



**Report of the meeting of the EUROCITIES Euromed Working Group
Torino- Teatro Regio, Sala del Caminetto
9th November 2006**

During the opening session, the Mayor of Torino and outgoing Chair of the EUROCITIES Euromed Working Group, **Sergio CHIAMPARINO** welcomed all the participants and thanked the Vice Chairs of Euromed (Mahdia in Tunisia and Jdeidé in Lebanon) for their effective collaboration over the last years. Furthermore, he proposed some considerations as concerns the two-years period of the City of Torino as chair of the Euromed Working Group. The Mayor of Torino **CHIAMPARINO** put into evidence that many important steps have been taken both at political and technical level, especially after the meeting held in Barcelona in November 2005 on the occasion of the celebrations of the tenth anniversary of the Barcelona Process. **Sergio CHIAMPARINO** stressed that, facing such a difficult situation as regards to some specific areas on the Mediterranean region, initiatives like the meeting of the Euromed Working Group attach great importance in order to look for starting point in the field of collaboration, able to bring peace and development. The Mayor of Torino continued speaking underlining that in Barcelona it has been noticed the practical difficulty to turn this engagement in concrete projects and policies. Unfortunately, we are still not up to a good outcome and it will be necessary to go on working. The City of Marseille will be for sure able to carry out this problem in an adequate way. The Mayor also reminded that the call for proposal MED PACT has been modified by the European Commission by including in the co-financing the costs for the personnel of European cities. Consequently, this allowed savings for around 1 million Euros of current expenses.

Nazih YAZBEK, Vice Mayor of Jdeidé and Vice Chair of the EUROCITIES Euromed Working Group for the Middle East, warmly welcomed all participants and thanked all the cities members of the Euromed Working Group for their deep engagement over the last years. Notwithstanding the dramatic situation of Lebanon, the City of Jdeidé worked on the presentation of cooperation projects within the MED PACT programme through training meetings and several initiatives have been started. The Vice Mayor of Mahdia and Vice Chair of the EUROCITIES Euromed Working Group for the Maghreb region, **Adnene HAMZA**, welcomed and thanked the participants for their presence in a big number of delegates. Then he wished a further development of the relations between the Northern and Southern sides of the Mediterranean aiming at getting more collaboration and the realization of concrete projects.

Rinaldo BONTEMPI, representative of the City of Torino, opened the work session dedicated to the Lebanese cities which are a big group within the EUROCITIES Euromed Working Group and which distinguish themselves for a remarkable brilliance of their projects. The events that recently passed in Lebanon originated a deep debate within the Euromed Group and, for this reason, it has been decided to propose a work session concerning the reconstruction of a Country destabilized by a recent conflict.

Abdel Kader ALAMEDDINE, Mayor of El Mina, heartily thanked the City of Torino as Chair of the Euromed Group for its interest in the situation in the Middle East and for the important activities carried out over the last two years. Unfortunately, it is known that in Lebanon the situation was very serious after the bombings and that the Country had to face big economic problems. At that time it was very

important to promote cooperation after the war in order to let the Lebanese cooperate with other European and extra-European cities in order to get growth and development.

Béchir ODEIMI, representative of UCLG (United Cities and Local Governments) in Lebanon, presented the activities carried out in the field of cooperation after the war against Israel: two European cities – which have been working with Lebanon for several years- started working on new projects under the aegis of the Association of United Cities. Special meetings have been promptly organized and the City of Lyon is coordinating a group of Lebanese cities in order to reconstruct the disaster areas. It is essential to cooperate with European cities which can provide not only with financial aids but their experience too. Furthermore, it is necessary the participation of a team of experts who give their support to the Lebanese Mayors concerned in the reconstruction. On 1st December 2006 The City of Barcelona and the City of Lyon were going to arrange a meeting at South suburbs of Beirut on December 1st 2006. A big work for general development is required and the World Bank announced that it will give 31 million Dollars for Lebanese cities.

Luciano GONNELLA, responsible of the Italian liaison programme among European regions carried out all over the world by UNDP(United Nations Development Programme), presented the programme named ARTT (Appoggio alle Reti Territoriali e Tematiche- Support to Territorial and Thematic Networks) which gives its support in facing common problems on two levels. At international level it is a tool which fosters a big alliance between local and international governments. In single specific local authorities we find the second level of activity and it aims at creating framework programmes of local development called ARTT Gold (governance and local development). These are interdisciplinary programmes which cover different fields of action, such as the reinforcement of local institutions, the local economic, social, educational and medical services development.

