mr. Nevzat İhlán, Alanya Municipality, Turkey
"Fortified medieval town of Alanya, Turkey: historical and natural heritage management"
5.00 p.m. Debate
6.00 p.m. Conclusion by Mr. Vittorio Ghidi, EC Delegation in Egypt, Cairo
Closure of the meeting
8.00 p.m. Dinner
Sunday, 9 March 2003

10.00 a.m. Meeting with H.E. Mr. Ahmed Fathi Sorour, President of People Assembly
Visit to Cairo: Egyptian museum, Pyramids
2.00 p.m.  Lunch
Free afternoon
8.00 p.m. Dinner

Friday, 9 March 2003

Yesterday, meetings were held with the Governor of Cairo, Abdel-Rehaim Shebata, the Governor of Alexandria, Safaa El-Din Moustafa Kamel, and meetings were held with them. Furthermore, a delegation of Sicily Region Government, with the President of the Region Salvatore Cuffaro and the Member of the Sicilian Region Assembly Calogero Speziale, and several delegations of Sicily Local Governments were present. UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) with its representative for Egypt Antonio Vigilante, the European Commission with Vittorio Ghidi, representing EU delegation in Egypt, the Italian Embassy with the Minister Plenipotentiary Giovanni Manfredi and the Italian Consul Federica Favi, and the Italian Institute for Culture in Cairo with the Director Tina Cervone Papa were also present. The Governor of Qalyubiya, Adly Hussein, member of COPPEM and Vice President of the I Commission, organized the participation of Egyptian representatives, visits and meetings in Cairo and in Alexandria; his Governorate backed in a decisive way the realization and the success of the initiative.

International Conference “Euro Mediterranean Partnership For Cultural Heritage, Promotion, Use, Training”
The Conference took place at the Royal Nile Tower Hotel in Cairo, on March the 8th, following the agenda here enclosed.

• After a warm welcome addressed to over 160 participants by the Governor of Qalyubiya, Adly Hussein, the President of COPPEM Fabio Pellegrini thanked authorities and participants. He highlighted that in a moment of instability in the Middle-Eastern area, which poses serious difficulties to both the dialogue among people and euro Mediterranean partnership policies, the Conference organized by COPPEM treated a theme of common interest, which could represent a strong call to consolidate cooperation in an atmosphere of peace and prosperity in all the Mediterranean area.

• The President of Sicily Region Cuffaro reasserted the historic-political importance of fully fulfilling the euro Mediterranean partnership, which would contribute, through its realization, to reduce and remove the gap between the countries of the two Mediterranean shores. COPPEM activity intervenes within this context, also through the debate on the promotion and the enhancement of cultural heritage, contributing to the improvement of social, cultural and economic conditions of people. Finally, he affirmed that the urban renewal of the old towns, like Palermo, that is of the Arab school, is strategic; and he announced his intention of promoting a meeting in Cairo between Sicilian and Egyptian operators.
• The UNDP representative, Antonio Vigilante, in his welcome reminded the delegates that cultural heritage is the centre of Mediterranean identity, and the dialogue between local authorities of the two Mediterranean shores is one of the basic steps to the union and the integration of Mediterranean people.

• At the end of the opening of the conference, the Prime Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Atef Ebeid, on behalf of its Government gave his regards and thanks to COPPEM for choosing Egypt as venue of such an important event, and highlighted that Egypt has been always contributing, in the past as well as in the present, to join people of different religion, culture and habits, creating a favourable climate for the development of arts and science. So in such a moment, when we strongly feel the need for tolerance in the Euro-Mediterranean area, Egyptian Government appreciates and sustains COPPEM, that couldn’t choose a better topic such as cultural heritage. He also reminded how the Egyptian Government has acted for defending human rights and equality of the sexes, and he expressed his wish for both a quick joining of Egypt to Europe within the economy and development field and a greater cohesion among Middle Eastern people in an area representing a wide market growing every year more than 5 %.

• Finally, turning to President Cufaro, he expressed his wish of a greater and greater cooperation with Sicily, the island that is the birthplace of the Cairo founder.

• The morning session, chaired by Jacques De Grave, President of COPPEM II Commission, has been opened by the Vice President of COPPEM, the architect Nikolas Papamikroulis, Mayor of Nea Halkidiona (Athens), reasserting that over the last century a transformation of the oldest Mediterranean cities has taken place; their city planning has been directed to the realization of residential areas where people have moved to, leaving the city centres, rather than the rediscovery of the old towns. He affirmed his conviction of the need for reducing changes to the utmost in the old town centres’ functions and restoring them in order to revive ways of life that have been set up along past times.

• Afterwards, Layla Takla, member of the Executive Board of the “National Council of Women” in Cairo, underlined her appreciation for COPPEM to have organized in such a difficult moment a Conference on Cultural Heritage with the aim of supporting cooperation among cities.

• Ali Abu Ghanimel, Professor at the Faculty of Architecture in Amman (Jordan), informed that every year in Jordan a remarkable sum is earmarked to restore a building of particular historic and architectural interest. He also reminded how active the cooperation is between Italian and Jordan universities, academies and organisms for restoration, and that in Jordan there are numerous workshops on this topic. Finally, he pointed out that in this sector both a strengthening of university teaching units and a development of the academic staff is to be hoped for.

• Professor Lorenzo Lazzarini, Director of the University Institute of Architecture in Venice, pointed out the fragility of many historic-monumental tombstones structures in the Mediterranean, underlining consumption risks of such high value artistic heritage. He also reviewed several restoration and preservation initiatives, inviting COPPEM to promote restoration projects and coordinate cooperation among local authorities.

• Issam Abouf and Hanaa Fayez, ATO representatives (Kuwait City) presented patterns of urban indicators for the integrated management of cities patrimony, based on the utilisation of advanced technologies and methodologies for filing, cataloguing and consulting information at urban level.

• Wolfgang Mayer, Professor at the Town Planning Department in the Stuttgart municipality (Germany), Professor of Architecture and Restoration at University of Cairo, expressed his hope for more and more twinning initiatives to take place between cities of the two Mediterranean shores, reminding that Stuttgart twinned with Cairo under Anwar El Sadat’s presidency. This has favoured, mainly over the last ten years, many mutual initiatives between the two cities.

• In the afternoon session, chaired by Keith Whitmore, Town Councillor of Manchester (UK) and Vice President of the IV COPPEM Commission, Abdel-Rehim Shebata, Governor of Cairo, reminded that a long-term project for town planning readjustment has been started up recently. Cairo has passed from a size of 9 Km in 1800 to 1469 Km in 1999, and is marked by monuments from different periods and civilizations (Coptic, Jewish etc.). Many old areas have been restored trying to keep their old activities.

• Zahi Hawas, Secretary General of the Higher Council for Antiquities and Director of the Giza Pyramids excavations, presented some programmes of excavations in Egypt and informed about the most recent theories on the mysteries of Pyramids and the Sphinx.

• Marika Di Marco, Councillor Responsible for Balance and Patrimony of Syracuse Province, reminded the cooperation between Syracuse and Alexandria organizations for the restoration of papyrus, underlining how important the enhancement of Cultural Heritage is for promoting exchanges and peace among people.

• José Antonio Martinez, from the Murcia Region, Spain, presented the URBAMED project, supported by the European Commission within the Interreg/Medoc programme. Spanish,
Portuguese, Italian and Moroccan partners have started a rediscovery work of medieval centres in European and Arab regions.

- **Giuliano Leone**, Dean of the Faculty of Architecture in Palermo, talked about the important mission of the University for rediscovering cultural heritage and he hoped for the setting up of an university course on preservation and restoration technologies of architectonical surfaces in Sicily, which could become a reference Centre for students and professors of the Mediterranean area.

- **Roberto Albergoni**, Deputy Director of UNIMED, association of 61 universities in the Euro-Mediterranean area, introduced the UNIMED Cultural Heritage II project that was in progress by partners of several Euro-Mediterranean Countries and supported by the European Commission. This project aims at creating a database related to Cultural Heritage and it is preliminary to the setting up an Euro-Mediterranean Agency for Cultural Heritage.

Nevzat Ilhan, Advisor to the Alanya municipality, Turkey, outlined the topic of preservation and enhancement of the medieval city of Alanya, as well as its cultural and natural patrimony.

- In conclusion, **Vittorio Ghidi**, European Commission Delegation in Egypt, presented an overview of all the introduced subjects, drawing a rich and interesting frame about the importance of cultural heritage for the Mediterranean area, as a source of life and prosperity for the peaceful cohabitation among people in it.

*The whole Conference has been videotaped. The videotapes are available at COPPEM Secretariat and they will be handed out to each participant and COPPEM member.*

**Visit to the People’s Assembly**

A selected delegation of COPPEM and people attending the meeting have been received in the Palace of Egyptian People's Assembly by its President H.E. Ahmed Fathi Sorour, who heard from the President Pellegrini the COPPEM point of view about both local powers decentralisation and cooperation among Authorities, from President Cuffaro the hope for closer relations at political and socio-economic level between Sicily and Egypt, from Mr Speziale, member of Sicilian Regional Assembly, the hope for a future of peace and prosperity in the Mediterranean. He warmly thanked the members of the delegation for their kind visit and invited them to attend the opening of the Assembly works. In the assembly hall, before the opening of the parliamentary session and on President Sorour request, the delegation was warmly cheered by the members of the Assembly. In the evening, a dinner offered by Egypt was the occasion for gathering the COPPEM delegation and the President of the Sicily Region Cuffaro, with a delegation of the Italian Embassy in Cairo composed by the Minister Plenipotentiary Giovanni Manfredi, the Responsible for euro Mediterranean Partnership policies Marco Riccardo Rusconi, and the Italian Consul in Cairo Federica Favi.

**Visit to the Alexandria Library**

The next day has been devoted to the visit to Alexandria, where the COPPEM delegation was received by the Vice Governor of Alexandria H.E. El-Din Moustafà Kamel and by the Director of the Alexandria Library Ismail Siragaddin, who introduced the new library. The vice Governor joined the guests during the visit to the structure, showing treasures held in it and the advanced methodologies of consultation. Later he offered an institutional lunch, during which different types of cities and territories management in Egypt and in other euro Mediterranean Countries have been discussed. In the evening, on their return to Cairo, the COPPEM delegation attended an official dinner at the presence of Farouk Hosni, the Minister for Culture of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

*The events organized by COPPEM in Cairo have been carefully followed by local, national and Arab world press and TV, which gave high evidence to the events, and to the related dealt with topics, that took place in days when the international community has been eagerly awaiting for the development of the international situation in Iraq.*
MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS
CULTURAL HERITAGE FOR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT
WITHIN THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP
Meeting of Palermo, May 31st 2003

Participants

COPPEM MEMBERS
Mr. Carmelo Motta (Secretary General of COPPEM) Italy
Mr. Nikos Papamikroulis (Vice-Chairman of COPPEM,
Speaker II Commission; Mayor of Nea Halkidona) Greece
Mr. Jacques De Grave (Chairman II Commission; MP Brussels Capital City) Belgium
Mr. Keith Whitmore (I Vice-Chairman IV Commission;
Town Councillor of Manchester) United Kingdom
Mr. Ali Abu Ghanimieh (Speaker IV Commission;
Professor of Architecture, University of Amman) Jordan
Mr. Antonio Maria Farinha Murta  
(Speaker IV Commission; Mayor of Vila Real de Santo Antonio) Portugal

UNIVERSITY
Mr. Jean Pierre Lozato Giotard (University of Paris III - Sorbonne Nouvelle; Expert of Tourism and Cultural Heritage) France
Mr. Wolfgang Mayer (Professor of Restoration - University of Cairo) Germany
Mr. Nicola Santopuoli (Faculty of Architecture - University of Ferrara; Professor at Mosaic and Restoration School - Ravenna) Italy
Mr. Giuliano Leone (Dean of Architecture Faculty, University of Palermo) Italy
Mrs. Carla Quartarone (Dean of Architecture Faculty, University of Palermo) Italy
Mr. Santi Rizzo (Dean Faculty of Engineering; University of Palermo) Italy
Mr. Francesco Mannuccia (Faculty of Architecture, University of Palermo) Italy
Mr. Vincenzo Motta (Faculty of Architecture, University of Palermo) Italy
Mrs. Angela Alessandra Badami (Faculty of Architecture, University of Palermo) Italy

ORGANIZATIONS
Mr. Abdelaziz Daoulali (President of ICCROM Council, Rome; I.N.P. Tunis) Tunisia
Mr. Roberto Albergoni (Vice Director of UNIMED) Italy
Mr. Ludovico Corrao (President of Orestiadi Foundation – Gibellina and Tunis) Italy
Mr. Gianni Puglisi (Secretary of UNESCO, Italian Section, Rector of IULM – Milan; Councillor Responsible for the Arts - Municipality of Palermo) Italy
Mr. Sebastiano Di Bella (Advisor for Sicily Region Presidency) Italy
Mr. Francesco Romeo (Executive at councillor's office for Cultural Heritage – Sicily Region) Italy
Mr. Benedetto Mineo (Vice head of the ministerial staff – Sicily Region Presidency) Italy

COPPEM SECRETARIAT
Mr. Michele Raimondi (Coordinator of Experts) Italy
Mr. Vittorio Buscema (Expert II Commission) Italy
Mr. Natale Giordano (Expert II Commission) Italy
Mrs. Alessandra Prudente (Expert IV Commission) Italy
Mrs. Giovanna Cirino (Responsible for Bureau of External Relations) Italy
Mr. Piero Fagone (Responsible for Press office) Italy
Mrs. Roberta Puglisi (Press office) Italy
Mr. Nino Randisi (Press office) Italy
MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS
CULTURAL HERITAGE FOR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT
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Meeting of Palermo, May the 31st 2003

Preliminary document

1. PRELIMINARY REMARKS
COPPEM Presidency Council, held in Rabat (Morocco) on January the 26th 2003, decided
the following themes for the second and fourth Commission for 2003:
II Commission: The Euro-Mediterranean cooperation between cities in the management of
Cultural Heritage.
Speakers: Nikos Papamikroulis (Greece) and Abdelfatah Skir (Morocco)
IV Commission: Methods and studies for the enhancement of Cultural Heritage within the
Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.
Speakers: Antonio Maria Farina Murta (Portugal) and Ali Abu Ghanimeh (Jordan)

The two themes seem closely interconnected, so dealing with one of them requires
preventive knowledge, analysis and search for information that are certainly functional to the
development of the other one. Then, in order to avoid duplications and waste of resources,
it has been reached the conviction that some parts might be developed in common, laying
aside to closer examinations the parts more strictly referring to the specific themes.
The international Conference of Cairo, promoted on March 2003 by COPPEM in cooperation
with the Governatorate of Qalyubyia, on “The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership for Cultural
Heritage” gave the opportunity to be acknowledged with significant activities in the
management of Cultural Heritage in the Mediterranean area as well as with initiatives
promoted at a local level, opening an analysis and a comparison which gave a significant
propaedeutical value to the works of the two COPPEM Commissions.

2. PALERMO MEETING: OBJECTIVES
In order to carry out the Cairo meeting and to allow synthesis notes that might be expressed
in a concretely operational Action Plan, through the start up of cooperation between Local
and Regional Administrations, the Presidents of the two Commissions and COPPEM
Secretariat have arranged a restricted meeting in Palermo the next 31 May 2003, inviting
representatives of the two Commissions, of Euro-Mediterranean institutions and of the
academic area, as well as experts in this sector.
The objective is to discuss and gather suggestions, examples and contributions for defining
strategic and operational paths that, in the light of Administrations needs, might lead to the
the definition of an Action Plan devoted to support management dynamics of Cultural
Heritage with the ultimate aim of pursuing local development of territories, particularly of the
Mediterranean ones.

3. PRELIMINARY OUTLINE OF AN ACTION PLAN
A possible path of Action Plan is herein suggested, with the aim of facilitating the meeting by
giving the participants elements for thinking about in advance and for providing concrete
contributions to the meeting itself.
The Plan could be structured in the following phases, contents of which should be selected
and integrated during the meeting:

Cultural Heritage in the Euro-Mediterranean area
A first line can concern the definition of the different protocols of action about the cultural
heritage topics carried out in the different countries of the Mediterranean, including:
- documents, proclamations and declarations of principle carried out by official bodies and
  organizations involved in preservation, restoration and valorisation;
- legislative statutes, regulations and rules for protection and safeguard;
- techniques and procedures of intervention for renewal and restoration;

A second line of action can set up a census of the supposed significant experiences already
carried out by different countries, even if limited to the sites of greater importance for the

review of activities 2003
pursued aims, in order to implement a file of the most important and useful events for carrying out an exchange of experiences and for the building of some main application models, able to deal with protection, restoration and enhancement.

This line of action could take advantage of:
- the conferences, in order to give visibility to the carried out experiences;
- the spread of the results through the traditional press means;
- the spread, through the set up of a portal with a controlled access, able to gather and communicate the most significant experiences;

A third line of action could be devoted to develop, among different countries, occasions for common search of some specific application opportunities concerning:
- the knowledge of particular historic periods, allowing to understand connections and synergies between different cultures;
- the census of cultural moments that, even if developed in different geographic areas, seem to belong to the same cultural roots;
- the overview of economic follow up in stated areas, produced through the valorisation of cultural heritage, engendered by particular policies, in order to understand the relation between the existing cultural patrimony and the specific possibility of its enhancement.

This line of action can take advantage of researches already carried out by Universities of different countries and it can make use of exchange opportunities provided by Organizations and official Bodies.

**Local and Regional Administrations Priority Needs**

To study means and positions of Local Authorities in the Mediterranean countries of the MEDA area, in connection with objectives of local development pursued through the Cultural Heritage enhancement, could be of interest. Their institutional/functional/operational needs could be pointed out, for the strengthening of their actions.

**Support policies**

It is necessary for the Administrations to be aware of the policies of the European Union, firstly, and of those of other Organizations and Institutions, of the relevant financial support and of the activities related to Cultural Heritage management.

It is essential as well that COPPEM submit to the European Commission proposals for implementation of policies and supports, in the light of the requirements resulting from the meetings of its members, who represent the beneficiary Administrations.

