



Forum of Local and Regional Authorities of the Mediterranean Marseille (France) – 3 & 4 April 2013

Dear President,
Dear Mayor,
Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

The Mediterranean Commission of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) is organising, together with Mediterranean elected officials and with the support of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the **3rd Forum of Local and Regional Authorities of the Mediterranean on 3 & 4 April 2013** in Marseille.

After the two previous forums of 2008 and 2010, we invite you to save the dates for this major event. For the first time since the January 2011 developments that have deeply affected the region, elected officials and the principal networks of local and regional authorities will come together.

Today, more than ever before, local and regional authorities are at the heart of development issues in the Mediterranean region, and they are being solicited by the population for concrete answers with regard to the delivery of quality public services, policies promoting new employment opportunities and, in a larger scope, the reduction of poverty.

Securing the powers that will enable them to implement participatory governance—deepening this process is among civil society’s demands—and to meet expectations in terms of local development and management is a matter of concern for local authorities.

Negotiations are under way on key development goals for the coming decades. It is a timely moment for local governments to make their voice heard in international organisations and institutions.

This new Forum will be an exceptional occasion for exchanges and debates on new challenges and ongoing changes and an opportunity to speak up through a unified political voice in favour of democratic governance in the Mediterranean.

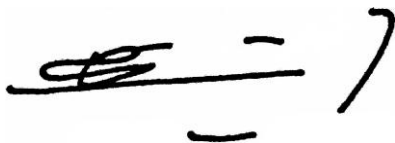
The Forum will be a special moment to formulate proposals aiming to strengthen local democracy, support decentralisation, organise local basic services and promote the implementation of decentralised policies for sustainable development that take into consideration local specificities and highlight the youth as a priority. Finally, this third

Forum will also allow reviewing the contribution of international fund donors to the region's development and cohesion.

For the first time, the Forum of the Anna Lindh Foundation from 4-7 April 2013 in Marseille, offers the occasion to invite the youth and Mediterranean civil society—initiators of ongoing changes in the Mediterranean—to exchange their views and proposals on these relevant issues with the local and regional elected officials gathered in the third Forum of Local and Regional Authorities of the Mediterranean.

You will be receiving information about the 3rd Forum of Local and Regional Authorities of the Mediterranean on the next few days. We are counting on your participation that will contribute to ensure the event will measure up to the challenges at stake.

Yours sincerely,



Jean-Claude GAUDIN
Mayor of Marseille



Michel VAUZELLE
President of the
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region



United Cities and Local Governments
Cités et Gouvernements Locaux Unis
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