Guillaume ARNOULD, head of the project of reconstruction in Lebanon proposed by UCLG (United Cities and Local Governments) started speaking reminding the participants that the City of Lyon, as Chair of local UCLG, organized in September 2006 a meeting of the representatives of Lebanese cities and international investors. The Lebanese Prime Minister participated in the above meeting as well and express all the support of central Government. **ARNOULD** underlines that the technical secretariat of the project of reconstruction in Lyon and that its role is the coordination of all the networks of local authorities in order to organize direct interventions in Lebanon. Three Lebanese cities have been chosen for a first experimentation and they are some of the most damaged by the war: Tyr, Baalbeck and south suburbs of Beirut, while Barcelona, Marseille and Lyon are the lead cities of the project. **Mr. ARNOULD** underlined that it is necessary to look for other two European cities which will participate in the project.

Roger ASHI, Mayor of Mokhtara, presented the project ARAL as a new form of local governance and sustainable development in the Lebanese regions. The objective of this project is the promotion of new forms of local governance and the support of wider proximity between the local communities in order to support the development. The local institutions and the inhabitants are active actors and beneficiaries of the project in the same time. The project has been prolonged for other two years.

Marco BACCIN, representative of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, started speaking saying that the Vice Minister Mrs. Patrizia Sentinelli, unfortunately, was not able to attend the meeting and she wished the best success for the initiative. The intervention of **Mr. BACCIN** covered two important points: the present situation in Lebanon and the role that Italy played and can still play in the future months for the reconstruction of Lebanon. According to the first point, Italy was very active in Lebanon thanks to initiatives diplomatic which have been made concrete during the Conference of Rome in July 2006 in which the Secretary General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan and the State Secretary of U.S.A., Condoleezza Rice, participated. As regards to the second point, there is a strong political and financial engagement of Italy for the reconstruction of Lebanon with more than 30 million Euros available. This engagement has been confirmed during the Conference of Stockholm. The Italian Embassy in Beirut manages 15 million Euros which are assigned for emergency projects in order to carry out socio-economic projects. Other 15 million Euros are appropriated for a restoration programme.

Afterwards, the participants in the meeting watch the projection of a video concerning the development

of Lebanon as for economy, tourism, culture and social affairs.

At the end of the projection **Mrs. Simonetta PAGANINI** representative of ANCI (National Association of Italian Municipalities) underlined that ANCI participate in the ARTT Gold programme (described by M. **GONNELLA**) aiming at proposing a specific action as for governance and at putting ANCI as reference point for those Italian cities which will support it. This programme works at local level but, thanks to the link at national level, it can bring to specific routes for the Lebanese local authorities which integrate it in the general plan of development of their Country.

Mrs. Silvana SCARFATO, Province of Torino, told that the Province takes part as well in the project of reconstruction of Lebanon proposed by UCLG. Furthermore, the Province recently participated in a mission in Beirut together with the cities of Lyon, Marseille and Barcelona aiming at ascertain the extent of the damages provoked by the war.

Mr. Paolo MORELLO, Italian coordinator of CICU (Italian Committee of United Cities), began to speak saying that Italy is the first partner of Lebanon as for trade and economic exchanges. Notwithstanding this, the exchanges with the Middle East territories have not been developed in the same way. It is necessary to reinforce the cooperation as concerns governance. This kind of collaboration should base on the involvement of actors who work on public services, that is the societies proposing public services such water and waste management, local transport system and housing.

Mrs. Rosita DI PERI, representative of the University of Torino and of Paralleli (Mediterranean Institut of North-West) presented the strategies of Paralleli as concerns Lebanon, which has been chosen as "target country" on two levels: the first level is the one of conceiving the project of development and the second is the one of actions of awakening on the territory in order to let people know the Lebanese situation. Over the last year it is been working on a project of "memory" which aims at creating a database of evidences of people who have been damaged during the war and of a virtual museum.