**Proposals for action within specific sectors**

Operational hypothesis shall be conceived, including the following:
- Setting up of thematic working groups (within the sectors suggested at point 1, for example) that, started up by COPPEM, promote methods and studies for Cultural Heritage enhancement, and act as reference for the involved Administrations;
- To establish partnership and technical assistance aimed at preparing project proposals relevant to forecasted calls for tender (MEDA and others);
- Exchanges of know-how and best practices, and training on the sectors above mentioned, among officials of Administrations of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership Countries;
- Development of synergies among Administrations and public and private actors

**CONCLUSIONS**

The overall hypothesis is to promote the creation, within the COPPEM, of a strong reference context on Cultural Heritage in the Mediterranean that, by relying on synergies between Local and Regional Administrations, might be able to conceive an “Agenda” of the carried out actions and of the ones that could enhance culture and history of the Mediterranean Countries in the MEDA area.

In this direction, it is not important to have specific economies which obviously are useful, but it is better to formulate some common protocols in order to rely on an agreement basis on which different economies, relevant to Cultural Heritage renewal and enhancement, can be based.

The most important aspect of this project is to give voice and capacity of relationship to Municipalities, Provinces and Regions, and then to the Euro-Mediterranean communities.
MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS
CULTURAL HERITAGE FOR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT
WITHIN EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP
Palermo Meeting of the 31st May 2003

Final Minutes

At 10 a.m., at COPPEM Secretariat in Palermo, the Secretary General Carmelo Motta welcomes the participants (Attachment 1) and he stresses that the main objective of the meeting is the settlement of a concrete Work Plan and of a working group for the development of initiatives treasuring the acquired knowledge by Cairo Conference and concern the topics of COPPEM II and IV Commissions. He asks Jacques de Grave, the Chairman of the II Commission, to chair the morning meeting, and Keith Whitmore, the Vice-Chairman of the IV Commission, the afternoon meeting.

- Jacques De Grave thanks all the participants and he hopes that the meeting can give precise indications for COPPEM and its Commissions works. Then he calls upon the participants to speak.
- Michele Raimondi, Coordinator of the Secretariat Programmes and Projects, explains the contents of the Preparatory Document and the Operational Hypothesis that have been distributed to the participants (Attachments 2 and 3), so introducing the subjects of the meeting. In particular, he stresses the possible synergies between Local Administrations and the academic world, already debated with UNIMED, on which a strong contribution is expected by the meeting.
- Gianni Puglisi, the Secretary of UNESCO Italian Section, Rector of IULM University of Milan and Councillor Responsible for Culture of Palermo municipality, welcomes all the present, on behalf of Palermo city and of the UNESCO Italian section. He stresses the importance of research and of multidisciplinary and flexible educational path that Local Authorities should help to plan by adjusting them to the territories dynamics. He quotes UNESCO ROSTE Regional Office that has its offices in Venice, as the subject to refer in order to turn the guidelines expressed in the Preparatory Document of the meeting into planning practice. He commits himself to fully collaborate with COPPEM.
- Giuliano Leone, Dean of the Faculty of Architecture of Palermo University, expresses his conviction that actions have to be based on Local Administrations, Universities and enterprises. The thematic fields, as specified in the Preparatory Document that he himself has contributed to develop, could be formed by statutes and protocols, by visibility and placing value of the current situation, by the synergic research of applicative opportunities. Then he mentions the hypothesis of carrying out a Mediterranean Polytechnic for training and research within Cultural Heritage restoration and conservation.
- Roberto Albergoni, Vice Director of UNIMED (University Association of the Euro-Mediterranean area), explains the “UNIMED Cultural Heritage II” Project (of which COPPEM is partner too) that, co-financed by the European Commission through MEDA programme, proceeds in acquiring knowledge on rules, formative offer, cataloguing procedures, in building an Internet portal, in organizing training activities for restoration and conservation operators, in employing advanced technologies, in managing Cultural Heritage. The Project also aims at boosting a context of debate and promotion of ideas within Cultural Heritage in the Mediterranean. He shows interest in a full collaboration between UNIMED and COPPEM, suggesting a possible convention.
- Ludovico Corrao, President of Orestiadi Foundation (Gibellina, Trapani, Palermo, Tunis), points out that Cultural Heritage concept extends to the conservation of civilizations in their becoming. So culture also represented by usages and customs, music, use of water and so on. He refers to the “Trame del Mediterraneo” Museum, focused on those cultural peculiarities emerging from the comparison between past and present.
- Vittorio Buscema, expert of COPPEM Secretariat for the II Commission, hopes that the meeting can define objectives, paths and deadlines, in order to pursue a concrete operativeness of COPPEM.
- Santi Rizzo, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering of Palermo University, after presenting a study on the stability of the Temple of Concord and the Temple of Juno in Agrigento, points out that a Mediterranean Polytechnic could have recourse, only in Sicily, to the contribution and collaboration of the three Sicilian Universities of Palermo, Messina and Catania, which could make available about 1400 researchers. Masters and Research Doctorates could be established and realized also through itinerant structures in the basin.
• **Maurizio Carta**, Professor at the Faculty of Architecture of Palermo, presents an interesting research on local cultural systems that are localized in specific districts and on relations between territories of cultural mark.

• **Jean Pierre Lozato Giotard**, Professor at the University of Paris III, Sorbonne Nouvelle, informs that a Master connecting tourism, training and culture, elements that are linked among them, has been established. Local scale, implying operational activities, and regional scale, with strategic features for the sustainability of the integration between Cultural Heritage and tourist flows are considered. The Master is for students and well-known professional men too. The entrance is subject to the submission of a project proposal by the applicant. Finally, he stresses the importance of indicators on both cultural heritage and the relevant relations with tourism: their knowledge is essential to evaluate situations and carry out choices. He is very interested in a standing collaboration with COPPEM.

• **Wolfgang Mayer**, University of Stuttgart, Professor of Restoration at Cairo University, informs that in the latter University, theoretical education is preferred but they are proceeding to a change with more practical features. The problem is not only restoration but also conservation, that is to say upkeep. Furthermore, he advises that Cultural Heritage should be used not only for their economic effects but also for their symbolic value.

• **Nicola Santopuoli**, Faculty of Architecture of Ferrara University, Professor at Mosaic Restoration School of Ravenna, presents the training plan for the conservation intervention of Pompei houses, and a campaign of archaeological excavations in Syria including courses of training for experts. He informs of a cataloguing programme of the cultural patrimony in Tunisia where 4.000 monuments have been registered and catalogued, through the work of 14 experts, who have been trained for the purpose.

• **Ali Abu Ghanimeh**, speaker of the IV COPPEM Commission and Professor at the Faculty of Architecture in Jordan, points out that since 1992 Jordan has worked together with the European Commission and the MED-CAMPUS Programme, and that great importance is given to the training for the rediscovery of Cultural Heritage. Every year the Municipality of Amman invests substantial sums for restoring ancient buildings that are then devoted to uses of prestige. He suggests COPPEM should work, together with Jordan University at defining training activities that are profitable for next restorations.

• **Abdelaziz Daoulatli**, ALECSO expert and ex President of ICCROM – Rome and of I.N.P. – Tunis, informs that in the past COPAM has developed, for the period of his first presidency, an experience similar to what COPPEM is doing with this meeting. He things COPPEM, thanks to its representativeness force, can have success by connecting Universities and enterprises. He stresses the importance of knowing policies on Cultural Heritage management in the single States, what is essential for defining Action Plans. ALECSO has carried out a study on Cultural Heritage condition in Arab Countries, what can be useful for COPPEM aims.

• **Keith Whitmore** points out the necessity of gathering financial resources and he quotes as the owner of the link of sustainable tourism sectors, local development based on the management of Cultural Heritage and Agenda 21 aims of action.

• **Piero Fagone**, Director Responsible for COPPEM News, stresses the importance of communication and information for valorising the Patrimony.

• **Nikolas Papamikroulis** stresses the richness of Mediterranean Cultural Patrimony compared to world patrimony. He considers the role of Local Authorities essential within the context of conservation, restoration, valorisation and fruition of Cultural Heritage. He reminds the universal values of solidarity inspired by cultural patrimony and that trace back to the principles of Olympics that next year will recur in Athens.

• **De Grave**, referring to the note that he has recently sent to COPPEM Secretariat, suggests COPPEM should research and distribute useful information to its members (on EC programmes, on reachable funds, on developed projects). COPPEM should also help its members in organizing partnerships for submitting project proposals.

• **Francesco Romeo**, Councillorship for Cultural Heritage of Sicilian Region, affirms that it is necessary to aim at the active participation of Administrations, Universities and Business in concrete actions.

• **Santi Rizzo** reaffirms the importance of the applied research and, following the previous intervention by Ludovico Commao, he hopes for the establishment of an informal observatory of the Euro-Mediterranean cultural memory.

• **Giuliano Leone** reaffirms the necessity of arranging common models and protocols in order to defining bottom-up approach interventions. He stresses the importance of physical indicators, training and study cases. On this point he launches the proposal of an annual exhibition for the presentation of the study cases.
• **Roberto Albergoni** hopes for establishing a Working Group, through an agreement COPPEM-UNIMED, committing itself in the research and selection of specific objectives, considering the interesting information and proposals gathered during this meeting, and proceeding with the formulation of Working Plans in the light of the opportunities that some speakers have put forward.

• **Michele Raimondi**, referring to what told during the opening of the meeting, reminds that Caserta Conference of next September and the COPPEM Plenary Assembly in Syracuse next November 2003 could represent the opportunity for further meeting of the Working Group. The Administrations that COPPEM represents and the Universities proposed by UNIMED shall be invited in taking part in it. Further meetings of the Group could be financed by the Sicilian Region or by COPPEM task within UNIMED Cultural Heritage project, besides other organizations that might take part in the same project.

• As nobody else asks leave to speak, the Secretary General **Carmelo Motta** closes the meeting, hoping that the present continue giving their contribution to the Working Group, following what has been debated during the meeting and the relevant minutes that the Secretariat will draw up and forward in next days. He thanks the participants for their high contribution and he hopes to host them in Palermo again.

**“UNIMED CULTURAL HERITAGE II” PROJECT**

The implementation stage of this three-year project started in January 2002. The project is coordinated by UNIMED, an Association made up by sixty-one universities from the Euro-Mediterranean area. The project partners are universities and institutions from 11 countries, including COPPEM. The project goals include the creation of an advanced database and an Internet website on the existing laws for the management of cultural heritage in member countries, the selection of management “success stories”, professional training courses on the use of advanced technologies in the field of cultural heritage, dissemination of results and stimulating partners to follow up the relevant activities after the project is completed. COPPEM’s task is to engage Local Authorities from the countries concerned in the process of gathering information regarding the following:

- cataloguing regulations applied
- good practices followed for assets management (acquired expertise, achieved results, transferable skills and sample cases)
- priority requirements to implement management processes (actions, specific projects, specialist areas, laws and regulations, etc.)

The information will be stored and made available on the website and will form the preliminary basis for fostering the exchange of know-how, mutual support and actions among Euro-Mediterranean Municipalities. The aim is to increase the level of attention accorded to cultural heritage and improve the practices applied to the field to ensure it is properly valorised, thereby enhancing the image of the Municipalities and the socio-economic benefits accruing to them as a result. Finally, COPPEM will contribute to the dissemination of the project results to raise awareness among the local authorities of member countries and among Euro-Mediterranean countries in general. In this context, COPPEM and UNIMED organized the following event:
INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR
“UNIMED CULTURAL HERITAGE II” PROJECT
Caserta (Italy), 23 September 2003
Holiday Inn Resort

Report

The seminar was opened at 10.30 a.m. with a message of welcome by the COPPEM Secretary General Carmelo Motta, who chaired the morning session. He thanked the contributors and emphasized the high degree of attention accorded by COPPEM to the Management of the Mediterranean Cultural Heritage. The Secretary underscored the fact that two out of the four working COPPEM Commissions were devoted to investigating in detail the issues connected with Cultural Heritage and the management of Cultural Assets, seeing this area of involvement as a driving force for local development.

Finally, Secretary General Carmelo Motta introduced the COPPEM coordinator of Programmes and Projects Michele Raimondi as the next speaker and wished the participants a successful working session.

- Michele Raimondi reaffirmed COPPEM’s deepest concern for Cultural Heritage management policies and listed all the initiatives undertaken by COPPEM (such as the major International Conference held in Cairo in March 2003, attended by, among others, Egypt’s Prime Minister and Minister of Culture), the working groups it supports and the Cultural Heritage projects in which COPPEM participates, either as a partner or sponsor.

- The next speaker was Roberto Albergoni, the UNIMED Vice Director, who gave a PowerPoint presentation (attached to this report) illustrating the goals, activities and expected results of the UNIMED Cultural Heritage II Project. His presentation began with a description of the Repository (Data collection) of the existing laws and regulations for the management, conservation and valorisation of Cultural Heritage in the eleven Project partner countries. He then described Task 2, on the subject of identifying professional training programmes, and analysed the professional training requirements needed to achieve an integrated Management of Cultural Heritage assets. Finally, he dealt with the issue of best practices and the case studies undertaken by local authorities in Cultural Heritage Management.

- Raniero Chelli, the UNIMED task manager, illustrated the innovative techniques being used on the Aya Sofia dome in Istanbul, as part of the Risk Management activities for Cultural Heritage Conservation in high-risk seismic areas.

At this point, the seminar participants were invited to speak:

- Abdelaziz Dalaoutli (former President of ICCROM) expressed his appreciation for the Project and praised the common initiative for a joint UNIMED-COPPEM undertaking as representing strategically harmonizable interests and experiences. He voiced his hope that the current work would result in the preparation of a draft working plan based on the prior identification of the needs perceived at the local level.

- Michele Raimondi expressed his agreement with Mr. Dalaoutli’s hopes and reminded participants of the questionnaire submitted by COPPEM to its members, which sought to find out the requirements felt at the local level. He voiced his regret about the low level of response to these questionnaires and encouraged members to participate more extensively and proactively so that activities that are consistent with the interests of local Authorities can be pursued.

- Ibahim Anouar (Deputy Minister of Culture, Arab Republic of Egypt) expressed his appreciation for the proposal to investigate needs and noted that specialist technical training is one of Egypt’s basic needs in order to contribute to the current Cultural Heritage management processes which are entailing major investments in the country. The Universities, he pointed out, play a key role in the achievement of this objective.

- Roberto Albergoni stated that UNIMED’s Egyptian partners are very active and that UNIMED is currently developing a number of Tempus-MEDA projects in Egypt.

- Said El Dakkak (Deputy Dean of the University of Alexandria, Egypt) urged that greater
consideration should be given to devising tools that contribute to local development in a way that is more respectful of specific local characteristics.

- **Antonio Farina Murta** (Mayor of San Antonio do Vila Real – Portugal) acknowledged that Italy has the necessary know-how to develop patterns of cooperation for Cultural Heritage Management in the Euro-Mediterranean area that can contribute to a harmonious and balanced form of local economic development. He expressed the willingness of the Authority he represents to contribute to the success of any initiatives proposed.

- **Abdelaziz Dalaoutli** confirmed the need to investigate the needs of Local Authorities through meetings with specialists from local Universities equipped with the necessary skills to present and analyse questionnaires. He also underscored the importance of Distance Training for professional training policies.

- **Halil Posbiyik** noted the importance that COPPEM should act as an interface with the European Commission to promote the Cultural Heritage of the Local Authorities that belong to the COOPEM network, including assets that are not particularly well-known.

- **Abdelaziz Dalaoutli** restated the need to forge an Action Plan within this forum that includes sub-regional workshops with experts who can assess needs and identify and design strategies for specific action.

- **Roberto Albergoni** expressed his appreciation of the strategic significance of these activities and the willingness of UNIMED and partner universities to work alongside others to support them.

- **Michele Raimondi** expressed his agreement with the foregoing comments and restated the willingness of the COPPEM Secretariat to prepare the questionnaires, working with the experts who will eventually be identified for this purpose.

At 1.15 p.m. the morning session was closed and adjourned to the afternoon.

2nd Session

The afternoon session was opened at 3.00 p.m. by the Chairman **Roberto Albergoni** who introduced Professor R. Russo from the University of Reggio Calabria to present the case study dealing with the topic of Cultural Heritage as the engine of local development.

- **R. Russo** presented the case of the Calabria Region and a study entitled “Archaeological Parks as a factor of Development for the Calabria Region” undertaken by Dr Delfino in the Department of Architecture and Analysis of the Mediterranean Town at the Mediterranean University of Reggio Calabria. The presentation illustrated the cases of restoration and conservation work undertaken in a number of historically valuable built-up areas.

With the audio-visual support of Power Point and film recordings, the presentation gave a detailed account of the work carried out in the urban centres of: Gerace, Santa Severina, Corigliano, Vibo Valentia. A common characteristic of all the restoration works is that they are all designed to valorise historical/artistic/cultural peculiarities and consequently, from the perspective of homogenous critical mass, become “value added” for developing economically and socially productive activities.

The presentation was concluded with the introduction of the Regional Development Plan of the Calabria Region which aims to create a website for “Places of the Memory” (Ecology Website) and introduce a Land Information System applied to Cultural Heritage.

The participants showed their appreciation of the Project presented by Professor Russo, seeing it as a working tool to assess needs as well as points of strength and weakness of local territories which, analysed in homogenous way, could provide the groundwork for forging actions to support sustainable local development.

- **Muzzafer Baca** in particular, on behalf of the Turkish Municipalities represented here, expressed his interest in adopting an Action Plan based on a scientific and detailed investigation of local needs that maps out the peculiar social and cultural characteristics of particular local territories.

- In view of the appreciation and interest shown by participants, **Michele Raimondi** stated that it was the intention of the COPPEM Secretariat to put forward a Work plan by November 2003 which, once approved by participants, would be implemented during the year 2004 and monitored until the next meeting in 2004. This stimulating suggestion was received by the participants with unanimous approval.

- On closing the working session, **Roberto Albergoni**, voiced his agreement with drafting an Action Plan and relaunched the proposal for UNIMED and COPPEM to draw up a common political/operational document to submit to their respective General Assemblies which meet at the end of the year.

