



**3rd Forum of Local and Regional Authorities:
Marseille, 3-4 April 2013
Elected Officials commit to
Democratic governance in the Mediterranean.**

Organized by

The Mediterranean Interregional Committee of UCLG

The City of Marseille and

The Region Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur



With the support of:



Report prepared by Dominique Gatto Koç, UCLG-MEWA, Project Officer

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“Building a Mediterranean region that is closer to its citizens. Setting up local governments that are capable of meeting the expectations of their people”

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3rd Forum of Local and Regional Authorities:

Marseille, 3-4 April 2013

Elected officials commit to democratic governance In the Mediterranean.

Organized by

The **Mediterranean Interregional Committee of UCLG**

With the **City of Marseille** and

The **Region Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur**

Introduction

The Mediterranean Committee of UCLG, the City of Marseille, the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region and all member networks of the Mediterranean Committee organised, 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.**

Mr. Michel Vauzelle, President of the Region Provence - Alpes - Côte d'Azur and **Mr. Jean-Claude Gaudin**, Mayor of Marseille, hosted at the Mediterranean Villa, nearly 400 elected officials and technicians from 24 countries of the Mediterranean. After two days of intense discussions and constructive, the meeting helped **formalize the political declaration of Local and Regional Authorities of the Mediterranean.**

The delegation from turkey consisted of **Mr. Mehmet Duman**, Secretary General of UCLG-MEWA; **Mr. Lütfü Savaş**, Mayor of Antakya; **Mr. Hasan Ünver**, Mayor of Nevşehir; **Mr. Tansel Kaya**, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Councilor; and **Mr. Hayrettin Güngör**, Secretary general of Union of Municipalities of Turkey.

Following the radical changes that have taken place in the region, this Assembly of Mediterranean elected officials has allowed exchanges on political, economic and

social challenges, and a fruitful contribution to development and peace efforts in the Mediterranean.

The Forum's program and workshops has allowed to formulate proposals aimed at strengthening local democracy and supporting the decentralization process, and implementing decentralized development policies that take into account local specificities and address economic, environmental and social issues, placing the youth in the foreground.

The Forum of Local and Regional Authorities of the Mediterranean also allowed **the constitution of Political Council of the Mediterranean Committee.**

First day: Wednesday 3 April 2013

I- **Constitution Meeting of the political Council of the Mediterranean Committee of United Cities and Local Governments.**

Mr.Michel Vauzelle, Co-president of the Mediterranean Committee of UCLG, President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region and **Mr.Jean-Claude Gaudin**, Co-president of the Mediterranean Committee of UCLG, Mayor of Marseille, they presented **the objectives of Political Council.**

"The Political Council of the Mediterranean Committee of UCLG is essential to keep an open and permanent dialogue between the cities and regions of the Mediterranean basin and to deal with challenges" he stressed **Mohamed Boudra**, President of the Regional Council Taza - Al Hoceima - Taounate (Morocco) and **newly elected President of the Political Council of the Mediterranean Committee of UCLG.**

Elected representatives present at the meeting (**Mr.Michel Vauzelle**, Co-president of the Mediterranean Committee of UCLG, President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region; **Mr.Jean-Claude Gaudin**, Co-president of the Mediterranean Committee of UCLG, Mayor of Marseille; **Mr.Jacques Rocca Serra**, Deputy Mayor of Marseille, Co president of the Mediterranean Committee of UCLG; **Mr.Mohamed Boudra**, President of the Regional Council Taza - Al Hoceima - Taounate (Morocco); **Mr.Francisco De La Torre Prados**, Mayor of Malaga- Spain; **Mr.Konstantinos Askounis**, President of Kede, Mayor of Kallithea-Greece; **Mr.Apostolos Papafotiou**, Vice president of the Peloponese Region-Greece; **Mr.Lütfü Savaş**,

Mayor of Antakya-Turkey; Mr Meher Bouazzi, Mayor of Kasserine-Tunisia; **Mr.Peter Bossman**, Mayor of Piran-Slovenia; **Mr.Ghassan Shakaa**, Mayor of Nablus-Palestine; **Mrs.Fatimetou Mint Abdel Malik**, Mayor of Teveragh Zeina-Mauritania; **Mr.Saad Elsaaiti**, Vice president of the Local Council of Benghazi-Libya; **Mrs Boushra Itani**, Deputy Mayor of Beyrouth for the Culture; **Mr.Massimo Toschi**, Deputy in charge of cooperation and international relations of Tuscany; **Mr.André Viola**, President of the Arc.Latin, President of the General Council of Aude-France; **Mrs.Joana Ortega I Alemany**, CRPM, Vice president of the Catalonia Region; **Mr.Raimond Blasi**, UCLG, City Councilor of Barcelona; **Mr.Nader Ghazal**, MedCités, Mayor of Tripoli- Lebanon and **Mr. Anton Pershak**, 1st Vice president de NALAS, Mayor of Trzin), they elected also **three vice presidents of the Political Council:**

- **Mr.Lütfü Savaş**, Mayor of Antakya-Turkey.
- **Mr.Nader Ghazal**, Mayor of Tripoli-Lebanon
- **Mr.Ghassan Shakaa**, Mayor of Nablus-Palestine

The territorial and economic inequalities mainly affect young people and a centralized democracy is harmful to the economic development of cities and regions, indicated **Mr.Boudra**, President of the Regional Council Taza - Al Hoceima - Taounate (Morocco).