Monica SCHINA, representative of Group SOGES, presented the activities carried out by the Group including interventions by international investors in Lebanese cities. SOGES is a society charged with the realization of development projects by means of international tenders for investors. There are two projects within the framework of the development of small and medium concerns. The first project, having a budget of 2 million Euros, aims at creating industrial clusters divided into a system of 4 fields of manufacturing industry in Lebanon, especially publishing, food, information technology and packages. The purpose is to create synergies among small and medium concerns of the main field of industry in order to let them use common resources and create strategic alliances with European concerns. 300 Lebanese concerns benefit by this project. The second project is the one which gives technical services to Lebanese laboratories for mass-production. The project is part of a programme concerning quality which has 15 million Euros available. The project realized by Group SOGES has 3 million Euros and its guidelines are the development of a quality system for laboratories.

Roberto MONTA', representative of CO.CO.PA (Coordination of Municipalities for Peace) told that the coordination has been created ten years before and it groups 36 local authorities of the Province of Torino. It promotes the ethos of peace and human rights by starting a series of projects. The operating modalities of CO.CO.PA envisage a strong involvement of local authorities.

Giorgio GARELLI, responsible of International Cooperation Office of the Piedmont Region, took the floor saying that during the last ten years the Piedmont Region has been developing several initiatives but there are other financial programmes which can still be started in the future aiming at assuring the best support possible for the countries of the Southern side of the Mediterranean.

Benedetto ZACCHIROLI, City of Bologna, presented the outcomes of the activities of the EUROCITIES Working Group on the European Neighbourhood Policies (ENP) chaired by the City of Warsaw. Within EUROCITIES Bologna is member of the Working Group ENP which has been created in 2004. The ENP WG asks for a joint meeting once a year with the Euromed Working Group in order to coordinate the activities which must be started together.

Eva SCHULTZ, responsible for cooperation and governance at EUROCITIES, starter speaking saying that from 2004 the European Union concentrated its activity on the relations with neighbouring countries, especially the one of Eastern Europe and South Mediterranean. In a political point of view, all partnerships existing in Eastern Europe and in the Mediterranean region, are part of the action of

EUROCITIES which give more concreteness to the collaboration between the European Union and the neighbouring countries. The main objective is to provide the concerned subjects with technical services for urban development aiming at favouring the relations and the achievement of benefits for the Countries where the programmes have been carried out. The role of citizens and of local authorities is essential. The political dialogue and the reform of the areas of interventions are priority, as well as sustainable development and regional cooperation. There are two kinds of programmes, a national one and one of international cooperation. The total financial funds are of 11 milliard Euros for 7 years. The 95% of the amount will be employed for national programmes (or multilateral) and the 5% will be used for programmes of transnational cooperation. From 2007 the ENP replace the MEDA programme and in part the TACIS programme.

Véronique MARCAULERY, City of Marseille, presented the project called PASSEM which has recently been financed within the MED PACT programme. It is a project of Euro-Mediterranean coastal protection and it groups five partners: Marseille as project-leader, Rabat as co-leader, Al Fahyaa in Lebanon, Alexandria in Egypt and Gdansk in Poland. The project will last 36 months starting from 15th January 2007 with a total budget of 1.420.000 Euros. The choice of partner cities has been made considering the relations already existing. The main objectives of the projects are: the reinforcement of the cooperation among partner cities, the promotion of local coastal development and the promotion of the use of municipal planning and management. The common subject is coastal engineering and the sustainable development applied at projects already existing.

Franco LA TORRE, representative of Risorse per Roma S.P.A., presented the project SHAMS of which Bruxelles Region Capitale is leader, whereas the City of Mahdia (Tunisia) takes in part in the project as co-leader. In Arabic language the word SHAMS means "sun". The aim of the project is to make use of the experiences realized through the previous pilot project MED ACT for urban sustainable development. The total budget is of around 900.000 Euros and the duration is of 3 years. There are 11 cities as associated partners. Within the framework of the project there are four principle activities, two of them are pilot projects. The first pilot project aiming at supporting the City of Bosra in Syria as regards to the working-out of a strategy of sustainable development through the improvement of the cultural and historical heritage. The second pilot project is aiming at planning a strategy for integrated and sustainable management of natural resources. The concerned cities are Mahdia and Sousse. Finally, a seminar will be organized.

Alberto ANTONIOTTO, representative of the University of Torino, expressed the willingness of the torinese University as concerns the collaboration with several Mediterranean cities in the field of training and of the exchange of research initiatives. In the last years a master in peacekeeping international management has been started. The master operates in the fields of emergencies, humanitarian help, help to refugees, protection of human rights and of human safety.