The meeting closed at 6.00 p.m.
FOREWORD

The Standing Committee for the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership of Local and Regional Authorities (COPPEM) is the Association of Local and Regional Institutions referring to the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), the Arab Town Organization (ATO) and the National Associations of Local and Regional Authorities of Israel, Palestine, Turkey, Malta and Cyprus.

COPPEM members represent national Associations of Local Authorities of the 27 Countries, signatories of Barcelona Declaration (1995).

The proposal herein enclosed aims at pursuing and intensifying the political and institutional programme approved by the Third COPPEM General Assembly (Palermo, 13-14 December 2002) and at defining with full particulars the following programmatic initiatives.

Since its establishment, with the approval of Gaza Regulation of the 1st July 2000 (following the preparatory meetings of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv held the immediately previous days) COPPEM has pursued the objective of consolidating Mediterranean region as a peace and stability area, through the strengthening of the dialogue among cultures, aimed at creating an area of shared prosperity and sustainable development.

In order to pursue such objectives, the reinforcement of the role of the Local and Regional Authorities of those Countries that have given birth to the ambitious program of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership as well as the important and irreplaceable role of National States, it becomes urgent and evident.

The realization of concrete actions of peaceful development and coexistence among Mediterranean people and cultures, in obedience of freedom and security, is then an essential objective of COPPEM politico-programmatic stances. During the more than three-year experience of common work between COPPEM members, some issues have come out, requiring an in-depth analysis and a scrupulous work for contributing to the strengthening of Barcelona Process and to the realization of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership objectives.

First of all, as the most authoritative International Institutions have reaffirmed since long time, it is necessary to reinforce decentralized cooperation.

We admit that Euro-Mediterranean Conference, as stressed in Valencia in 2002, recognizes (without indicating forms and means) the role of Local and Regional Authorities in pursuing Barcelona objectives.

In fact, Local and Regional Authorities can play an important role, particularly within the context of local development problems, good governance, Welfare systems, migration, cultural heritage and tourism management, sustainable development, transports, equal opportunities.

COPPEM, during its activity, has amply dealt with such topics, which represent the central role of activity and platform of proposals and initiatives programme that will be the pivot of COPPEM activities for the two-year period 2004-2005.

During such period, the current relations with the different UN Agencies (UNOPS-UNDP-OMS), the Network of Mediterranean Universities (UNIMED), the Network of Local Health Authorities will be reinforced (in order to give birth to a coordination organization of Euro-Mediterranean Local Health Authorities directing the carrying out of Welfare promotional policies). The already close relations with the promoters of the Standing Assembly of the National Parliaments Representatives of those Countries who signed Barcelona Declaration will be intensified, and actions and partnerships will be undertaken with Local and Regional Authorities Associations of those Countries nearing Agreement, following the next extension of the Union.

It seems then evident, as you can notice from the proposal herein enclosed, that such initiatives are supported by the European Commission, which COPPEM wants to work in agreement with, in order to stress the political and cultural centrality of Barcelona Process in the Mediterranean scenarios.
THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

COPPEM intends to develop its activities in the next years through the Plan of Action named “COPPEM Local Development” (COPPEM Operational Plan for Euro-Mediterranean Local Development).

OBJECTIVES
To integrate the carrying out of local development in the development process of Euro-Mediterranean Partnership is the aim pursued. For this reason, COPPEM things of the greatest importance to relate to the European Commission in order to bring needs and experiences of Euro-Mediterranean Municipalities, Provinces and Regions into its notice as well as to suggest and to encourage the introduction of specific policies, programmes and regulations which aim at soundly supporting local development according to a strategy starting from the base and considering “the local point of view”, and which could complement and integrate the Euro-Mediterranean processes debated at a ministerial level.

CONTENTS
“COPPEM Local Development” covers the planning of horizontal operational initiatives to be transversely applied to some theme areas that COPPEM has already started to explore and investigate, and within a context where COPPEM members have already taken decisions. Thus, continuity and development of the actions till now undertaken will be ensured, in a scale broadened by multifunction and multidisciplinary approaches. In general, the horizontal operational initiatives that could be planned, are:

Analysis of the Barcelona Process developments, and of the European Commission and individual States relevant strategies, within the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership - Such analysis shall aim at supplying Local Authorities of the Euro-Mediterranean area with know-how, information, and relevant useful orientation in order to pursue policies and strategies aimed at encouraging and fostering the acknowledgment and the carrying out of Barcelona Declaration principles at a local level.

Analysis of Local Administrations and Regions needs and experiences in the 27 Countries of the Euro-Mediterranean area - Such analysis shall aim at gathering Local Administrations priority needs (regulatory, organizational, planning etc) in order to find possible paths for their fulfilment, and to make their successful experiences available with the prospect of making their transfer feasible to other Administrations having the same needs.

Analysis of local development supply and demand - Such analysis shall aim at studying both the development endogenous factors of territories and their relevant needs, and evaluating regulatory, operational and financial means available for implementing their growth.

Planning and implementing methodologies for allowing both COPPEM members and their Authorities to interconnect via Internet - In order to efficiently produce the operational initiatives quoted in this section, cooperation between Local and Regional Authorities representatives of the 27 Countries, shall be based on a structured communication network, a real virtual place for contact, exchanges and correspondence.

Organization and carrying out of finalized meetings - The purpose is to increase exchanges between both COPPEM members and Authorities, even if not represented within COPPEM, to foster know-how and experiences for promoting and assisting local and regional development, and to concert and to make the consequential work programmes feasible.

Promoting and coordinating training activities - Such activities shall be directed towards Authorities executives in order to strengthen their skills for local development pursuing, and they will concern:
1. Information about the opportunities offered by Euro-Mediterranean Partnership
2. Knowledge of EC mechanisms in order to pursue Euro-Mediterranean Partnership objectives.
3. Capacity building to submit either a tender or a call for proposal.
4. Technologies transfer.
5. Case Study and success stories.
Assisting the establishment of partnership between Authorities for designing project proposals and carrying out concerted actions - The purpose is to identify and to awaken those Authorities of the 27 Countries that are interested in both taking opportunities of financial support and in submitting specific tenders or call for proposal of common interest, by establishing teams of multidisciplinary skilled and competent experts.

Informing local communities about the initiatives already started up and their results, and promoting citizens participation - The purpose is to awaken and clarify both how initiatives are organized and the expected benefits for the community, in order to boost an adequate participation of citizens. For this purpose, following the report of the I COPPEM Commission, approved in Marrakech on November the 28th 2001 – Euro-Med Info Point Project, the set up of Local Antenna in MEDA Countries with the steady presence of a COPPEM delegation in at least one of them is to be expected.

Cooperating with the European Commission Bodies - The purpose is to set out reference frameworks related to Local Authorities and to evaluate strategies and actions that the EC could undertake to support local development in order to strengthen Euro- Mediterranean Partnership process.

The horizontal operational initiatives shall be applied to the following theme areas where COPPEM members and experts have already either started to work or carried out closer analyses and debates at an international level:

Work areas of the Commissions and relevant work-plans approved by COPPEM Plenary Assembly:

1. “The role of Local Powers and Regional Institutions for achieving Barcelona Declaration objectives”: theme that the I COPPEM Commission has dealt with in 2001, including the proposal to start up an activity aimed at improving Local Authorities activities concerning economic, social, environment policy.

2. “Urban transports, energy conservation and environment”: theme that the II COPPEM Commission has dealt with in 2001, including a proposal to carry out a pilot project aimed at searching, studying and analysing both urban transport system and mobility in the cities.

3. “Economic and financial Partnership”: theme that the III COPPEM Commission has dealt with in 2001, including a proposal to start up a search for identifying firms settlement in the southern shore and locating immigrant groups in the northern shore.

4. “Sustainable development in the respect of cities history and patrimony”: theme that the IV COPPEM Commission has dealt with in 2001, including a proposal to conduct an investigation about the current experiences related to both the policies adopted and the sustainable enhancement and management of cultural, historic and tourist resources.

5. “Euro-Mediterranean free trade area and the role of Territorial Powers”: theme that the IV COPPEM Commission has dealt with in 2002, including proposals aimed at undertaking study, search and document activities about the phenomenon of migration flow in view of the free trade area.


7. “Development Agency and Euro-Mediterranean Development Fund – the means for local development in the Mediterranean”: theme that the III COPPEM Commission has dealt with in 2002, including proposals to proceed with the carrying out of the Agency and with its operational start up, under the umbrella of COPPEM. Agency objectives are to assist Local Authorities in studying, planning, promoting and in the strategic management of initiatives aiming at the economic, cultural and social development of local communities, within the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. For carrying out the programmes conceived by COPPEM, technical, juridical, financial and operational assistance will be supplied.
8. “Environment and new technologies”: theme that the IV COPPEM Commission has dealt with in 2002, including proposals to set up an Internet network of COPPEM members for taking a census of Authorities overriding needs concerning environment management and formulating relevant plans of intervention.

It has to be pointed out that the COPPEM Presidency Bureau, has decided the themes to be dealt with during its several meetings. In addition, within the abovementioned topics, COPPEM Plenary Assembly, yearly convened in 2000, 2001 and 2002, on behalf of Local and Regional Authorities of the 27 Euro-Mediterranean Countries, has approved unanimously resolutions expressing the will to concretely develop the actions suggested by the Commissions.

“COPPEM Local Development” project includes part of the work COPPEM has carried out in the last three years, taking its place within the Barcelona Process.

Topics of the meetings carried out by COPPEM

“Migration topics”, TUNIS (September, 27th – 30th 2001). On this occasion COPPEM members, representatives of local and regional Powers, reasserted the importance of their own role for the sound and pacific cohabitation in the Euro-Mediterranean area, in the respect of different origins, socio-economic conditions and religions, for promoting solidarity between people, expressing at the same time the will to study forms of cooperation and partnership between local Powers for a shared and balanced approach to migration phenomena.

“The free trade area by 2010”, MARRAKECH (November, 9th –11th 2001). COPPEM members pointed out that free trade area will have important effects on both local communities and citizens. The latter ones do not realize clearly up to now the consequences it will produce on territorial communities. COPPEM has to commit itself on organizing initiatives and meetings concerning this topic, in order to inform both territorial communities representatives and citizens, by urging local Powers to proceed with gathering opinions, ideas and suggestions that shall be forwarded to the institutional competent representatives.

“Euro-Mediterranean Partnership for Cultural Heritage”, CAIRO (March, 8th –9th 2003). The themes of the II and IV Commissions have been debated and international projects concerning preservation, restoration and enhancement of Euro-Mediterranean Cities, Provinces and Regions cultural heritage have been presented. We can refer to several realizations in order to direct their decisional and planning actions, and to identify common needs for both assuming cooperation initiatives and demanding support within the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

RECIPIENTS

“COPPEM Local Development” project will have positive effects for:

1. The Local Governments, which the operational initiatives above mentioned are directed to. They will be able to meet those governments that have carried out useful experiences to stimulate local development, to join a Euro-Mediterranean network that actively elaborates territorial development programmes to be carried out in partnership, to consolidate the knowledge of the opportunities offered by the European Commission on such matters and the methodologies to get them, and so on. This turns into an increase of the skills required to make conditions favourable for a bottom-up development and answering people needs directly, in a context of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation that is expected to raise and to strengthen incrementally.

2. Society, profit-yielding sector representatives, associations, trade-unions and other opinion leaders will be involved in activities directed to lead the way of partnership and sustainable scenarios for development processes. To that end, the active participation of every local actors for the development and of the most important Euro-Mediterranean networks in these sectors will be required.

3. The organisations of the European Commission, performing the task of pursuing Barcelona Declaration objectives. The project will ask them to examine requirements and needs of local and regional Governments, as well as their political, functional and operational suggestions. The EC will profit by considering them in order to elaborate short, mid and long term strategies.
CONCLUSIONS

The carrying out of this programme shall be composed of workshops, conferences, a web site, databases, study tours and exchanges of staff aimed at know-how transfer.

This context will produce educational and information advantages for participants, a deep analysis of Governments needs concerning the theme areas indicated, research and study on the concerned themes, the settlement of a system for both the circulation of information and the dialogue among partners based on the use of Internet.

The activities will be directed to some basic guidelines:

1. strengthening of the dialogue between COPPEM members, through a more frequent and incisive work on the themes of the four work Commissions. To that end great efforts will be directed to settle an electronic Forum, which has to be a virtual place for work and exchanges.

2. the partnership strengthening with the major network of cities, in order to investigate themes, to exchange know-how, to transfer best practices, and to try to find common strategies for achieving common objectives.

3. the establishment of COPPEM Focal Points for the 27 Countries, aimed at promoting and making easier the carrying out of COPPEM projects directed to local and regional Governments of the Euro-Mediterranean area, as well as spreading Barcelona Declaration objectives to them.

Conference
“Euro-Mediterranean Partnerships for Local Development:
Welfare Systems”
Caserta, Italy, 25-26 September 2003

Preparatory meeting
Horcrynus Orca Literary Park – Capo Peloro – Messina 28 June 2003

Report

The work was opened by the Coppem’s Secretary General Carmelo Motta, who pointed out that the meeting falls within the preliminary framework of the Caserta Meeting due for 23-24-25, on the theme: “Euro-mediterranean Partnership for Local Development: Welfare Systems”. On that point, both the Welfare preliminary Document and the Caserta Declaration have been brought to Coppem attention, UNO agencies representatives and Local Health Authorities network members noticing in order to get suggestions and advices for the definitive version to be presented at Caserta meeting.

The Coppem Secretary after thanking the Local Health Authority of Messina for its collaboration, mentioned planning proposals which Coppem and local health authorities network could carry out together: The Coordination of an Euro-Mediterranean network of Local Health authorities and a planning hypothesis on the immigration subject. Finally, the Secretary General Motta asked Doctor Gianluca Vignola, Deputy Director of UNDP in Rome, to present the project GOLD, in which it is expected the participation of Coppem and the Local Health Authorities network as well.

- The Governor of Qalyubiya (Egypt) Adly Hussein, asked to assume the chairmanship of the meeting, hopes that Coppem will put forward a proposal for a political and intervention strategy on the migration issue which especially in these last months has witnessed the tragic events that occurred. He stresses that Coppem has to keep up its co-ordination role of euro-mediterranean local health authorities in contributing, especially in the actual political stage, to spread informations about the free exchange area, particularly the one concerning directly the Local health authorities life. He hopes the debate could give interesting ideas that the agenda has brought forward.

- The Local Health Authority Director of Messina (Italy) Giovanni Colavita in the name of local Health Authority expresses his appreciation for the effort which Coppem is making in fostering more and more a close collaboration between local authorities and institutions interested in civic issues. The migratory problem in which the Local Health Authorities are directly involved has to be the subject on which COPPEM is to direct its gaze and undertaking in the next years.
• **Alberto Tulumello** (Italy) COPPEM Secretariat Expert of the III Commission and coexecutor of the Caserta Preliminary Document, exposes his general remark on Welfare systems which were born about 50 years ago dealings with the capital building model. The State through the taxes recovery furthered a welfare service and sanitary system especially facing the less well-to-do classes. With the economic system development this model becomes more and more expensive and less shared, meeting with a devolution process which makes it almost totally like the local development policy. He points out that the United Nations carries out, especially in the countries of Latin America, with human development aids bent on local development. COPPEM together with the Local Health Authorities network will participate in UNDP project named GOLD which aims at increasing the human development through local development experience. So the participation of organizations representing the local authorities in the United Nations projects restricts more and more the risks of incoherent and not well-connected interventions, because of the shortage of contacts and relations with the local representatives. With this perspective COPPEM acts as euro-mediterranean partnership instrument. Therefore he agrees with the community welfare model.

• **Angelo Righetti**, (Italy) who takes part in the work on behalf of twelve health authorities (GRECIA, SPAGNA, ITALIA) in his speech states that in the near future the Local Health Authority position is in committing itself to community welfare system. In these systems every human person must be enhance no one excepted. In community welfare models the elderly and disabled people are looked upon as factors of production as well. On the other hand, at the present socio-economic situation it's obvious that the community welfare models have almost exceed the traditional one. By now there is a full overlap between development and welfare models. COPPEM has to work together with Local Health Authorities in order to involve more and more the local communities in community welfare models, and if it's possible trying to export these models in different euro-mediterranean countries. On this point there is the full and shared agreement with UNDP.

• **Gianluca Vignola**, Vice Director of UNDP in Rome, in his speech he points out that the Countries where UNDP has promoted development programmes are more than 165, starting from South America. These experiences worked out year by year, have been applied in Tunisia in 1998 and now in the whole Maghreb area. The main purposes of these interventions are to make the local resources and people to create local development. Talking about GOLD project, Vignola stressed that it isn't yet an analytic project, but rather a preliminary plan which will be more and more shaped and improved as it is going ahead in involving partners. Meanwhile a series of meetings with the authorities of the countries participating in the project (Algeria, Libia, Egitto, Marocco, Tunisia) it's scheduled for early September in order to unify the interventions and ask government representatives for the city names which benefit from the intervention, to achieve an agreement protocol. Then, within march we are going ahead at working out three papers on the following subjects:

1. The running of the administrative wheels in the local authorities of the countries taking part in the project
2. Political, economic and social territory analysis.
3. Analysis of the cooperation relations between european and arab - maghrebi countries institutions.

COPPEM and Local Health Authorities are asked to take part in the project even in this stage considering the peculiarities and intervention fields of both organizations. The last stage, directly coordinated by UNDP offices of New York, should move at coordinating the experiences, informations and best practices exchange among the parties taking part in the project.

• **Michele Raimondi**, (Italy) Programmes and Projects Coordinator of COPPEM emphasizes that today's meeting aims also at drafting a general programme of the Caserta meeting, suggesting if it is necessary in proceeding to make changes in the welfare preliminary documents and Caserta Declaration too. On such a point it seems useful to build a technical team work dealing with the organization of the Caserta meeting.

• **Lorenzo Barbera**, (Italy) Expert of the III Commission of COPPEM notices that one of the bounds found in the local development realization suggests there is no preventive analysis of
the territories in which the interventions are arranged. The local development projects are successful when the local actors are involved even in its drawing up and starting stages. Accepting the invitation of Michele Raimondi aiming at suggesting possible modifications on the preliminary documents of the Caserta meeting, Lorenzo Barbera suggests to add to the Caserta Declaration that COPPEM commits itself to support the planning initiatives for the local development.

