



# Le Ténor !



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## The Regions actors of development

### EDITORIAL - WE ARE NOT NGOS, WE ARE REGIONS !

*By Michel Vauzelle*

*President of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region*

*President of the Inter-Mediterranean Commission*

The first "International Conference for a Territorial Approach to Development" organised by the UNDP, the CPMR and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region, marks the beginning of the United Nations' recognition of the regional dimension. Up until that point, the United Nations likened us, regional governments, to NGOs. Regionalisation, even where it progresses with difficulty, constitutes a global development. It is time that the United Nations took measure of regionalisation, for it is not opposed to national governments which are a framework of social cohesion, solidarity and preservation of collective interest. It is not a source of State weakening, except if it is considered as likely to encourage the dismantling or disintegration of public authorities. On the contrary, it has to be a public tier of government enabling better coordination of public action.

It is significant that this recognition take place through the United Nations Development Programme which is equipped with a platform for innovative partnerships. The Regions are key players in development - through their proximity with the citizens, with civil society, with all the socio-economic partners and protagonists of their territories. It is from the territories that attempts must be made to meet the great challenges of globalisation - the world's open territories, energy liberators, and laboratories of better governance and delivery of a participatory democracy next to representative democracy.

The Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions - perhaps rightly, as it found its origin in this peripheral character which it forged and united, and since the sea, in a globalised area, represents exchange and opportunities - is the representative of the UNDP, by joining forces with the efforts of networks of regions from other continents. All credit is due to the successive Presidents of the CPMR and, most especially, to our current President, Claudio Martini, as well as to our Secretary General, Xavier Gizard. They both enabled the agreement to take place with the UNDP in June in the Azores.

The Convention which takes place on the 5, 6 and 7 March in Marseille is the next step along the path which we started along in the Azores. I am very proud to host this first Convention in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur. Tangible projects will be started in Marseille, particularly the ART GOLD projects combining the different levels, international, national, regional and local, as well as the civil society, to deliver together the Millennium Goals for development, the efforts to reduce poverty and inequalities, and for social justice.

Convention programme: <http://www.crpm.org/en/index.php?act=6,1,2,38>

## MARTINI: ENERGY IS A PRIMARY COMMODITY

*By Enrico Mayrhofer, Director for communications, CPMR*

On 10th January 2007, the European Commission presented the "Energy Packet", a series of measures aimed at reducing carbon emissions, at encouraging energy saving and renewable energies and at taking note of the current climate change.

Claudio Martini, President of the Tuscan regional government and the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) is satisfied with the European proposal to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 20% by 2020, as well as with its request to member States to produce at least 20% of energy from renewable sources, but hopes that the Regions will be more involved in any future deliberations regarding energy. I don't want it to end up as it has with Lisbon, confirmed Martini a proper policy is important for Europe, but one that doesn't take deep root in the territories. We too often forget how the Regions, due to their closeness to the inhabitants, can help raise public awareness, encourage, or in certain cases, impose energy saving, and actively support the development of renewable energies within their territories.

However, whilst Commissioner Piebalgs was presenting these new strategic documents focused on energy, the Regions, represented by Claudio Martini (CPRM) and Riccardo Illy (AER) were discussing the same issue, with American economist Jeremy Rifkin, author of the book "The European Dream". Philippe Busquin (PSE-BE), former European Commissioner for research, Vittorio Prodi (ELDR-IT), Claude Turmes (VERDI-FR) and Jo Leinen (PSE-DE) also attended the workshop that took place in the European Parliament on 10th January. The main topic was hydrogen. Rifkin sees in this source of energy, a solution to tackle the current climate change, and the increasingly short supplies of carbon and oil. Renewable energy, the American writer declared, exists everywhere on Earth. If we club together and accumulate this renewable energy in the form of hydrogen and distribute it on a large scale by means of a network, we can achieve in the field of energy what we achieved - thanks to the internet - with information and communication! According to Rifkin, Europe, which was founded on common energy policies, could act as leader in this "new industrial revolution" and could even use clean energy to create new jobs so that the Lisbon goals are finally reached.

On this occasion, Martini also mentioned the CPRM's long-standing commitment within the sphere of energy and sustainable development. At the World Summit on Sustainable Development 2002 in Johannesburg, the CPRM contributed to setting up NRG4SD (Network for Regional Governments for Sustainable Development). A network of world regions, which represents regional governments at a global level, promotes sustainable development and fosters partnerships between all the regions of the globe. With NRG4SD we are concerned with matters that for us are indispensable and which are related to the discussion we had with Rifkin. Energy saving and efficiency above all else: saving because our citizens need to realise that energy is a precious commodity, efficiency because we, as leaders, must guarantee clean and safe sources, yet with a good rate of return. Then there is renewable energy, which for us is a true example to follow: the Navarra model speaks for itself; 70% of all energy produced in Navarra comes from windmills, solar panels, biomass and other "clean" sources. And last but not least, the price of energy for the consumer: we are talking about a commodity that today has become primary, the consumer should be able to acquire energy and consequently its cost should be reasonable.

## BRITTANY WORKS ON THE SOCIAL DIMENSION OF A EU MARITIME POLICY

In order to continue to feed into the contribution to the European Green Book on a future maritime policy for the EU, the Regional Council of Brittany will organise, on Friday 9 March 2007, a European seminar on the social aspects of a maritime policy. The objective of this event is to enable a great number of European stakeholders meet (members of European Parliament, unions and other professional organisations, European commission, national and local authorities, research centres) to discuss the main issues raised by the social aspects of maritime policies: education, working conditions, labour regulations.... You will find herewith enclosed a draft programme. From now on, please do not hesitate, to transmit this email and information and to pre-register with the attached form.

Seminar programme available at:

[http://www.crpm.org/pub/agenda2/6\\_preprog3\\_anglais\\_modif\\_en.pdf](http://www.crpm.org/pub/agenda2/6_preprog3_anglais_modif_en.pdf)