Mr.Nader Ghazal, Mayor of Tripoli-Lebanon, stressed the impact of the Arab Spring which has had effects more or less positive according the country where it was a little early.

The Mediterranean Basin has undergone many changes. With the Arab Spring, internal conflicts in these countries have had an impact on the world, emphasized **Mr. Lütfü Savaş**, Mayor of Antakya-Turkey. This forum is an opportunity to strengthen local authorities in Mediterranean Basin. Following the crisis in Syria, Turkey has hosted nearly 800,000 Syrian refugees on the border with the help of the central government and local authorities.

Mr. Ghassan Shakaa, Mayor of Nablus-Palestine, pointed out the political role of local councils that should protect the political, economic and social interests of citizens. So these councils should be able to follow closely the interests of citizens. Palestine has suffered a great deal for many years hence the importance of a political decision against conflicts is needed. Mayors and Regional Councils have a role to reconcile Israelis and Palestinians people. We must work together to fight against the violence and support local authorities to restore dialogue between Israeli and Palestinian authorities.

Mr. Meher Bouazzi, Mayor of Kasserine-Tunisia, reminded the need of political and economic unification in Mediterranean Basin. Indeed, the north and south shores are shared, the Mediterranean is no longer united. How can we unite the countries of Mediterranean basin? We must work together for the unity of the Mediterranean, for example about the Palestinian cause; we also need to unify the political positions and fall all barriers against democracy. After the Arab Spring and the fall of dictators, political and economic unification is necessary.

Mr Francisco De La Torre Prados, Mayor of Malaga-Spain, highlighted the importance of this meeting for the Mediterranean and the Regional decentralization. We work with Morocco and Tripoli on Regional decentralization, he indicated. We need more budgets for the development of local government and transparency in order to better respond to citizens on local management and financing.

Libya represents the longest beach on the Mediterranean sea, following the Arab Spring, we need time to build the Democracy. There are still big problem of security highlighted **Mr.Saad Elsaaiti**, Vice president of the Local Council of Benghazi-Libya. We hope in the cooperation with the countries of the western to help us decrease the insecurity and illegal immigration.

The crisis of the Mediterranean is a global crisis. A better cooperation between us is necessary, she added **Mrs.Joana Ortega I Alemany**, CRPM, Vice president of the Catalonia Region.

Mrs. Fatimetou Mint Abdel Malik, Mayor of Teveragh Zeina-Mauritania, she raised the problem of parity between men and women and she emphasized the role of women in the Mediterranean community.

The Mediterranean Basin is the cradle of civilization. What are the characteristics of these countries in relation to the culture. This is an important issue for retaining the main objectives of our approach; he highlighted **Mr. Apostolos Papafotiou**, Vice-president of the Peloponese Region-Greece. Regarding the objective of peace, we must first fight poverty. We need good governance in every state with transparent financial and economic systems. The government must be as close as possible to the people.

Crossroads of civilization in the Mediterranean, Lebanon is in a difficult situation due to the effects of the Syrian crisis. Fear of an extension of the Syrian crisis in Lebanon, she emphasized **Mrs. Boushra Itani**, Deputy Mayor of Beirut for the Culture. The refugees are numerous; there are approximately 1 million refugees. International aids are minimal and there are security problems. We hope that the Mediterranean Political Council will call all countries to assist Lebanon in the reception of Syrians refugees (they represent now nearly one third of the population).

Mr. Michel Vauzelle, President of the Region Provence - Alpes - Côte d'Azur also he recognized the support necessary to provide in Lebanon for refugees.

Mrs. Boushra Itani, Deputy Mayor of Beirut for the Culture, She also stressed the political situation in Lebanon which is fragile at the moment following the resignation of the government. The next elections should be held on 9 June 2013. However, they could be postponed and then it would be a danger for the democracy in Lebanon. She stressed that it was pity because Lebanon was the only democratic country in the region. Also she calls on the Political Council to assist the respect of the date for next elections.

The Mediterranean basin can become the richest area in the world its potential is great. However today the region is very weak because of many conflicts due to the Arab Spring and the Syrian crisis. The European crisis also has consequences on the countries of southern of the Mediterranean, stressed **Mr. Peter Bossman**, Mayor of Piran-Slovenia. We must act together that is the Mediterranean basin countries and exterior countries.