- **Rhizlane Benachir** Head of Office of the International Agency for Local Development of Rabat (Morocco) expresses her full approval for the Caserta meeting preliminary documents, which COPPEM had sent long ago to all the people attending the meeting of Messina. Concerning local development one of the main problems that her country has been facing concerns the no-uniformity between local and economic development. Actually, while the economy of Morocco is on a clear upswing stage, this affects less the local economies development. As a consequence dramatic social gaps remain and they can be well - described by the fact that only the 37% of Morroccan people enjoy a suitable health care. In order to face these problems some local development agencies have been established by the governent of Morocco, but they are very few and its financial means are limited compared to its objectives.

- **Gabriele Muller-Trimbush**, Deputy Mayor of Stuttgart (Germany) responsible for Social Affairs and Health Service points out that in her country there is not enough communication on common problems among local authorities. In Stuttgart the citizens are increasingly involved in the administrative town activity, and this is proved by the fact that the awareness that the public town goods is everybody's goods and so everyone has to benefit from them with a due respect is getting more and more. Finally, Gabriele Muller-Trimbush informed the persons attending the conference that the city of Stuttgart, together with other German cities, has been promoting an intervention project aimed at the arrangement of training courses on craftsmanship and trading as well.

- **Osama El Fouli**, Vice-Dean and Prof. of Economy at the Faculty of Law of Alexandria (Egypt) points out that welfare costs are very high, especially in the maghrebi – area. In Egypt the integration of poor people in the cooperation aids flows seems to be difficult. However there were positive cooperation initiatives as for example the microcredit project financed by the MEDA project, which has been very successful because of its contribution in raising the standard of living of a lot of Egyptian families which lived in poverty verges. COPPEM plays a crucial role in the local development because the decentralization which restricts the central government, has to support a body which guides and coordinates local authorities.

- **Angela Del Giudice**, (Italy) on behalf of the mental health South Forum emphasizes how important it is to relate the world of welfare services to the one of production. She suggests that the importance of enjoying same opportunities by people has to be stressed in the Caserta Declaration apart from gender, culture, and country.

- The Expert of first Commission of Coppem **Angelo Lauricella** (Italy) states in Europe up to the present there is not yet a common project on social policy. Actually social policies are still planned by national government. The proposals of making partnerships among euro-mediterranean local health authorities are very important, and on this point he suggests to widen these partnership forms to the unions. Eventually, he suggests to add a political consideration on peace and human rights topics to the Caserta Declararion.

- **Gaetano Giunta** (Italy), person in charge of ECOS MED, in his speech considers the risks which the free trade area will entail in the poorest countries as well as the risks of a further slump which will cause an increase of unemployment. The free trade zone has to be realized by the people and their most direct representatives that is local administrators. In those terms COPPEM is appointed to coordinate common initiatives of local authorities on the above-mentioned subject.

- In short the Governor of Qailobiya (Egypt) **Adly Hussein** invites COPPEM Secretariat to analyse the results of the present-day meeting and to go on for the draft of a document. He exhorts to go more and more into the subjects concerning the welfare models. Finally he also urges an incisive action in supporting the “road map” reserving on this subject an explicit mention in the Caserta Declaration.
“Euro-Mediterranean Partnerships for Local Development: Welfare systems”

International Conference
Under the Aegis of the President of the Italian Republic
in collaboration with the Italian Local Health Authorities Network
under the aegis of Campania Region and Sicilian Region
under the aegis of the Regional Province of Caserta and Caserta Municipality

Royal Palace of Caserta, September 25th –26th 2003

THURSDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER 2003

8.30 a.m. Registration of participants
9.00 a.m. Fabio Pellegrini, President of COPPEM, Rome
Opening statement and Conference presentation
Luigi Falco, Mayor of Caserta, Caserta
Welcome address
Riccardo Ventre, President of the Province of Caserta, Caserta
Adriana Buffardi, Councillor - Campania Region, Naples
Salvatore Cuffaro, President of the Sicilian Region, Palermo
Adly Hussein, Governor of Qalyubiya (Egypt), Cairo
I Vice President IV Commission COPPEM
Representative of Arab Town Organization (ATO)
Biagio Ucciero, President of APS Domiziana, Villa Literno
Ercole Ammaturo, Direct. Administrative Services Centre Prov CE, Caserta
Gianluca Vignola, UNDP – APPI (Anty Poverty Partnership Initiatives)
Trust and Fund Coordinator, Rome

10.30 a.m. Coffee break

11.00 a.m. I SESSION - presided by Omar El Barhauoi, President, Rabat
Urban Community of Rabat – I Vice Pres. COPPEM
Said El Dakkak, Vice President University of Alexandria, Alexandria
COPPEM Member: “Globalisation and Welfare”
Giulio Santagata, Member of Parliament
Chamber of Deputies, Bologna, Professor “Nomisma”
“The economical value of social cohesion”
Grégoire Ahongbonon, President of the Association “San Camillo”, Buaké
“Anima mundi: hope Welfare in Africa”
Alberto Tulumello, Professor of Economic Sociology, University of Palermo,
Palermo: “Euro-Mediterranean Partnerships for local development”
Carlo Borzaga, Dean of Economics Faculty of Trento, Trento
“Welfare and social economy”

13.00 p.m. Debate

13.30 p.m. Lunch

15.00 p.m. II SESSION, presided by Nikos Papamikroulis, Nea Halkidonia
Mayor of Nea Halkidonia - Vice President of COPPEM
Yoland Bresson, Professor of Economics - University of Paris,Paris
“Economy and social protection”
Touhami Midani, Vice President Municipality of Tunis, Tunis,
Member of COPPEM: “Policies for the community welfare”
Alessandro Meluzzi, Upper School of Medicine Humanization
Asl 18 ASO S. Giovanni Battista of Turin - Piedmont Region, Turin
“The network of Health Authorities for a community welfare”
Falal Al Omoush, Undersecretary of Amman Municipality, Amman
Member of COPPEM: “Socio-economical Development in the city of Amman”
Stefan Spatz, Assistant - Social Welfare Office, Stuttgart
“Welfare experiences in the city of Stüttgart”
Franco Piperno, Councillor Cosenza municipality, Cosenza
“The South of the World and the networks of the Community Welfare”
Bianca Pomeranzi, Expert - Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Italy, Rome
“Women, Welfare and Development Partnerships”

review of activities 2003
Giovanni Moro, President of the Foundation, for active citizenship, Rome
“Welfare and active citizenship”

16.30 p.m. Debate
17.00 p.m. Coffee break
17.30 p.m. III SESSION, presided by Angelo Righetti, Caserta
Socio-sanitary Director ASL CE2
Ali Abu Ghanimeh, Dean – Town Planning Department, Amman
University of Amman
“Contribution of socio-cultural activities to the community Welfare”
Najib Guédira, Director of Social Development Agency, Rabat
“Mobilization of the local actors for Development: partnership State, local Communities, ONG”
Nikos Papamikroulis, Mayor of Nea Halkidonia, Nea Halkidonia
Vice President of COPPEM
Carlo Neri, Responsible for the European Social Fund, Naples
Syrian Embassy in Italy
Moktar Reguieg, Ambassador of the Arabic Republic of Algeria, Rome
Antoine Azzam, Consul General – Embassy of Lebanon Republic, Rome
Jeremy Smith, Secretary General Council of European Municipalities and Regions, Brussels: “Promoting UN Millennium Development Goals. Local contribution”

18.30 p.m. Debate

FRIDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2003
9.00 a.m. IV Session, presided by Jacques De Grave Deputy of Brussels, Brussels capital city - President II Comm. COPPEM
Diego Bottacin, Mayor of Mogliano Veneto, Mogliano Veneto
“Community Welfare development in the South East of Europe. The example of local agencies and democracy”
Harrie Jeurissen, Secr. General CEMR Netherlands Section, Maastricht
“Welfare Experiences in the city of Enschede”
Marc Thoulen, Director Cities and Towns Union Association of Brussels, Brussels: “Local Authorities contribution to Welfare in Belgium”
Roger Bodin, Former Chief Executive Officer of the City of Gothenburg, Gothenburg: "To mobilize resources for a healthy city by boundless cooperation - an example from the city of Gothenburg"

11.00 a.m. B Session
Fernanda Marcos, Manager of social Development Programmes, Vila Réal de Santo Antonio: “Cases of Partnerships for local Development in Portugal”
Rossana Becarelli, Executive Director of the oncological network, Piedmont Region, Turin: “The Piedmontese oncological network as a model of human resources integration”.
Mario Tommasino, Town Councillor – Parma Municipalità, Parma
“The elderly: community welfare life”
Sergio d’Angelo, President of GESCO Consortium, Naples
“Cooperation, rights, community welfare: development facilities”.
Andrea Mormirolì, Responsible for EQUAL Mila project, Naples
“Community and Migration Welfare: a proposal”.
Gennaro Falco, Ass. Information Department of Health and Medicine, Aversa II University of Naples; Coord. Bio- epidemiological Observ. ASL CE 2
“Bio-epidemiological Observatory for environmental, alimentary and veterinary quality”
Ezio Martuscelli, Director Department International Relations – Sect., Naples Mediterranean Middle East - CNR of Naples
“Research and training as means for welfare system development”

13.00 p.m. Closure of works and lecture of the final document
The role of local and regional authorities of Euro-Mediterranean Countries in social policies

In the XXth century, in the countries of mature capitalism, social policies have been built on Welfare State national systems, based on a great tax levy and on a mostly and solely public system of services management and allocation. Health, welfare and pension systems, welfare State, protection measures against unemployment and State, compulsory education system have represented the pieces of Welfare State, that have grown and constituted the protection complex system where social policies find their place and order.

The Welfare State national system growth, in the years after the Second World War (from 1945 to 1970, with time lags in the different countries), has followed the growth of the economic system based on the great Fordist enterprise and in most countries it has been accompanied by Keynesian economy regulation policies. Such common elements – production of wealth and relentless economic growth on the basis of the great Fordist enterprise, redistribution of a part of it in a Keynesian context and a great role of regulation given to the State – have gone along with remarkable national differences: the Anglo-Saxon model with a higher role of the market, and the continental model with a quite exclusive role of the State, and with more specific differences inside the two models, such as those between the United Kingdom and the USA for the first model and between Germany and Italy for the second one.

Crisis and reorganization of the Fordist enterprise, difficulty in financing the rising public expenditure that Welfare systems require, crisis of Keynesianism and the renewal of neoliberal and neoliberist models following the financial crisis of the State, have created serious difficulties to the Welfare State model and to the constructed social policies system. Globalisation of the nineties and competition between countries systems and their economies – with social policies representing a cost that sometimes is unendurable in both the international competition and the more and more urgent role of the “labour cost” factor within the competition among countries systems – have further intensified such a crisis.

Welfare State systems have reacted to the crisis by becoming more flexible, by opening spaces for intervention for civil society and for the “third sector”, by giving a greater space to local authorities and to subsidiarity, which used to allow a greater control over both the costs and the cost-benefit ratio, and by building the so-called Welfare mix: systems where State, decentralized State administrations, civil society subjects and “third sector” subjects (associations and voluntarism, besides the new role of family in cooperation with the public and the third sector) cooperate for implementing social policies, improving the quality of services and curbing public costs at the same time.

Not only did this new model of Welfare State enable to improve the quality of services and to ease their bureaucratisation, but it also checked costs growth and contributed to redraw Welfare in governability and sustainability terms, just for its closeness to citizens and to local community. The Welfare mix building with these features has represented an alternative as regards the demolition of remarkable and significant pieces of Welfare State, as it occurred in those countries where neoliberalism has entrusted to the market those goods and services that Welfare believed necessary to give to public liability and to community solidarity. This model of Welfare mix also coincided with the new forms of local development: development “from below”, based on small and medium-sized enterprises and on small and medium-sized enterprises integrated systems (industrial districts), which gives an important regulation, support and stimulus role to local authorities.

Municipal Welfare models have so come into being, connected and correlated to national systems, with wide autonomies and a wide involvement of both local populations and life models (families and networks of proximity and reciprocity). Then, the role of local authorities, of local communities and of every form of cooperation and partnership becomes essential within these processes.

Some local experiences, promoted by Italian Health Authorities, go in this direction (Treviso, Palmanova, Caserta, Messina and others) pursuing the strategy of promoting welfare systems by using the methodology of individual rehabilitative projects (care budget), which unlike the bonus (voucher), allow the reaffirmation of the full right of citizenship through a package of objectives-resources that are adjusted and projected on an individual scale, combining the...
resources of families, social context, private social, public, and by negotiating with the concerned subjects they reconvert considerable sums that have been assigned up today to all-absorbing institutions, to intuitive and generally improbable rehabilitation. Care budget management forms imply no-profit private, families, subjects, voluntary organization, associations to become co-responsible, by capitalizing ties and investing in a further capitalization of themselves. To the point giving people the significance of customers “responsible for their own health and so receivers of a fund “to be spent” for acquiring ad persona services by the many supplying subjects competing among them with different rights, this experience opposes a point giving people the significance of citizens, cooperating for their own welfare and their community’s, contributing to health programmes that concern them. Health local promotion involves besides redirecting resources and supply, by decentralizing them more strongly than occurred up to now, redirecting attention towards those fields demanding high integration (old people, children, women, people suffering from lasting, real or caused chronic pathologies), what involves attention and resources redirection from residential services to people, from rehabilitation centres to rehabilitative services integrated in the territory, from low medical technology services to district services; reconversion from sanitary sector to the social sector integrated to the sanitary one if necessary, but not left to medicalization; redirecting share of the current expenses towards investments for rapidly adjusting elaborate health technologies in order to focus one’s attention on those systems with strong relational value, on health and social networks of a territory. Answers integration between public and private as well as between hospitals and territories suggest a very stronger district organization, remaking relevant the initial inspiration of Welfare programmes that had aimed with determination at services integration, firstly between social and health sectors, but they had got stuck on the difficulty in involving civil society and its actors considered as a whole, for the excessive or exclusive role given to the public and State. Involving the third sector and the auto-organizational capacities of civil society, as well as decentralizing public regulatory role at local authorities level can re-establish the power and creativity of the planning from below and of the shared municipal Welfare model. COPPEM, the association of Mediterranean cities and territories, has been established to enhance this local dimension of Euro-Mediterranean partnership, following the spirit of Barcelona Declaration of 1995, but aiming at cooperation and partnership between local and regional governments. The reflection on local development pursued by COPPEM becomes essential for our theme.

In fact, COPPEM has recognized local development as an essential means to create economic and financial partnership, mainly as a joint local development, forms of co-development in which similar territories (or complementary) in gifts, resources and potentiality, cooperate for their territories local development. COPPEM has argued that such forms of joint local development are the means to realize virtuous forms of international division of labour, which apply delocalisation of rich and developed areas to less rich territories, which lack of development is converted into forms of common and shared development that can become the best means of migration flows control, succeeding in converting such flows in an essential resource for the development and the building of “a shared prosperity area” in the Mediterranean. It was reliably said that:

Migration flows are a unique opportunity to settle religious and social rifts that have split the Mediterranean for long time. The European building itself can greatly profit from the contact and the dialogue between Christian, Islamic and Jewish traditions and from the spiritual values that such traditions have accumulated over the centuries (Romano Prodi, 29/08/2000). The condition for its realization is the growth of the partnership aimed at both local development and co-development.

The role of local and regional authorities, in such a model of joint local development is not only central and constitutive, but also economic and political. At the root of a new complex draw of the whole system of social policies and of the Welfare State model are: the connection between development, social, and migration flows regulation policies, which source is social poverty; the effort to address economic development towards government and the solution of social poverty that causes unchecked migration flows and finally the ambitious project of converting migration flows into a “resource” for (local) development. Such a connection can be realized only at local and territorial authorities level and by putting forward every potentialities and richness (diversity as richness) of local authorities and of their resources and specificity. It’s so a question of working at new models of intervention and safeguard of those amended
and amending Welfare State, according to Welfare mix, by forcing up the declination of territorial and democratic rooting at cities and territories level (municipal Welfare), to let it become a decisive means of the partnership, in general, and of the economic and financial partnership, studied as local co-development, in the specific instance.

Social policies and the other measures to ease social poverty become the other – inseparable – side of development and growth policies of local communities, just in the form of partnership: “growth of the shared prosperity”.

All that is consistent with many elements and features of both local development and struggle against poverty policies (Multilateral Programmes on human development) that have been started and carried out in the last years by international cooperation and by UN.

Particularly, the building of Agencies for local economic development, studied and carried out out as a means of international cooperation for human development, democratisation of economy and poverty reduction, go in the direction here suggested and are a repository of experiences and irreplaceable virtuous paths of development. The model here suggested supposes a possible step forward by linking, in a closer way, policies for local development, based on small and medium-sized enterprises integrated systems (following the model of “industrial districts”) and social and Welfare building policies, thought out after the most modern models of Welfare mix and EC and municipal Welfare. The role of connection and link that the government can play as regards migration flows, for the development and in relation to the building of sustainable social policies, indicates the line of march and gives the sense of the model suggested, even if the migration flows represent the point of arrival of a still long process that we have to be confronted with.

In brief, the framework is the mobilization of civil society through the democratic assumption of responsibilities by both citizens and their associations, the democracy tendency at a local and citizen level, briefly the partnership between local and territorial authorities as a common base and an essential resource for the promotion of economic development (joint local development in view of the realization of the free trade area in the Mediterranean by 2010 as a means for the building of “a shared prosperity area”) and for the promotion of programmes for human development and municipal Welfare.

The interventions aimed at improving the quality of life – basic education and vocational training, basic health and social assistance, struggle against poverty and social marginalization – and the promotion of economic development, at a local level, through the economic enhancement of territorial and cultural specificities, become two sides of the same process.

Cooperation between cities and territories, an essential resource for economic and financial partnership based on joint local development (local co-development) is spreading to the themes of human development and building and growth of Welfare systems. Protection and promotion systems of human development become both the basis of economic cooperation and local development (see Amartya Sen about education and health as a basis for economic development), and mature and final fruit of economic growth and of the building of the “shared prosperity”, the latter extending from the economic field to the whole quality of life and to the communities and Mediterranean cities vitality.