Raffaella SCALISI, Head of International Affairs of the City of Torino, presented the result of the two-years period of the City of Torino as Chair of the Euromed Working Group. The Euromed Group is very solid and got important outcomes both as concerns financial instruments and exchanges of experiences and best practices. **Raffaella SCALISI** thanked EUROCITIES for all the support given wishing that the work done will be improved in the next years. She thanked, as well, the cities of Mahdia and Jdeidé as Vice Chairs of Euromed, the cities of Rome, Barcelona and Fès as hosting cities of the previous meetings over the two-years period of the City of Torino as Chair of the Working Group. Special attention has been dedicated to the training programme promoted by the City of Torino which hosted in July 2006 a big delegation from Lebanon concerned in one week of technical visits and training sessions with technicians of the Municipality of Torino. Other similar initiatives have been carried out in Barcelona and Bordeaux. Furthermore, **Raffaella SCALISI** spoke about the meeting at the European Parliament in April 2005 thanks to the support of the EMP Pasqualina Napoletano. The purpose of the meeting was the presentation of document on revising the Barcelona Process. Then she mentioned the visibility given to the Euromed Working Group on the occasion of the event in Barcelona on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Partnership signed in the Spanish city on November 1995. Furthermore, she put into evidence that the call for proposal of the MED PACT programme stated that the costs of the personnel of European municipalities affected to the actions

were not eligible. This provoked many complaints of the cities interested in the presentation of project proposals within MED PACT. The Mayor of Torino sent a letter to the Commission and two delegates of the City of Torino underlined the question also during the meeting on MED PACT of last 21st April 2006 in Brussels. The Commission then wrote to the Chair of the EUROMED Working Group, Mayor of Torino, accepting the request, the call for proposal has been amended and a corrigendum has been published including the cost of the staff of the European cities within the eligible costs. This amendment is a remarkable outcome of the Euromed Working Group activities and it encourages cities to co-operate with Mediterranean countries. Finally, **Raffaella SCALISI** mentioned the Istituto Paralleli that the City of Torino supported over the two years after its creation. The Istituto Paralleli organized several initiatives at local, national and international level.

Then the elections of the new Chair of the EUROCIITIES Euromed Working Group took place. Since an only candidature has been presented (City of Marseille) **Rinaldo BONTEMPI** (who managed the session) asked the participants if they agreed with the designation of Marseille. All participants agreed with the proposal, so that Marseille became the new Chair of the Euromed Group. After that, the City of Fès (Morocco) has been elected as Vice Chair for the Maghreb whereas the City of Jdeidé (Lebanon) has been confirmed as Vice Chair for the Middle East.

Dominique VLASTO, Councillor of the City of Marseille and Member of the European Parliament, warmly thanked all participants and declared that Marseille will continue working following the guidelines of Bordeaux (first Chair of the Euromed Working Group) and Torino, outgoing Chair. Furthermore, she presented the work programme for the next two-years period and underlined that it will be necessary to increase the relations with the EU institutions for the creation of a specific financial tool dedicated to decentralized cooperation. Then, it will be important to open the partnership among the cities of EUROCIITIES and the Mediterranean Countries. Finally, the civil society and universities will be more involved.

Anna CASTELLANO, Deputy Mayor of the City of Genoa in charge of Culture and International Cooperation, **Benedeto ZACCHIROLI**, representative of the Cabinet of the Mayor of Bologna and **Franco LA TORRE**, representative of the City of Roma, expressed their appreciation for the work done during the Presidency of the City of Torino and they wished the new chair, the City of Marseille, will continue to strengthen the policy of the European enlargement. Furthermore, they expressed their willingness to collaborate with Marseille, Jdeidé and Fès.

Eva SCHULTZ declares that it is very important to reinforce the ties within the EUROCIITIES Euromed Working Group. The Executive Committee of EUROCIITIES meets three times a year and it receives a report of the critical states and of the good outcomes during the annual activity. It has been detected that an effective lobbying action has been carried out towards the commissioners of the European Commission. A target for the future will be a further cooperation with the Presidency of the European Union.

Rinaldo BONTEMPI closed the works of the day by thanking all participants in the meeting for their fruitful presence and informed the audience that, according to the agreement between the City of Marseille and the City of Jdeidé, the next meeting of the EUROCIITIES Euromed Working Group will be held in the Lebanese city at the beginning of summer 2007.