Mr. André Viola, President of the Arc Latin, President of the General Council of Aude-France, he presented the Arc Latin and its key actions for the Mediterranean. The Arc Latin is an organization of political and technical cooperation between intermediate local governments corresponding currently to three EU countries: Spain, France and Italy. This organization has three principles axes:

- Defend local authorities at the level of Europe.
- Undertake actions with the European Union to turn towards the Mediterranean.
- Strengthening actions for decentralized cooperation.

The creation of the Political Council is important for the strengthening of local authorities and cooperation between us, a proximity policy is needed between all stakeholders in the country, emphasized again **Mr. Raimond Blasi**, UCLG, City Councilor of Barcelona.

II- Plenary session and official opening of the Forum of Local and Regional Authorities of the Mediterranean.

“The 3rd Forum of Local and Regional Authorities of the Mediterranean needs to be the opportunity to identify priorities, to formulate joint proposals and to furthers foster Mediterranean cooperation, peace and solidarity. We need to create inclusive decision making processes to respond to the demands of our citizens” emphasized **Mr. Kadir. Topbas**, President of UCLG and Mayor of Istanbul, in its message delivered in the official opening by **Mr. Mehmet Duman**, Secretary General of UCLG-MEWA.

Mr. Kadir Topbas, President of UCLG and Mayor of Istanbul added also that “there is a consensus among us that we can solve the problems through cooperation. We often need to take responsibilities without the necessary resources or capacities. Adequate competences and resources for local authorities are crucial to the future of humanity but are of particular importance to the Mediterranean”.

Mr. Mehmet Duman, Secretary General of UCLG-MEWA stressed the conflictual situation in the Middle East and the seriousness of the Syrian crisis. He added also that “a mission, under the umbrella of the UCLG Working Group for the Middle East, visited cities hosting Syrian refugees in three Mediterranean countries, namely Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon, all located in the UCLG Middle East and West Asia (UCLG-MEWA) section. During the mission all participants could observe the emergency to act in all fields.”

A report of the mission will be presented during UCLG Executive Bureau in Lyon and will lead a call for action during UCLG Congress in Rabat. Mr. Topbaş has been strongly supporting this mission since the very beginning of the project.

Mr. Michel Vauzelle, Co-president of the Mediterranean Committee of UCLG, President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur Region; **Mr. Jean-Claude Gaudin**, Co-president of the Mediterranean Committee of UCLG, Mayor of Marseille; **Mr Jacques Rocca Serra**, Deputy Mayor of Marseille, Co president of the Mediterranean Committee of UCLG; and **Mr. Mohamed Boudra**, President of the Regional Council Taza - Al Hoceima - Taounate (Morocco) and **newly elected President of the Political Council of the Mediterranean Committee of UCLG**, emphasized the new dynamic of the UMP. The objectives should be based on ground realities. The Mediterranean needs to implement real projects.

1- **Presentation of the report: “Democratic governance in the Mediterranean” by Jean-Claude Tourret, Chief representative of the Institut de la Méditerranée.**

The 3rd Forum of Local Authorities and Regions of the Mediterranean takes place in a Mediterranean region under transition. Since the Arab Spring the Mediterranean has experienced profound changes and all these mutations have implications on the modalities of cooperation.

Mr. Jean-Claude Tourret, chief representative of the Institut de la Méditerranée presented the report.

He presented initially mutations in the Mediterranean world.

Concerning the cooperation in Mediterranean, he referred to new players in cooperation such as Turkey, Gulf States, and the BRICs (Brazil,Russia,India, China).

On the framework for dialogue and consultation at local authority, he stressed the consultations with ARLEM (Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly). One of the major changes in Mediterranean cooperation over the last few years has been the creation of ARLEM in December 2009 in Brussels

The decentralized cooperation reacted to recent events despite its difficulties and demonstrated an ability to adapt.

Mr. Jean-Claude Turret specified that “the democratic governance is gradually becoming the new paradigm of development”. This is why democratic governance is described as “a concept based on the alignment of cooperation projects with national strategies and on the ownership of such strategies by local actors”.

2- **Round table of Mediterranean elected officials** moderated by Mr. Yves Blisson, journalist:
“Elected representatives coping with economic and social crisis in the Mediterranean”.

Mr. Yves Blisson, journalist gave voice to local elected officials present regarding economic and social crisis in the Mediterranean”.

Mr. Konstantinos Askounis, President of Central Union of Municipalities and Communities of Greece, Mayor of Kallithea, Greece, pointed out that Greece is going through a period of recession for the 5 th time with an unemployment rate of 27%. In discussions since March, Greece and the "troika" - European Commission, European Central Bank (ECB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) - have signed an agreement with the authorities on the economic and budgetary measures needed. Greece provides a lot of effort for example it reduced the number of Municipalities from 2034 to 325.