Within this comprehensive framework and as a first important step in this direction, under the aegis of Campania and Sicily Regions, UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), UNOPS (United Nations Office for Project Services) and COPPEM (Standing Committee for the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership of Local authorities and Regions), in cooperation with a network of Italian Health Authorities and with Exclusion.net Network, are organizing an international meeting on “Euro-Mediterranean Partnership for local Development: Welfare Systems”.

The meeting lasts two days and it aims at promoting exchange partnerships, training and technical assistance in this sector between the two shores of the Mediterranean, in the spirit of a closer and closer link between partnerships for local and human development and for the quality of life and the protection and social inclusion systems.

The above-mentioned promoters together with Campania and Sicily Regions, through this meeting, aim at contributing to both the development of promotion policies as regards the Euro-Mediterranean partnerships of the European Commission and the achievement of the millennium objectives, launched by the General Secretariat of the United Nations. Particularly, the purpose is to identify the innovative aspects of the present practices, in order to spread them in the Mediterranean as a contribution to the improvement of social policies, personnel training and services operation.

Representatives of the Mediterranean area Governments and local and regional authorities of the 27 Countries of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership that are COPPEM members, will be present at the meeting, following COPPEM objective of promoting, within the Euro-
Mediterranean partnership process, cooperation between cities and territories in order to achieve local development and to connect partnership for development, partnership for social policies, and partnership on Peace-Building within a framework of shared prosperity.

The main topics to be dealt with are the following:
1. Importance of spreading Welfare policies that are connected with a sustainable development, as an essential measure for fighting against cultures of violence, exclusion, enmity within the communities and between the different communities.
2. Importance of local authorities and of cooperation among them, even because they belong to different nations, within a politics of understanding, dialogue and social security.
3. Integration between health systems and social policies; the concurrence of shared policies among families, NGO, social private, public services and local administrations.
4. Social entrepreneurship and building of operational links between social protection systems (welfare) and work active policies (workfare).
5. Promoting the participatory budget at local level, aimed at integrating health and assistance budget.
6. Personalized budget treatment, as an alternative to services after budget.
7. District micro programs, aimed at stimulating citizens participation to identify priority needs and their involvement in the community answers, such as social insertion for people who are currently institutionalised in children’s home, psychiatric institutes, old people’s home or institutes for the disabled.

International Conference
“EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIPS FOR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT: WELFARE SYSTEMS”
Caserta, September 25th – 26th 2003

Caserta Declaration

Representatives of UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), the Members of COPPEM (Standing Committee for the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership of Local Authorities and Regions), Local Health Authorities, APS Domiziana Equal, and local and regional Authorities met in Caserta (Italy) on September 25th – 26th 2003, on the occasion of the Conference about “Euro-Mediterranean Partnerships for Local Development: Welfare Systems”, decided to undersign the present “Caserta Declaration”, with the aim of defining common synergies and promoting strategies for the development of welfare models that refer to the Euro-Mediterranean area.

On this point, they:
1. Stress the strategic importance of the Mediterranean for a peace and integration policy of social development in the economic processes; reaffirm the goodwill of consolidating cooperation among them, following criteria of reciprocity.
2. Agree upon the opportunity of establishing a lasting partnership following the general principles mentioned in the United Nations Chart, in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the Barcelona Declaration (November, 1995).
3. Stress the importance of developing economies following criteria of environmental and social sustainability, aimed at establishing an area of shared prosperity and peace.
4. Point out that the Mediterranean context is affected by socio-economic inequalities, and even if free trade perspective is a great occasion for mutual growth, it requires overcoming the difficult problems of social impact during the period of economic transition.
5. Think that conditions of economic inequality in the Countries of Mediterranean area, then social, cultural and sanitary needs related to them, affect different specific territories, even if in a different way. This requires the project of effective forms of cooperation along the South-South axis.
6. Believe the creation of partnerships, able to promote innovative models of communitary welfare, necessary in different territories, in order to encourage concrete conditions of social justice and reciprocity among the different countries, on the religious, cultural, economic and social plane.
7. Recognize the role of social economy, at a local level, as an essential means of civil society in order to field economical (redistributive type) and social problems (search for cohesion)
and to promote both the inclusion of disadvantaged groups and the reinforcement of local social capital.

8. Are aware that Local and Regional Authorities as well as Health Authorities, have to play a central role in the life of a territory or a community. Local and Regional Government, together with health organization must be more and more responsible for the rise of quality of life standards (health, culture, employment, training etc.) and it must play a key role within the process of sustainable local development and in partnership promotion.

9. Consider social economy enterprises as an important partner for local authorities in the strategies of local development and in the development of a new plural and local welfare. Partnership between public sector, third system and profit private contributes in a decisive way to social cohesion, inclusion, employment and enterprise creation. For this reason they think that partnerships between local and regional authorities, Health Authorities and social economic organizations of Euro-Mediterranean countries have to be developed and encouraged. In fact they can play a key role within experimentations, expertise spread and shared government.

Specifically, the signatories of this document commit themselves to experimenting with cooperation among communities, aimed at promoting social cohesion and encouraging the establishment of partnerships opened to exchange know-how, human resources and economic resources. Concretely, it is of overriding importance:

- Supporting local institutions in order to reinforce communities, also as a precondition for people approach;
- Encouraging the reinforcing of neighbourhood networks and promoting forms of social adoption;
- Improving education and training systems, aiming with priority at basic education and equal opportunities, then by recognizing the centrality of human resources within sustainable development;
- Strengthening the community soundness as a precondition for the development of both social cohesion and sustainable and social economy;
- Supporting local systems of social economy and ethical finance and systems networks, following criteria of environmental and social sustainability. That is as much as to promote welfare models that are interdependent as to the testing of reallocated economies, aimed at the enhancement of cultural and environmental heritage as well as human resources;
- Promoting decentralized cooperation on the whole, in order to encourage the development of peace from below;
- Promoting joint actions for research and training;
- Experimenting in the different countries, depending on communities actions, customized budget according to the following axis of intervention:
  - Housing;
  - Socialization;
  - Standing training and contact with other cultures;
  - Integration of work and/or social auto entrepreneurship.

In a short time, the signatories will aim at:

- creating a best practices database within social economy and communitary welfare at a Euro-Mediterranean level;
- giving birth to a computerized network among the local Authorities of the 27 States of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership to make supply and demand coincide, in order to guarantee equal opportunities within job market, above all for immigrant citizens;
- devising programmes of study including economic and social principles of local partnership, economic-social enterprises and communitary welfare;
- establishing a coordination among the Local Health Authorities of the 27 States of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership;
- participation and support to UNDP GOLD project;
- organizing regular Euro-Mediterranean meetings for exchanging best practices and networking.

The present declaration will be regularly verified in order to allow a continuous evolution of the pursued policies and actions.
QUESTIONNAIRE-BASED SURVEY

During the 3rd COPPEM Plenary Assembly meeting (held in Palermo on 13 and 14 December 2002), Members put forward a number of common requests and suggestions to the Secretariat in order to formulate operational criteria and goals considered useful for the work of all the Commissions.

It was noted in particular that if COPPEM is to make full use of its potential as a committee of Municipal and Regional representatives from 27 countries, it is both opportune and urgent that the Secretariat should follow a specific course of action. This includes strengthening dialogue with Members, stimulating the exchange of information with them and coordinating their active participation in the work undertaken, using, among other things, Internet links for holding consultations and forums to devise project ideas and to formulate joint actions within a cooperative framework.

One of the tools suggested by the Secretariat and approved by the COPPEM Plenary Assembly held in Palermo in December 2002, was the design of questionnaires, suitably diversified to take into account the different topics dealt with by the four Commissions. The outcome was a short, concise and synthetic questionnaire containing set multiple answers (although, in some cases, open answers were used). These would enable members to fill them in quickly and the Secretariat would then be able to aggregate and analyse the data more easily. One of the goals that COPPEM’s Programmes and Projects Area was pursuing through these questionnaires was to gain direct knowledge of the Members’ main concerns regarding the topics selected by the Presidency Bureau for the four Commissions to work on in 2002 and 2003, namely:

1st Commission: “Local Authorities and the Free Trade Area”
   “Local Communities in the 27 Countries participating in the Barcelona Process”
2nd Commission: “Innovation and Transfer of New Technologies within Local Authorities”
   “Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation among Towns in Cultural Heritage Management”
   “The Role of Local and Regional Authorities of Euro-Mediterranean Countries in Social Policies”
   “Methods and Studies for Reassessing Cultural Heritage in the Context of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership”

Once the questionnaires had been returned, the Secretariat proceeded to aggregate the data and drafted brief analyses of the answers given, classifying them according to the relevant Commissions.

On the basis of past experience, the Secretariat believes that the methodology adopted can be further improved by relying, among other things, on more active participation by Members. Indeed, the degree to which relations between them are active determines the extent to which they can work effectively both in terms of formulating frameworks of reference that can be used to foster cooperation between the authorities themselves, and common frameworks that can be presented to the European Commission and increase the influence of local authorities in the Euro-Mediterranean context.

SAMPLE QUESTIONNAIRE

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COPPEM COMMISSION

Topic:

ON THE SUBJECT OF THE COMMISSION, THE ADMINISTRATION:

☐ Has carried out or taken part in projects in the following areas:

☐ Has benefited from training activities designed for its staff members in the following fields:

BELIEVES THAT COPPEM SHOULD PROMOTE THE FOLLOWING KINDS OF ACTIVITIES:

☐ Meetings and Workshops on specific topics
☐ Exchanges of information and experiences among local Bodies
☐ Forums via the Internet
☐ Joint preparation of project proposals by partners
☐ Data collection and creation of databanks to be made available to Local Bodies
☐ Dissemination of information and raising of awareness
☐ Other (specify)

CONSIDERS THE FOLLOWING AS PRIORITY GOALS:

☐
☐
☐
☐ Others (Specify)
MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSIONS

MEETING OF EXPERTS AND RAPPORTEURS OF THE COMMISSIONS

Palermo, 30 August 2003

Report

The experts and rapporteurs of the four COPPEM Commissions met in Palermo on 30 August 2003.
• The session opened with a speech by the COPPEM Secretary General Carmelo Motta, who pointed out that this meeting was preparatory to the meeting of the Commissions taking place in Caserta on 24 September. Preparatory meetings, he noted, are useful for establishing direct relations between experts and rapporteurs, and, among other things, to enable reports to be constantly reformulated through the introduction of topics which are increasingly relevant and of current interest. The reports drawn up should be used both to bring to the attention of the European Commission the points of view of Local Authorities on matters of direct concern to them, and to establish the theoretical and analytical basis for developing projects. With reference to the latter, the “Euro-Mediterranean Development Agency” that is being set up will be entrusted with the specific task of designing project initiatives that involve cooperation between Euro-Mediterranean towns. In term of future courses of action, therefore, COPPEM will seek institutional funding (Sicily Region), as well as new sources of funding (European Commission) resulting from project participation through the Development Agency. The availability of increased financial resources would also allow the scope of activities to expand and enable partners to appoint a specific member of staff to be directly engaged in the work being undertaken by COPPEM. Finally, the Secretary General reminded participants that the final reports by the Commissions would be discussed and approved during the meeting of COPPEM’s 4th General Assembly (to be held in Siracusa on 14-15 December 2003). Queen Noor of Jordan, Mrs Susanne Mubarak and the newly-appointed Secretary General of IULA Elisabeth Gateau have already given their assurance that they will be attending the said General Assembly meeting.
• Michele Raimondi, underscored the fact that COPPEM is working on a wide range of initiatives and warned participants of the danger of losing sight of the purpose of COPPEM, i.e. to act as spokesman for the demands of Euro-Mediterranean local bodies to the European Commission. Consequently, the working activities undertaken by the Commissions should be clearly defined and extend over the implementation schedule in such a way as to allow the Commissions to devise and deliver a suitable work plan.
• Vittorio Buscema, stressed the fact that COPPEM has still not fully achieved the goal of being a direct actor in Euro-Mediterranean policies. He pointed out that a number of local bodies interested in COPPEM activities are still experiencing difficulties in making contact with the organization. He suggested that the creation of a website might be a valuable tool to overcome this problem.
• Abù Ali Ganimeh (Jordan), encouraged the COPPEM Secretariat to turn all the initiatives undertaken into actual projects. He suggested that the specialist nature and prestige achieved by COPPEM would, among other things, allow projects of extremely high quality to be drawn up. As far as the work of the Commissions is concerned, Abù Ali Ganimeh expressed his hopes that the reports would be increasingly concrete in the future and thus yield suggestions for project-related initiatives.
• Lorenzo Barbera emphasised that COPPEM’s goal is to become an established body in Euro-Mediterranean policy-making thanks to the contribution of all its members. Accordingly, in its role as spokesman for the demands of Local Bodies, COPPEM could press the case to the European Commission for the financial resources granted to countries on the southern shore of the Mediterranean to be channelled to Local Bodies rather than to central governments.
• Angelo Lauricella agreed with the proposal put forward by the Secretary General for local governments to appoint a member of staff to work alongside Mayors and the COPPEM management as liaison between their town and COPPEM. To meet the financial burden that this would imply, he suggested, it would be opportune for member countries to bear the cost of this service. A more ambitious goal that will take shape over the years, he noted, is the opening of COPPEM agencies in each of the 27 member countries participating in the Barcelona process. In conclusion, he suggested that COPPEM should resume its involvement in the issue of emigration, as a follow-up to the remarkable initiative of the conference on “The Issue of Migration” held in Tunis in 2001.
• Nikos Papamikroulis stressed the importance of devising a specific strategy to boost the image of COPPEM among Euro-Mediterranean countries as a prime objective of the
organisation. In this respect, he argued, the Cairo experience (Conference on Cultural Heritage) should be repeated in other Euro-Mediterranean countries. He added his support to the suggestion that COPPEM should resume its involvement in issues connected with immigration.

• The working session was closed by Secretary General Carmelo Motta who reaffirmed the view that a more extensive dissemination of COPPEM news and the opening of a website would foster a more widespread knowledge of COPPEM. He also urged that the statutory objectives of COPPEM should be pursued and translated into operational projects. As far the organization of the working activities of the Commissions is concerned, the participants agreed that their reports on the individual topics being dealt with should be modelled on the following format:

1. PREFACE: Objectives and structure of the report
2. MANAGEMENT OF THE RELEVANT TOPIC IN THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN REGION
3. PRIORITY NEEDS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES WITH REGARD TO THE RELEVANT TOPIC
4. SUPPORTING POLICIES (by the EU and UN)
5. PROPOSALS FOR ACTIONS TO BE DEVELOPED

Rapporteurs and experts from the Secretariat were advised to determine by mutual consent what their contribution to the report should be.

MEETING OF THE 1st AND 3rd COPPEM COMMISSIONS
Caserta, 24 September 2003

Report

The meeting of the 1st and 3rd COPPEM Commissions was held in Caserta on 24 September. The meeting was opened by the Vice President of the University of Alexandria, Egypt, Said El Dakkak. He addressed the participants with a message by the Governor of the Region of Qailobiya and first Vice President of the 1st COPPEM Commission Adly Hussein, who was unable to attend the meeting due to institutional commitments requiring his presence in Egypt. In this message, Adly Hussein, underscored the fact that Maghreb countries look to Europe with hope as the only continent at this moment in time that can act to restore peace in the Middle Eastern region. At the same time, he expressed his own hope that through COPPEM, an increasing number of initiatives would be undertaken for the benefit of Euro-Mediterranean towns, in conjunction with the Arab Towns Organisation (which Adly Hussein was officially representing on this occasion only), which supports COPPEM’s efforts, in line with the goals of the Barcelona process.

• Michele Raimondi spoke next, noting that today’s meeting of the Commissions was programmed to address the topic of community welfare, in line with the decision laid the Presidency Bureau in Rabat to establish two topics on which to focus the work of the Commissions Cultural Heritage and Community Welfare. In addition to developing these topics, the COPPEM Secretariat has undertaken numerous activities in 2003, including organizing meetings and workshops which have generated a number of possible project ideas that are being brought to the attention of the participants.

• Touhami Midani, voiced the perception, shared by Tunisian delegates, of the need for COPPEM to organise a series of meetings on the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership in the various Maghreb contexts. At the same time, he invited the Secretariat to seek the involvement in its initiatives of the member countries’ universities in addition to that of local communities.

• The proposal was welcomed by Mrs Batoul Badraoui, who expressed her view that it would be both useful and positive for the Secretariat experts to visit a number of Maghreb countries to acquaint local bodies with the topics dealt with by the cooperation and project initiatives contained in the MEDA programme.

• Taking this point further, Michele Raimondi underscored the fact that in February 2003, the COPPEM secretariat had drawn up a questionnaire inviting COPPEM members to outline the problem areas they face in their towns and the priority action they felt the COPPEM Secretariat should pursue. He pointed out that six months later, only 15 of the 85 questionnaires sent out to them have been returned.

• With reference to the subject of the meeting, Lorenzo Barbera expressed his hope that a network would be set up to coordinate Euro-Mediterranean health services with the active involvement of Euro-Mediterranean municipal authorities.

• Alberto Tulumello drew the participants’ attention to the fact that since it was founded, COPPEM has been dealing primarily with local development in the Euro-Mediterranean territory, an issue that can be seen as an important factor in community welfare. He suggested that COPPEM should pursue this course of action in order to contribute to the establishment of a strong and effective partnership.
• On the topic of welfare, Said El Dakkak quoted the example of a United Nations programme designed to develop the local artisan industry in an Egyptian region experiencing high migration flows. He pointed out that ten years on from the implementation of that programme, the statistical data shows that the migration flow has been dramatically reduced and the level of literacy has grown in the region concerned.
• Paolo Carrara underlined the fact that all the project initiatives undertaken by the COPPEM Secretariat are fully consistent with the proposals put forward by members. The conception and circulation of a questionnaire by the Secretariat to all members was specifically designed to target the organization’s political and project activities to the real needs experienced by the institutional representatives of local authorities in Euro-Mediterranean countries.
• Touhami Midani gave an example of another success story in community welfare by illustrating the case of Susa Region in Tunisia, in which a number of large estates were made available to the Piemonte Region for use as agricultural land. This led to a 27 percent fall in unemployment among the agricultural population of Susa.
• Angelo Lauricella stressed the link between peace, development and welfare, and urged the COPPEM Secretariat to undertake as many initiatives as possible in conjunction with towns to bring about an easing of tensions, something which all the Mediterranean actors are seeking.
• Michele Raimondi, emphasised that many of the initiatives suggested by participants already form part of the project plans formulated by the COPPEM Secretariat.
• Alberto Botta underscored the fact that cooperation between two local settings, one from the north and one from the south, can only happen if they have reciprocal knowledge of each other. One of COPPEM’s main tasks, he pointed out, is thus to foster contacts between local bodies and mutual participation in each other’s organizations.
• Mrs Batoul Badraoui illustrated an experience of community welfare in Morocco for the rehabilitation of young drug addicts. She emphasised that the results achieved by many experiences of cooperation in Morocco are limited due to the local authorities’ lack of experience. She thus urged COPPEM to foster, among other things, the exchange of best practices between towns in European and Maghreb countries.
• Nikos Papamikroulis pointed out that welfare systems in Europe are still centralised and, in this sense, a monopoly of member states’ government policies. Achieving coordination among Euro-Mediterranean welfare systems might therefore represent the first step toward a policy of decentralization by European Union countries. However, one of the limitations of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation, he argued, is the fact that the European local authorities which actively participate in community programmes through the MEDA programme are still few and far between. COPPEM’s task is therefore to engage more local areas from northern Europe in its activities and project initiatives.
• Francesco Sammaritano, emphasised that with the establishment of the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade area in 2010, involving more than 900 million citizens, community welfare will soon be set in a socio-economic context based on patterns of development different from existing ones. The free market will open up complex and varied problems and needs, starting from contrasting systems of rules and regulations applied by the local authorities of the 27 member countries to common issues such as the environment, the territory and the management of water resources, waste and education. In this context, the COPPEM Secretariat has nearly completed a study of the rules and regulations systems governing the administrative life of the municipalities of the 27 partner countries. The work is due to be presented to members at the General Assembly meeting in Siracusa.
• Carmelo Motta underscored the complexity of the topics dealt with by the 1st and 3rd Commissions, and pointed out that in future, all the project initiatives arising from the special studies dealing with these topics will be managed by the Euro-Mediterranean Development Agency, due to be established by the end of October. He also noted that the coordination network of the Social and Health Services of the 27 the Euro-Mediterranean partner countries initiated by COPPEM, will also be set up in the same time period. At the same time, he stated, the Secretariat is considering the possibility of setting up a permanent Euro-Mediterranean Cultural Heritage Foundation. All three of these bodies will be operating under the aegis of COPPEM. A further objective being actively pursued by COPPEM, he added, is to involve an increasing number of new local authorities in the work of the organization, given that the official delegations of the 27 countries can be considered complete. A more extensive level of participation by local bodies will give COPPEM the necessary representative authority to make a more forceful contribution to the decision-making processes of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership.
• Finally, Ben Gharbia expressed his wholehearted agreement with the programme approach outlined by Carmelo Motta which touches on one of the key aspects of COPPEM’s activities, i.e. the fact that it is the only organisation that can act as spokesman representing the concerns of local bodies in the Euro-Mediterranean area to other International
Organizations (e.g. European Union, Arab League). On the issue of local development, for example, the significance accorded to this kind of policy programme in the Maghreb area often varies from country to country. Decentralisation processes, he noted, are often ineffective and are never implemented because central governments continue to control the financial and human resources allocated to municipalities. In these cases, he stated, the role of COPPEM should be to act as spokesman to International Organizations to increase their awareness and urge them to start a tangible process of administrative decentralisation.

MEETING OF THE 2nd AND 4th COPPEM COMMISSIONS
Caserta, 24 September 2003

Report

The meeting of the 2nd and 4th COPPEM Commissions opened at 10.00 a.m. with Secretary General Carmelo Motta delivering a welcome address. He thanked the participants and highlighted the substantial progress achieved by COPPEM in the formulation of ideas, strategies and proposals concerning the Cultural Heritage of the member countries of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership which is also to be the subject of the current meeting of the two Commissions.

• The Secretary General gave the chairmanship of the meeting to the President of the 2nd Commission Jacques De Grave, who outlined the agenda of topics to be addressed by the meeting of the 2nd and 4th Commissions. He then introduced the next speaker, the coordinator of the Programmes and Projects Area of the COPPEM Secretariat Michele Raimondi.

• Michele Raimondi outlined the progress of the work done by the Secretariat on the topic of Euro-Mediterranean Cultural Heritage, highlighting in particular the activities undertaken on the basis of the outcomes of the International Conference on Euro-Mediterranean Cultural Heritage held in Cairo in March. On this matter, Michele Raimondi mentioned the establishment of a Working Group which met in Palermo on 30 May. The Group was in favour of submitting to UNESCO two project ideas, one of which would be presented in the course of this meeting as a case study commissioned by the Sicily Region and undertaken by the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Palermo. Michele Raimondi also mentioned the UNIMED Cultural Heritage II Project that was examined in detail during the meeting of 23 September. Finally, he reminded the audience that COPPEM is a partner of the Murcia Region (Spain) in the ATABAIRE Project, presented in the context of the INTERREG III Community Initiative, whose goal is the conservation and valorisation of places of historical and artistic interest in the Mediterranean area.

• Jacques De Grave thanked Michele Raimondi and introduced the next speaker, Professor Maurizio Carta from the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Palermo.

• Maurizio Carta outlined the research previously mentioned by Michele Raimondi, designed to apply the GIS (Geographic Information System) technique to identify homogenous local areas defined as “Cultural Districts”. In this context, he said, the concept of “cultural” takes on the wider significance of a “critical mass” of material and immaterial cultural items susceptible to assuming and creating “value”. As such, this represents a potential engine of local development, fuelled by a shared bottom-up approach based on widespread participation. Maurizio Carta provided a detailed description of the results of this research using a Power Point presentation. The results turned out to be potentially useful for establishing the elements of a methodology that can be applied to other local territories in order to analyse the points of strength and weakness of a particular territory and, through a Logical Framework, formulate a feasible development plan based on widespread participation.

• At 12.00 p.m., the report by Ali Abu Ghanema, the rapporteur of the 4th Commission was read out, followed by a reading of the report by Nicolas Papamikroulis, the rapporteur of the 2nd Commission, both of whom were unable to attend the meeting. The reports were delivered respectively by Alessandra Prudente and Natale Giordano from the Programmes and Projects Area of the COPPEM Secretariat. Both reports were received with considerable appreciation and interest by the participants. Abdelaziz Dalaoutli in particular, praised the idea of old town centres being treated as living and thriving museums suggested in the report by Nicolas Papamikroulis.

• At 12.30 p.m. President Jacques De Grave invited the participants to respond to the speakers’ contributions in the morning session and opened the discussion:

• Antonio Maria Farina Murta, praised the work commissioned by the Sicily Region and reaffirmed the belief that methodological approaches of excellence should be applied, many of which reflect the working policies employed in Italy for the Conservation, Restoration, Valorisation and Promotion of Cultural Heritage.
• Moncef Ben Gharbia expressed his interest in the research carried out in CARTA, and mentioned a number of Tunisian efforts to map out cultural areas, voicing the hope that the research presented earlier would be used as the basis for drawing up an exhaustive map outlining the cultural values that are susceptible to “creating value”.
• Abdelaziz Dalaoutli expressed his strong appreciation for the methodology adopted and urged the COPPEM Secretariat to ensure it is replicable and transferable to as many local territories as possible, particularly among Mediterranean Partner countries, in the belief that this may be an important tool for devising development programmes that are sustainable as well as respectful of local cultures and needs.
• Michele Raimondi proposed making research on “cultural districts” the cornerstone of a project to be submitted to the European Commission under the INTERREG III C Initiative, notwithstanding the restricted timeframes due to the forthcoming closing date for applications (30 October 2003). The proposal was warmly welcomed by all participants.
• Noting that there were no further comments and suggestions, Jacques De Grave thanked all the participants for their contributions and closed the meeting at 1.00 p.m.

2.5 OTHER PROJECT ACTIVITIES

PARTICIPATION IN THE ATABAIRE PROPOSAL

Interreg III C
Project Proposal / Partner search

Leading Authority: City Council of Cartagena (Murcia - Spain)
Type of operation: Project of interregional individual cooperation
Topic of cooperation: Other appropriate topics for the interregional cooperation–Tourism, Culture and Development
Title of the project: Atabaire – Management proposals for periphery spaces of patrimonial interest

Leading Authority - Cartagena is located in the South East of the Murcia Region (Spain). Capital of the Marine Department, it is the second most important population of the Murcia region with, approximately, 180,000 inhabitants.

Introduction - The intense course of urbanization development that large part of Europe has headed in last decades, threat in many cases the existence of areas of great archeological, historic and environmental value located in peripheral urban areas. This vertiginous urban growth hardly had seen conditioned by the irreplaceable character of natural and cultural sources, or by the fragility of them to particular activities coming even to provoke the disappearance of some of these emblematic elements. A representative case of this process, in which are blended the urban growth models that pressed the periphery of the cities; the important cultural and natural patrimony existent; and the limited citizen sensibility for the conservation, is founded in the Roman Quarries of Cartagena, declared of Cultural Interest with category of Historic Area, in 2001, and very close to candidate areas of the Nature Net 2000.

Content - In many European cities are areas of great archeological, historic and environmental value, similar to the Roman Quarries of Cartagena, that are threatened and to continue these actual tendencies, may run the risk of coming to a loose of irreplaceable values. Even though the typology of these areas may be very diverse, all join an interest sequence of urban type and archeological, environmental and landscape conservation that could easily be joined in the frame of a interregional cooperation project. Under these premises is elaborated the present search of partners. Having a common problematical that affect a great number of European cities that see committed the preservation of their urban periphery patrimony by the city growth, and with a methodology based in the knowledge exchange and experiences of European level, the aim of this project is the design of an instrument of ordination and management of these type of patrimonies, that guarantee for a long time.

Objectives of the project - The project pursues the conservation and the preparation of cultural and environmental interest areas threatened by the urban expansion of periphery areas and the utilization of singular landscaping and patrimony elements as differentiating traits that contribute to maximize the quality of tourist, educative and recreative activities. The specific objectives are:
1. Develop designed instruments to help manage the urban activity in urban and periphery areas degraded of patrimonial interest, searching the integration of cultural, natural and urban components.
2. Contribute to discover again these patrimonial elements as cultural goods, throughout the combined search of management instruments of this areas.
3. Guarantee adequately preservation relate to inadequate and invasive uses.
4. Identify the tourist, educative and recreative uses close to other possible and compatible traditional benefits of this areas within a sustainable development frame.
5. Consolidate transition areas between urban and natural spaces that reduce the intensity of horizontal impact activities and facilitate a harmonious integration of both ambits distinguishing the particular traits and the peculiarity of the local landscape.
6. Learn from successful experiences and search common methodologies relative to the treatment and management of the periphery areas in other European cities.
7. Associate all local actors and the population in general to preserve these areas in short and long time.

**Activities planned** - Although the project is open to suggestions from potential partners, activities initially proposed are as follows:
1. Identification of the main threats of singular areas of cultural interest.
2. Initial diagnosis and advance of the management design of the paradigmatic and emblematic areas object of the study.
3. Search, selection and put the plan into good practice and successful experiences between transnational partners. Analysis of possible performance methodologies.
4. Elaboration of ordination directives, conditioning design and a application design of the objective elements of the study. Participation process by the different social agents.
5. Pilot actions.

**Conclusions.** - Will be develop from a transversal way an information, sensitization and environmental educative plan that support the whole process.

**Expected products**
- Elaboration of a catalogue, conservation director plan and importance implementation of the degraded periphery environment associated them to archeological, architectonic or natural elements of interest.
- Educational program and environment interpretation directed to the recuperation of periphery environments associated them to archeological, historic or natural elements of interest that develop different actions like: an itinerant exhibition, diverse publications, CD-ROM edition.
- Elaboration of a web page about the project.
- Realization of diverse transnational seminars to elaborate standard actions and a catalogue of good practices in the cultural patrimony conservation.
- Pilot projects of planning, rehabilitation, valorization and integral management of the environments object to study.

**PARTICIPATION IN THE “TRAMASPOR” - INTERREG MEDOCC PROPOSAL**

v Lead PARTNER
Name/Corporate Name: SICILY REGION
Department in charge: (Commission for Transport and Tourism – Department of Transport)

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT**

**Thematic frame of reference** - In the current global economy and with particular reference to the transport industry, maritime traffic is run by a few multinationals. This is the result of the de-localization of production processes adopted by the large-scale industries which make up multinational companies. The Mediterranean does not appear to form part of the main route of flows for the exchange of goods on a global scale. The economies connected with transport in that region remain excluded from the scope of the development strategies of those who run global markets. Local urban centres and regions connected to the main links of Mediterranean transport networks are unable to benefit from contact with the main corridors of global exchange. In the long term, even the port of Gioia Tauro, a genial invention by economic and financial operators in northern Italy, may not be able to maintain its current position of primacy in transport (globe-trotting ships) unless it has a prospect of being fully integrated into the network of Euro-Mediterranean ports, to avoid over-burdening its infrastructures in the future, and the possibility of building strong links with the territorial systems in the surrounding areas. In the current state of affairs in Mediterranean transport, in comparison with transoceanic flows, there are a number of significant disincentives to economic and financial investment.
The major ports linked to the core areas of European industrial production are located in the North Sea area and not the Mediterranean. Even the FIAT industry has been using the port of Rotterdam as its link with other markets and other production factories in the world. Northern European ports and land routes have dominated transport and continue to do so in relation to ports on the southern shores of the European continent. The political and military instability of the Mediterranean and the Middle East have done the rest. The object of the TRAMASPOR research is to investigate the medium-term scenario and work toward the creation and regeneration of economies in short networks, with the aim – not only hypothetical but also necessary – of restoring the balance of influence on local systems of long networks, powered by the intangible tools of international finance. This can only be achieved by setting up partnerships and engaging actors with a real interest in solving problems of port logistics in sensitive urban and territorial environments. The investigation should therefore focus on the field of innovation in the logistical systems of ports dealing with the flows of goods, people and cultural mixes in the Mediterranean which might grow exponentially once wars are eliminated from the Middle-Eastern basin. The regime change that economies and social phenomena are currently undergoing should be considered in the light of project-focused research and action designed to induce the Mediterranean region to behave as an active player in the process of globalization rather than as a victim of it. Tramaspor does not mean to pursue objectives that are above the scope of possible INTERREG action, i.e. the joint definition and examination by partners of the international scenario of global policies concerning the logistics of maritime transport and the links with factors of local accessibility.

**General objective** - The general objective of the TRAMASPOR proposal is to study models of maritime transport aimed at maximising the benefits that can be derived from a synergy between the production and commercial environments of inland and coastal areas and the structure of the logistics governing land and sea transport, viewed from the perspective of a network linking Mediterranean ports. The project also represents an offer of know-how to the countries on the southern shore of the Mediterranean since the optimisation of port logistics can yield significant positive effects on local economies. The effect would be the transfer of wealth-producing resources to the places concerned, thereby discouraging mass migration to Northern Europe. The current situation of geographic-territorial tensions between the southern and northern shores of the Mediterranean can be reconsidered in the light of a scenario of innovation being applied to the network of links between ports. In this context, based on cooperation between the northern and southern shores of the Mediterranean, made possible, among other things, by the pivotal position of Sicily, TRAMASPOR intends to address the needs and requirements of the territorial systems that belong to the partnership. It aims to do so by improving accessibility and standards of living and enhancing the logistics of the areas in which ports are located.

The study will also highlight the positive repercussions this may have for the populations living in the African shores of the Mediterranean. The research hypothesis addresses the topic of maritime transport in the western basin of the Mediterranean in relation to the needs of the production environments of the European and African regions that lie along its shores. In these areas and those immediately inland from them, there are opportunities for trade and passenger flows which until this time have not been accorded the level of attention they deserve. Such opportunities play a vital role in bringing about a balanced development of relations between Euro-Mediterranean regions as well as between them and the MEDA regions, especially in relation to consumer potential and in view of the opening of customs barriers planned by the Barcelona agreements for 2010. The research focuses on three main areas:

- examination of the current and potential supply level of various kinds of maritime transport organisations and of the services necessary to carry out related activities;
- analysis of the demand for flexibility, efficiency and permeability of access to markets in relation to the emerging production capabilities and characteristics in areas of industrial development linked to the more general production structures of the relevant regions;
- identification and assessment of the overall needs of qualitative and quantitative development in Euro-Mediterranean coastal areas.

In view of the gradually increasing de-localization of production that is currently taking place and the changes affecting traditional patterns of trading in consumer goods as a result of the new conditions existing in consumer markets – in themselves very different in the southern and northern shores of the Mediterranean –, the research aims to introduce active exchanges of experiences (and, possibly of best practices). This goal is based on the assumption that the link between industry and transport would be strengthened and thus contribute to solving locally the problems of costs resulting from the distance between the place of origin of goods (manufacturing and production) and their destination (consumer markets). From this perspective, the transport system would become truly integrated into the overall production structure, and perfectly able to adjust to the needs associated with any particular product or industrial sector. The
different methods of transport and types of flows (goods, passengers, tourist travel, RO-RO carriers, etc.) need to be matched with the potential that exists within the individual regions based on their reciprocal geographical position. Each region can be attributed a role and level of centrality that is significant for the proper functioning of a new network of relationships, capable of enhancing both regional production and the related logistical systems. For this to occur, the existing transport systems need to be examined to determine their current and potential correlation with diversified territorial contexts. Therefore, from the point of view of local regulation systems, the analytical study of the demand and supply of transport and logistical systems is linked to an assessment of the problems of accessibility between areas of production and human settlement areas. The research work will develop interpretations based on assessment tools designed to indicate the sustainability (social, economic, environmental and cultural) of the development hypotheses based on districts. This represents an alternative to models that focus on poles of industrialization which has been a failure throughout the Mediterranean. In manufacturing districts – or proto-districts in the case of Sicily – the value added represented by the quality of the product is expressed in terms of the function of integration with the way of life and standard of living represented by the social and cultural level of the specific urban networks in which they are set. The storage centres and integration, assembly and disassembly points for goods lying between areas of production and destination markets identify types of area functions and patterns of relations with new territorial settings which may already exist in certain regional situations. As these do not fall within the scope of any local governance regime however, it left unmanaged, their economic, social and environmental impact could be highly negative in the medium and long term. The operational aim proposed by TRAMASPOR is to reconnect the logic of territorial accessibility as provided for by the ESDP. It will do so by experimenting with organisational and management models which also take into account the current imbalance in levels of accessibility between urban and rural areas as well as between dynamic coastal areas and inland areas that are being abandoned.

Objectives - A key objective of the research is to define an economically viable territorial model, through the necessary in-depth investigations and contextual adaptations for the Mediterranean regions that actively participate in the Trasmospor partnership community. The goal is to identify the hidden potential of the maritime transport system and port logistics in relation to, among other things, the urban and territorial systems in which they are based and which sustain them. In the context of the relationship between local territory and logistical systems connected with transport, the goal of TRAMASPOR is to enable the development of pilot projects dealing with transport organisation and successful logistics (best practices in the field of accessibility between sea-linked areas). These are to form the basis for formulating local development models that can be repeated in other contexts in the Euro-Mediterranean area. With particular reference to the situation in the region of Southern Italy known as Mezzogiorno, the study seeks to identify new roles, attempting to combine the action of different transport industries by setting their interaction within the framework of specific local situations. To this end, a number of hypotheses will be considered with a view to introducing new multi-modal East-West corridors of interlinked land transport services for the integrated coordination of combined transport (etc.). The following is a brief outline of TRAMASPOR’s specific objectives:

- enhancing knowledge of the features of inter-modal transport in Mediterranean regions, in view of the problems associated with the removal of customs barriers planned for 2010, by setting up a databank available for consultation on the Internet and actively updated by selected users;
- identifying the critical areas that emerge from the interaction between logistical/transport-related activities in relation to the positioning of local resources and the dynamics of development in an effort to protect and enhance them;
- evaluating local development planning policies in the light of the principles on accessibility set by the ESDP, also taking into account the studies carried out by a number of European research institutes (SPESP and EPSON);
- producing simulations of new inter-modal corridors in which ports are located next to the most representative territorial belts within local district in terms of regional production and where it is possible to identify the value added provided by local specificities and differences.

Regional action - The operational context of the Sicily partnership proposal is characterised by the interaction between the Medoc INTERREG III Community Programme and the recently-presented Piano Direttore dei Trasporti (Transport Master Plan). This master plan can be assessed within the framework of the ESDP principles concerning issues of accessibility. INTERREG Medoc allows the Sicily region to experiment with an analytical method which, in the context of the relationship between transport and local territory, is able to identify the potential associated with the position of the island in relation to the pattern of flows of people and goods. The pilot projects selected for Sicily involve investigating and experimenting with poli-
cies of rational organisation concerning the utilisation of inter-modal transport activities for productive purposes to move goods from manufacturing areas to those connected with transport, storage and loading for shipment. Such activities should be undertaken in close connection with the specific territorial situations in terms of accessibility and permeability between firms and the existing environmental, social, cultural and entrepreneurial resources. Accordingly, the corridors of inter-modal transport identify territorial belts in which the organisation and logistics of transport are no longer dissociated from or indifferent to production but, on the contrary, actually contribute to conferring an added value to it deriving from territorial interaction. The effects of the polarisation of production, which generally has a high environmental impact, can thus be extended over wider areas due to effect of spreading the production process right across the territories participating in the inter-modal approach. The target areas of the pilot projects are the ASI of Caltagirone regarding possible links with the port of Pozzallo (which has strong links with Malta) and the ASI of Palermo concerning the activities of the Palermo Port Authority. In the first case, the relevant area is characterised in a cultural sense by the fact that it belongs to the Barocco cultural district, recognised by UNESCO, and by being located in the centre of the territorial belt that has the highest business productivity level in the region. By contrast, in second case, the area is characterised by the level of urbanisation of the population centres surrounding the Port of Palermo and the presence of different (and often conflicting) policies for redeveloping the coastal strip. In the regions of Toscana and Calabria there are plans for comparing the situations in the port areas of Livorno, Gioia Tauro, Marseilles, Valencia, Malta and Tunis, to test the hypothesis concerning the degree of comprehensiveness and complementarity that can be achieved by supplying main corridors for the movement of goods and tourist travel in the western Mediterranean.

**Methodology** - The study proposes to design an interpretive matrix that can be used to compare the data and prospective scenarios, differentiated at the local level but all considered from the perspective of the Mediterranean as a whole and in terms of external relations (horizontal enquiry). The aim is to identify innovative strategic models of organisation and management in relation to territorially integrated maritime transport (vertical interpretation of the findings). The research will define the models on the basis of comparing partners' experiences and the experimentation carried out in the pilot projects in relation to the increase in know-how achieved in the relevant issue areas and the use of evaluation tools in the project itself. Once the data is collected, it will be organised according to a multi-dimensional and multi-goal framework. The data processing exercise will be designed to perform an assessment using multi-criteria models through which hypotheses for alternative scenarios can be considered. The choice of methodology for the organisation of maritime transport will therefore be defined on the basis of simulations of alternative scenarios. The variable scenarios, considered as strategies of local development, should be locally sustainable and consistent with the principles of the ESDP (of which INTERREG means to investigate the practical feasibility through common participation). The approach of TRAMASPOR is not to solve problems directly in specifically localised or contextualised cases (problem solving). It is designed, rather, to make a contribution to the way they are structured by highlighting the critical factors and suggesting the possible management behaviour and criteria (strategic guidelines) to be adopted in order to deal with them. This will also into account the possibility that the research may be used in other contexts, particularly through the involvement of other Euro-Mediterranean cooperative partnerships. The research results and attendant developments of a scientific nature will gain strength from the constant dialogue with actors representing operators and various kinds of users who will be progressively involved in the project by the partners (workshops, seminars, conferences, focus groups, etc.). Generally speaking, there appears to be a need to introduce a cooperative working method to enable different Mediterranean regions to work together. Such a method could bring about progressive improvement through mutual exchanges in research activities and experimentation to address tangible problems, even within the competition regime that applies to the regions concerned as provided for by the Community programme documents. The opportunity offered by INTERREG is to build links between the scientific community on the one hand and the business community and local authorities on the other. This would create neutral areas where it would be possible to experiment on a practical level with innovative processes of analysis, assessment, decision-making and monitoring of performance in support of local governance. It is therefore a matter of taking advantage of the opportunity for interaction at the international level to pursue innovative project approaches and overcoming the limitations of standard practice whereby the regional level normally operates as an independent unit and universities, businesses and government bodies work in their separate ways. Analytical skill alone is unable to yield certainties in the operational and management fields. Thoughtful analysis, however, is the basis for identifying scenarios that are compatible with the skills and vocations of the social and economic situations.
that can lead to their achievement. What is certain is the active flow of relations between partners assessing the outcomes of their actions in a dynamic way. Indeed, the constant and frequent dialectic of mutual exchanges of information and tangible experiences of success and failure within international partnerships provides the only possible certainty that can truly be reached. This conclusion is also suggested by the current stage of social and technological innovation in the globalization of economies in general. For these reasons, the method adopted by TRAMASPOR is based on the partners’ ability to listen and hold an open dialogue with each other and is fuelled by the differences between them which sustain the prospects of free trade ultimately leading to the development of Mediterranean countries.

2.6 CONFERENCES ATTENDED

As part of its activities, COPPEM has participated in several Political-Institutional Conferences. They were held within the framework of initiatives promoted by the Conference of the Presidents of the Regions, with the technical support of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs during Italy’s six-month Presidency of the European Union. These included the following:

- Conference on “Community Structural Funds: Problems and Prospects. European Union law and policies for integrated development and planning: local areas in the periphery of the New Europe. Supporting actions to Regions under Objective 1”. The conference was organised by the Regional Province of Ragusa and was held 2003 at the Bay of Samuele di Scicli on 15 October. The COPPEM spokesman was the President Fabio Pellegrini.

- Conference on “Public and Private Partnership in European Development Policies”, promoted by the Presidency Bureau of the Italian Council of Ministers (Department of Community Policies) and the Sicily Region. It was held in Erice on 23 October 2003 and the spokesmen for COPPEM were the Secretary General Carmelo Motta and Alberto Tulumello.

- International Conference on “The drama of immigration and the challenge of enlargement for a new Euro-Mediterranean space”, promoted by the Municipality of Livorno, held at the Livorno harbour station on 31 October 2003. The COPPEM spokesman was the President Fabio Pellegrini.

These were preparatory meetings to the main “Inter-Institutional International Conference: United by the Mediterranean” held on 26-27 November 2003 at the Teatro Massimo in Palermo. At this conference, COPPEM provided technical support performing different functions and tasks from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Interinstitutional Conference “United By the Mediterranean”

Palermo, November 28th – The Interinstitutional Conference “ United by the Mediterranean “, held in Palermo and arranged by the Sicilian Region together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the course of the Italian Semester of Presidency of the European Union, ended with the establishment of a “Workgroup” among the mediterranean territorial government bodies. This “Workgroup”, it is said in the conclusive document (drafted by an experts’ table after many preliminary meetings in which also COPPEM has took part, represented by Natale Giordano), shall be a body which will promote, oversee and check the realization of the proximity policies in relation to the role both of the Region and local bodies, in order to make the connection with the governments and the local and international bodies easier. Moreover the representatives of the Regions and local authorities involved in the Euro-Mediterranean partnership have expressed “their will to take part in the Barcellona Process realization, contributing in active and constructive way to relaunching it in view of a widened Europe”. Eventually the participants have also undersigned some proposals, among these: to grant the Regions Committee request about the participation and the closer connection to the Barcellona Process of local and regional authorities proposing themselves as privileged actors for making the Mediterranean an area of peace, stability and development through the creation of a local and regional representatives’ body in the euro-mediterranean institutional framework; giving to the Mediterranean, in the planning and running of the financial resources assigned to proximity policies, a share that is proportional to its population and its strategic role in the intercultural dialogue; working for making the planning and implementation procedures of the proximity programmes simpler.
REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES 2003

3. THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
3. THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The idea of creating a Development Agency to provide programme and project support to the Municipalities, Provinces and Regions of the 27 member countries of the Euro-Mediterranean area, in order to foster and generate local development was first launched in 2001 and matured in 2002. Meeting in Palermo in December 2002, The COPPEM General Assembly approved the Development Agency statute drawn up by the Secretariat.

In 2003, the COPPEM Presidency Bureau actively discussed the implementation stages of the Agency during its meetings in Rabat (January 2003), Cairo (March 2003), Milazzo (Messina, June 2003) and Caserta (September 2003) and the Euro-Mediterranean Development Agency was finally established in October 2003.

This started the process of collecting membership applications and related membership fees from the public and private subjects qualified for membership.

The Agency will start activities as soon as the membership fees received cover its running costs for at least three years.

STATUTE

TITLE I
NAME – SEAT – DURATION – OBJECTIVES

Art. 1 - ESTABLISHMENT AND NAME
A non-profit Association is established, in accordance with Art. 12 following C.C. under the corporate name: “The Euro-Mediterranean Development Agency of Local and Regional Authorities. The Agency name, as an acronym, is: “ASEM”
The Agency is a non-profit making company and it can’t share any kind of dividends.

Art. 2 – SEAT
The Association headquarters are based in Palermo (Italy), via Emerico Amari n° 162. At such headquarters it is established the Association Bureau, which is responsible for relationships with Members and Third Parties, and is therefore the official head office of the Association. The Association is entitled to set up other Offices, at the Member Bodies headquarters, or elsewhere.

Art. 3 - DURATION OF THE ASSOCIATION
The duration of the Association is set until 31 December 2030. When due, the duration of the Association may be extended by a Special Session of the General Assembly of the Members, by the majority envisaged to pass decisions, also in a second Meeting.
In case of extension, the right of withdrawal of Members not present in the Meeting or dissenting is applicable. A withdrawal notice shall be given within 60 days since the date when the resolution of extension is adopted.

Art. 4 - OBJECTIVES
The Association acts in compliance with the objectives and strategies of “COPPEM (Standing Committee for Partnership of Local and Regional Authorities)”, a non-profit Association established in Italy, with its seat in Palermo.
The main objective of the Association is to assist its Members and their Associations, in order to devise, work out, promote and strategically steer initiatives aimed at the economic, cultural and social development of Local Communities represented by the Members and their Associations within the Euromediterranean Partnership. The Association can also assist other local and regional institutions within Euromediterranean area.
Such initiatives shall be implemented according to guidelines set out in 1995 by the Barcelona Declaration relevant to the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, and in accordance with Community legislation and legislation in force in those third countries where Member Local Communities are based.
Particularly: the study, the planning and the management of the development initiatives deal with agriculture; industry; crafts; tourism and public and private services, and in compliance with COPPEM programmes: technical assistance, juridical assistance, financial and operational assistance.
Exemplifying, the Association can:
a) Establish offices for dealing with technical, administrative, financial advisory services, aimed at devising and steering the abovementioned initiatives.
b) Establish offices devoted to collect information and perform studies in order to identify requirements related to the implementation of projects aimed at a social and economic development.
c) Draft agreements with supranational Public and Private, EU or non-EU, institutions for devising, working out and strategically steering territorial development initiatives.
d) Draft projects of public and private works, which are called for or of interest for Member Bodies.
e) Assist Local and Regional Authorities in formulating tenders, also at an International level, to undertake on contract, and implement, works reported in the abovementioned items.
f) Assist Local and Regional Authorities in the preparation of calls for being granted community and international financial resources for implementing projects and initiatives reported in the aforesaid items.
g) Promote the setting-up of partnerships and co-operative initiatives, aimed at devising and carrying out interventions reported in the abovementioned items.
h) Seek operational and financial partners for the carrying out and management of projects.
i) Set up partnerships and local consortium devoted to the protection of registered designation of origin of handicrafts and of food products from Local and Regional Authorities.
j) Deal with trade promotion and enhancement of handicrafts, industrial and food products.
k) Promote tourism, cultural tourism and services in general.
l) Promote the improvement both of mobility and conditions of mutual knowledge.
m) Study and promote projects aimed at reorganizing urban, agricultural, tourist and industrial territory.
n) Study and promote projects aimed at the protection of the environment and the renewal of archaeological and cultural sites.
o) Study and promote projects aimed at improving the usage of water resources and broadening well-irrigated areas.
p) Provide technical assistance to Local and Regional Authorities in drawing up projects addressed to improve local entrepreneurship and women conditions in particular.
q) Study, devise and support the organization and management of research and experimentation centres, as well as a wiser exploitation and promotion of natural environment.
r) Study every initiative aimed at easing emigration hardships and improving conditions of life of weaker persons.
The Association activity will be carried out only in Members’ interest.
Concerning the above mentioned activities, dealing with “protected activities”, the Association will operate as support for the Professionals of different sectors and It will have recourse to Professionals on the roll, whereas concerning “not protected activities” It will operate directly. Concerning “not protected activities”, the self-practice by the association is excluded in any case, in full obedience of any law in force.
The Association can carry out any action of movable, property and financial nature to pursue social objectives, except for actions that are prohibited by Financial Authorities.
The Association promotes and searches for cooperation with Universities, Institutes, Public and Private Authorities also International, by establishing as well as joining relevant Committees, Commissions, and Consortium Societies. The Association can carry out every above mentioned activities even on behalf of Enterprises and Public and Private Authorities, in order to obtain the resources necessary for its own institutional activity.

**TITLE II**
**OPERATIONAL AREAS**

**Art. 5 - TERRITORIAL FRAMEWORK**
The Association performs its activities focusing on Local and Regional territories of members Countries of Euromediterranean Partnership.

**Art. 6 - PERIPHERAL BODIES**
The Association Board of Directors may establish, amend or abolish peripheral bodies accordingly with Art. 2.

**TITLE III**
**ASSOCIATION MEMBERS**

**Art. 7 - THE ASSOCIATION MEMBERS ARE:**
**Founder - Regular Members, Adherent Members, Contributing Members.**
Founder Members are those who have established the Association, as well as those who will be appointed by a unanimous secrete vote of every Association Founder Members. They take on as Regular members too.
Adherent Members are Local and Regional Authorities of Euromediterranean area, which file an application to the Board of Directors in order to be admitted to the Association. The Board of Directors will decide about granting the request or not without any explanation obligations and irrevocably.
Contributing Members are:
A) National and international bodies of Euromediterranean area whose objectives or aims are compliant with this Statute.
B) Public and Private Enterprises, Banks and Financial Institutions and related Associations.
C) Development Bodies and any other Institution or Authority sharing the objectives and aims of the Agency, which will make contributions to the Association considerably and periodically.

**Art. 8 - MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**
A written Membership Application form shall be submitted to the Association social headquarters. The membership Application Form shall report the kind of Body/Company (Public or Private), its name and business-name, legal form of enterprise, headquarters, personal details of its Head or legal representative who is signing the form, nature of carried out activities. If the Form is submitted by a Company or legal Body, it shall include an authentic copy of the Company’s deed of foundation, relevant Statute and decision by the Administrative Body which has decreed the membership Application.
If the Form is submitted by a local Authority it shall include an authentic copy of the resolution by the administrative board or responsible Body.
The Membership Application Form shall report a statement certifying that the applicant has read carefully and is fully aware of the Association Statute and its Regulations and shall commit himself in complying with them.
The Board of Directors decides upon the membership application of Adherent Members and Contributing Members.
Legal bodies admitted to membership are represented by the pro tempore legal representative, while Local Authorities are represented by the standing or substitute Mayor, or by the President or his deputy.
The Association Membership comes into force following enrolment in the register of Members, upon payment by the applicant of the relevant membership dues.

**Art. 9 - DUTIES OF ASSOCIATION MEMBERS**
The Association members shall:
a) comply with the Statute and Regulations issued by the Association
b) conform to deliberations by Social bodies;
c) pay for registration fees and dues determined under this Statute;
d) provide the Social Bodies with cooperation necessary and useful to pursue the objectives, aims and targets of the Association.
e) refrain from any behaviour incompatible with the subsistence, rules and regulations and activities of the Association.
f) allow ascertainment of needed prerequisites for being the proposing actor of the Association, among the ones provided for in the objects of the Association.

Art. 10 - RIGHTS OF THE ASSOCIATION MEMBERS
The Association members have the right to take part in the Association activities, resorting to programmes drafted by the Association and to cast their own vote during its Meetings, according to the membership category they belong to.
Resort, with the authorization of the Association, to project proposals also as project standards to be possibly applied in their own social and territorial framework.
To benefit from the Association aid, as to all the matters provided for in this Statute.
To benefit from advantages stemming from the implementation of projects referred to in this Statute.

Art. 11 - WITHDRAWAL, LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP RIGHTS, EXCLUSION
The Members are entitled to withdraw from the Association, after one year since their admission to it.
The withdrawal right must be exercised provided that a notice is sent by a registered letter with a form for acknowledgment of receipt addressed to the Association President, at the Association headquarters.
The withdrawal of a Member who has terminated its activity, as well as to Contributing members is allowed without expiration limit.
The Member loses his membership rights, whenever he loses his requirements for admission.
The loss of Membership rights is deliberated by the Board of Directors within twelve months after the Association acknowledges that the Member has lost those requirements statutorily and legally provided for, also with reference to regulations in force in the Member's home-country.
Withdrawal and loss of membership rights take effect on 31 December in the year when withdrawal has occurred, that is to say, when the loss of membership rights has been delivered in accordance with previous paragraphs.
The Member who has withdrawn from the Association or who has lost his membership rights is required to pay for membership fees until 31 December, as previously reported. A Member may be excluded from the Association by resolution of the Board of Directors, in the following cases:
a) commits serious offence or breach of the Association Statute or regulations, or especially when his behaviour is detrimental to the Association activities and prestige or causes damage to its operation.
b) he is in arrears, for more than six months, as to the payment of: membership fees, contributions and any other payment due to the Association.
c) without any legitimate reason, does not implement projects or prevents the implementation of development projects entrusted by him to the Association and being implemented following relevant approval and granting of resources necessary for their achievement.
It is possible to oppose the decisions relevant to loss of member rights and exclusion, by award by arbitration within 30 days since the day when the notice of occurred expiration or exclusion has been sent.
The Members who have withdrawn, have lost their rights or have been excluded by the Association, are not entitled to any reimbursement of the Association membership fees. The Members who have been excluded shall compensate for assessed damages.

TITLE IV
PROPERTY FUND - MANAGEMENT – BUDGET

Art. 12 - PROPERTY FUND
The "Property Funds" is made up by:
a) Contributions and membership fees not less than 1,500 Euro each.
b) Contributions by private bodies.
c) Contributions by the State, Public Bodies and Institutions, aimed at supporting specific and documented activities or projects.
d) Contributions by international organisms.
e) Testamentary endowments and legacies.
f) Refunds, fees and probable payments resulting from conventions.
g) Revenue resulting from the probable carrying out of external activities related to the institutional ones.
h) Any other revenue.

Art. 13 - MANAGEMENT RESOURCES
Management requirements are met through:
a) Yearly contributions to be charged to the Members, upon proposal by the Board of Directors.
b) Income from supplied services in accordance with the above mentioned art. 4.
c) Voluntary contributions to management account granted by Public or private Bodies, accepted by the Assembly of Founder and Regular Members and in accordance with international codes of conduct.
The amount of the contributions referred to in item a) is submitted by the Board of Directors and approved by the general Assembly of Members.

Art. 14 - FINANCIAL YEAR AND BUDGET
The Association financial year begins on 1st January and ends on 31st December of each year.
At the end of each financial year, the Board of Directors:
a) draws up the final balance.
b) draws up the report to be submitted for approval to the General Assembly, according to the law and the Association Statute.
c) draws up the report on the activities both carried out and in progress and on the projects being under consideration.
d) submits for approval to the General Assembly, the draft economic and financial budget relevant to the following financial year, reporting the project and statutory activities which it considers will be carried out.

Art. 15 - ASSOCIATION BODIES
The Association Bodies are the following:
a) the General Assembly;
b) the Board of Directors and the Managing Director
c) the President;
d) the Board of Auditors.

TITLE V – ASSEMBLY

Art. 16 – GENERAL ASSEMBLY
The General Assembly is composed of all the Members.
Every Regular Member has right to cast one deliberative vote and shall attend the Meetings through a legal representative or any other delegate purposely appointed. No delegate can represent more than ten Members. Adherent Members have the right to cast one deliberative or advisory vote (not binding) according to subjects, as better reported below. Contributing Members has the right to cast an advisory not binding vote. The vote regulations set out the ways in which the advisory vote on the items on the Agenda can be cast, except for the appointment, supplementing and provisions relating to the Association Administrative and Supervisory Bodies.
The Ordinary General Assembly is convened by the Board of Directors, at least once a year for approval of the final balance. The Ordinary Assembly shall be convened by the month of March following the closed year.

Art. 17 - RESOLUTIONS OF THE ASSEMBLY
The General Assembly decides on the subjects brought to its attention through the Agenda sent by the President of the Board of Directors. The subjects on which only the Founder Members have the exclusive competence to vote are relevant to:
1. Appointment and supplementing of the Board of Directors
2. Appointment and supplementing of the Board of Auditors
3. Partnerships in Bodies and Companies
4. Resolutions and provisions relevant to the Administrative Bodies
5. Approval of annual budgets and final balances
6. Amendments to the Statute
7. Appointment of the Technico-scientific Committee.

Whereas, the General Assembly, through the advisory vote of the Founder and Adherent Members and through the advisory and not binding vote of the Contributing Members, has the competence to vote on:
1. Approval of the Association operating regulations
2. Approval of action programmes
3. Approval of annual compulsory fees for Members

The appointment of the Council Members falls within the exclusive competence of vote of the Contributing Members.

Art. 18 - CONVENING FORMALITIES
The Ordinary General Assembly shall be convened by the President of the Association. The notice shall report:
a) The day, time and venue where the Members shall meet in the first and second sitting.
b) The list of matters to be dealt with.
c) The probable preliminary communications by the President.
d) The place where the budget and the final balance are registered, if the venue deals with this documents.

The Members shall be informed by registered letter at least twenty days prior to the Assembly, at the domicile communicated by them and recorded in the Members’ Official Book.

An Assembly gathering the Founder Members only can be convened when the agenda provides for subjects relevant to their exclusive vote.

Art. 19 - VALIDITY OF SESSION
The Assemblies where only Founder Members have right to vote are legally valid when, at the first convening, half plus one the votes of the Founder Members are present, whatever the number of both the Adherent and Contributing Members.

The Assemblies where Adherent Members have right to cast deliberative vote are legally valid, at the first convening, when half plus one the votes of the Regular and Adherent Members are present, whatever the number of Contributing Members.

The Assembly can be convened also whenever a second session is envisaged, in this case the Assembly is legally valid when half plus one the votes from Founder members are present, whatever the number of the Adherent and the Contributing Members.

When some of the Members are in arrears as to the fees they have to pay, they are not taken into account as for the assembly validity quorum.

The majority required to take resolutions is at least half plus one the present Members having the right to vote and the quorum is valid also for those subjects relevant to single categories of present and voting Members.

As for the Assembly resolutions relevant to the Statute approval or its amendments and to the Association regulations as well as to the extension and anticipated dissolution of the Association and its liquidation with the appointment of official receivers, it is needed the vote in favour of at least three fifth of the present Members having the right to vote and the vote in favour of three fifth of the Founder and Regular Members.

Art. 20 - RECORDING OF MEETINGS
The resolutions of the Ordinary Assemblies shall be put on record and undersigned by both the President and the Secretary. The records of the Extraordinary Meetings shall be drawn up by a Notary.

Art. 21 - VOTING PROCEDURE
Voting usually takes place openly by show of hands.

Votes are cast by secret ballot when they concern provisions relating to individuals or at the request of the majority of voting Regular Members. In this case, at the President's suggestion, the Assembly appoints the scrutineers, who, before voting is started, provides for delivering the ballot papers to each Member.

Art. 22 - PRESIDENT OF THE MEETING
The Assembly is chaired by the President of the Board of Directors.

Whenever he is absent, by the Vice President, unless the Assembly does not elect its President.

The Assembly, at the President’s suggestion, appoints its Secretary.
TITLE VI
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Art. 23 - MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
The Board of Directors is composed of a number of permanent members varying from three to fifteen.
The number is decided, before each renewal of the Board of Directors, upon by the Founder Members' vote.
The Board is composed of:
a) up to five COPPEM appointed members, among whom the President, who is suggested by COPPEM
b) the rest of the members elected by the Meeting of the Founder Members.
The Board of Directors may also include – if appointed - two members nominated by the Advisory Committee, performing advisory functions.
The President can invite other persons to attend the session in order to express opinions and suggestions.

Art. 24 - TERM OF OFFICE
The members are in charge for three years and can be re-elected.
If, during the term of office, one or more Advisors are missing, the Board of Directors takes charge to substitute them through a resolution.
The Advisors, thus appointed, will remain in office until the Board of Directors is renewed.
The Member, who, without a justifiable reason does not attend more than three successive sessions of the Board, loses his office.
The member’s dismissal shall be decided upon by the Board of Directors itself and approved by the Council of Auditors.

Art. 25 - PRESIDENCY
The President of the Board of Directors is suggested by COPPEM among the members appointed by itself.
The Vice President is selected among the representatives appointed by the Assembly through a vote by the Founder Members.

Art. 26 - CONVENING
The Board of Directors is convened by its President directly or at the request of at least a third of the Members; the items to be put on the agenda shall be stated.
A convening notice shall be sent at least eight days prior to the Assembly and shall report the date, time and venue of the assembly, as well as the list of subjects to be dealt with. In case of an emergency, the convening notice of the Board of Directors can be communicated by telegram, fax or e-mail, at a three days notice.
If all the Members having the right to vote and the Permanent Auditors are present, the convening is valid in any case.

Art. 27 - VALIDITY OF SESSION
The Assemblies are valid whenever they are attended by the majority of those Members who hold office and have the right to vote.
Voting usually takes place openly by show of hands.
Votes are cast by secret ballot when relevant to subjects concerning individuals, or at the request of two thirds of the members who are present and have the right to vote.
Decisions are taken by majority. In case of equality of votes, in open voting, the President's vote prevails; while, in secret ballot voting, equality of votes results in the proposal's rejection.

Art. 28 - POWERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
The Board of Directors is invested with the widest powers as to the Association management, since it has exclusive competence in carrying out all the ordinary and extraordinary administration activities that are not assigned by the Law or by this Statute to the specific competence of the Meeting.
Therefore, out of simplification and not with an underestimating purpose, the Board of Directors performs the following tasks:
a) to decide upon the Members' admission, withdrawal, loss of rights and on their possible removal;
b) to deliberate the Assembly convening;
c) to take the necessary steps to enforce the Assembly resolutions, perform all the tasks delegated by the General Assembly and to prepare relevant internal procedures.
d) to set the membership fees and the amount of the annual dues, except for ratification of
the General assembly;
e) to settle charges for the services performed;
f) to draw up the Association final balance, as well as the budget estimate and to submit
them to the Assembly approval;
g) to engage and to dismiss the Association staff, including the Director, defining tasks and salaries;
h) to take resolutions on both active and passive judicial actions;
i) to purchase, sell and barter real estates, to allow registration, cancellation and deferment
of mortgages and to renounce to securities for mortgages;
j) to make transactions with the National Debt and with any other public or private office
m) to take out short, medium and long term mortgages also with securities;

n) more in general, to perform all the tasks and authorize the drawing up of all contracts and
deeds, also of extraordinary administration, considered useful to achieve the Association's aims;

Art. 29 - DELEGATION OF POWERS
The Board of Directors appoints a Managing Director giving him the necessary powers for
managing the Association.
The Board of Directors is allowed to delegate to the President, the Vice-President, to one or
more Members, some of the powers provided for by the previous article, in relation to
subjects defined in detail. The ways and limits of action shall be set, as well as the scheduling
and procedures relevant to auditing and reporting.

Art. 30 - REFUND OF EXPENSES AND EMOLUMENTS
The refund of expenses met on behalf of Association and while performing their tasks is due
to the Members of the Board of Directors.
In an ordinary session, the General Assembly can decide upon the allocation of emoluments
and attendance counters to the President, the Vice-President, the Managing Director and the
Board Members.

TITLE VII
PRESIDENT - VICE-PRESIDENT

Art. 31 - PRESIDENT – VICE-PRESIDENT
The President of the Board of Directors is the President of the Association.
The President has the task to legally represent the Association before both third parties and
the Court and is responsible for the signature of the Association.
In case of his/her absence or prevention, the President is replaced by the Vice-President to all effects.

TITLE VIII
BOARD OF AUDITORS

Art. 32 - COSTITUTION AND FUNCTIONS
The Board of Auditors is composed of three permanent and three substitute Members.
The Auditors are elected by the General Assembly of the Members.
The Council exercises the control functions provided for by Italian law and watches over the
observance of the Statute.
The permanent Auditors have the duty to attend the meetings of the Board of Directors.

TITLE IX
DISSOLUTION

Art.33 - GROUNDS FOR DISSOLUTION
The Council is dissolved on the grounds stated in art.27 C.C., and whenever COPPEM
decides upon its withdrawal.

Art.34 - APPOINTMENT OF THE DISSOLUTION BODY
If the Association is dissolved, the General Assembly, through a vote by the Founder
Members, shall appoint one or more official receivers, defining their powers.
The expenses resulting from dissolution will burden on the Property Fund

Art.35 - ALLOTMENT OF THE RESIDUAL NET AMOUNT
The net assets resulting from the liquidation final balance will be assigned to purposes of public
interest, upon refund to the Members of the shares paid up to build up the Association Fund.
TITLE X
BOARD OF ARBITRATORS AND ARBITRATION CLAUSE

Art. 36 -
A Board of Arbitrators composed of three arbitrators and set up in compliance with art. 806 and followings of the Code of Civil Procedure shall have exclusive competence on any dispute between the Members and the Association as to the interpretation and the enforcement of this Statute and of the Association regulations, as well as on those disputes deriving from the deliberations and/or the deeds of the Assembly and Administrative bodies. The three arbitrators will be appointed as follows: one by each party and the third, with the functions of President, nominated by the two arbitrators appointed as reported above, or, failing an agreement, by the Court of Justice of the town where the Association has its registered office. The Board of Arbitrators shall have to comply with the regulations envisaged by the Law and shall lodge the arbitration award within 180 days from acceptance of appointment, except when the parties propose deferment. The Board of Arbitrators will judge, with no regard to procedure formalities except for the respect of the principle of cross-examination. The arbitration award will not be subject to appeal.

TITLE XI
ADVISORY BODIES

Art. 37 - SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
The Members' Assembly, upon proposal of the Association's President, shall appoint a technical and scientific committee, whose members shall be selected from a list of Persons suggested by the Board of Directors, after having heard the Board of Auditors. The scientific committee is composed of no more than twelve persons, either nationals or residing abroad, who can help fostering the promotion of the Association objectives through their experience, knowledge and work. This committee has the task to:
  a) work out proposals for initiatives
  b) deliver opinions at the request of the Association Bodies
  c) take part in the social events promoted by the Association and, in general, in any activity that can encourage innovation and, as a consequence, help to achieve the objectives of the Association and the promotion of resources in those areas where the latter operates. The Committee is convened and chaired by the President of the Association. It appoints, among its members, a Vice-President, who acts on behalf of the President with regard to the Association management activities.

Art. 38 - THE COUNCIL
Though the Contributing Members' vote, the Assembly of the Members appoints the Council, composed of a number of members ranging from a minimum of three up to a maximum of fifteen. The Assembly of the Members sets the number of members and the member election procedures by a vote cast by the Contributing Members only. The Council is chaired by the Association President. The Council elects a Vice-President who acts as a substitute of the President. The Council performs the following tasks:
  1) to express opinions on the Association regulations and relevant amendments
  2) to express opinions on the yearly programmes submitted by the Board of Directors for the achievement of the company aims
  3) to submit projects in compliance with the aims and the objects of the Association
  4) to give overall suggestions as to development projects relevant to the Bodies and territories concerned by the Association activity

TITLE XII
TEMPORARY AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Art. 39 - Applicable regulations
All matters not specifically covered in the Articles of this Statute shall be settled in accordance with the rules of the Italian Law concerning Associations.
REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES 2003

4. THE COPPEM WEBSITE
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4.1 Introduction

During 2003, the COPPEM Secretariat set up a more comprehensive and advanced COPPEM website, following repeated calls to this effect by the COPPEM Plenary Assembly and the Presidency Bureau.

The website was completed in September and now allows all the COPPEM official documents to be consulted. The Secretariat will ensure that the information available on the website is constantly updated.

The goal is for the website to provide a comprehensive overview of COPPEM activities and to ensure active participation by Members in the work undertaken by the Committee.

4.2 Structure

The new COPPEM website was designed by the Secretariat and has been active since September 2003.

The address is: http://www.coppem.org and is available in three language versions, in English, French and Italian respectively. Versions in other languages may be added subsequently.

The website structure includes the following areas:

1. a Homepage;
2. a COPPEM area, which provides information on the Association and its activities;
3. a “Euro-Mediterranean Partnership” area, which includes a range of European Commission initiatives specifically connected with the realization and development of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership. The initiatives refer to European Commission policies, planning and decision-making meetings, programmes, and current or planned calls for proposals;
4. a “reserved” area, i.e. a virtual space that allows all COPPEM Members to work together on shared documents and projects and to exchange opinions and information via the Internet. Once the website is fully operational, the Secretariat will allocate a reserved password to all Members concerned allowing selected access to each specific activity;
5. a “latest news” area which provides the most up-to-date news regarding COPPEM programmes and information on Euro-Mediterranean Partnership initiatives for consultation;
6. a special area with the “COPPEM News” bulletin in Italian, English and French.

For suggestions on the best way to use the website or to receive more information about it, please contact: 
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