Mr. Abdelkebir Berkia, President of Rabat Salé Zemmour Zaer Region, Morocco, referred to the evolution of democracy in Morocco.

He noted that the Moroccan Monarchy is close to the people. Morocco has remained outside the Arab spring. There is indeed a degree of stability and peace in the country. It has also started a process of regionalization regarding work on decentralization. Mr. Berkia stated that Morocco is among the avant-garde in relation to other countries.

Following the revolution in Libya, many projects expect companies, highlighted **Mr. Saad Elsaaiti**, Vice president the local Council of Benghazi, Libya.

The initiative for start-ups is positive for the economy. The Spain must also make efforts to overcome the crisis, indicated **Mr Francisco de la Torre Prados**, Mayor of Malaga, Spain. A competitive economy is needed. In Spain, the decentralization process is incomplete.

Mr. Mohamad Issa, Mayor of El Mina, Lebanon, he pointed out the large number of Libyan refugees in northern Lebanon. The Syrian crisis has an important impact on the economy of Lebanon. Many Lebanese are unemployed. On decentralization, a project was established with France but is waiting at the moment.

Mr Mabrouk Kessentini, President of the Special Delegation, Municipality of Sfax, Tunisia, pointed out that the revolution has been beneficial concerning the rights. Organizational models were reviewed, the transition has been successful. After the revolution the successor governments have experienced difficulties. The main difficulty is the complexity of administrative procedures.

Mauritania is a vast country that knows drought. However, this country has an economic potential but the process of decentralization is incomplete. The municipalities must plan projects, stated **Mrs. Fatimetou Mint Abdel Malik, Mayor of Tevragh Zeina Mauritania**.

Mr. Lütfü Savaş, Mayor of Antakya, Turkey, emphasized the importance of collaboration between local authorities. We must fight together with neighboring countries against the crisis. Since the establishment of the Republic, Turkey has seen transformations. It works for democratization by providing more security and balance in the country.

The Oslo Accords (1993-1994) provided for the creation of a Palestinian Interim Self-Government, the Palestinian National Authority, have not allowed to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We must give priority to youth, democracy and decentralization. Democracy is a culture and we try to work in this direction, stated **Mr. Ghassan Shakaa, Mayor of Nablus, Palestine**. We make great efforts for democracy, for gender equality. Our municipal councils are public and we meet once a month to plan the work in matters of decentralization.

Mr André Viola, President of the General Council of Aude, France, also stressed the importance of Participatory democracy. The Territorial Authorities able to involve more people. Locally there is a greater efficiency of public policies.

III- Workshops

1- Decentralization and Local public services

President of the session: Mrs. Mercé Rius, Deputy, Member of the Provincial Council of Barcelona, Spain.

Participants in this workshop addressed the issue of local government and service provision in the Mediterranean.

We know that local governments have direct responsibilities or shared responsibilities depending on the country in terms of distribution of potable water and sanitation, collection and treatment of waste, public transport, for example. The provision of essential services contributes to the quality of life for residents.

The workshop focused on the importance of the role of local governments, but also on strengthening multilevel governance and multi-actor structures.

Presentation of Tansel Kaya, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Councilor: “Decentralization in Turkey”

Mr. Tansel Kaya, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Councillor, presented the evolution of decentralization in Turkey since the establishment of the republic.

The first local governments date from 1868. Then with the advent of the Republic in 1923, there have been reforms at local level. In Turkey, we respect a strong state while having economic power. The process of decentralization was going slowly until 2005 when reforms started. Before 2005 there were conflicts regarding the provision of services and financing.

Nowadays Metropolitan areas work together a little like regions. From 2004, many reforms have followed.

The Law on Public Administration of 2004 gave a clue that a very radical reform of the whole local government system of Turkey was on the way. This law was vetoed by the President of the Republic.

The new laws of 2005 take part in a more gradual approach of the administrative reform.

The evolution of the Turkish local government system since the eighties improved the state of local autonomy by delegating more competencies and resources despite not reaching an actual form of local democracy. After dozens of draft bills, lengthy debates in specific commissions and parliamentary sessions, and with the Constitutional Court's and President's opposition; the AK Party (Justice and Development Party) government reformed the Turkish local government system in the 2000s.

The recent legislation reflects the will to strengthen the role of elected body. Central government's tutelage over local governments gradually substituted.

Moreover, the new law emphasizes also the importance of civic participation by introducing new mechanisms and practices (city councils, strategic plans, growing influence of the muhtar and explicit emphasize of the participation of experts to the specific municipal commissions).

2- Good governance: What role for cities in the integration of young people into the labor market in the Mediterranean?

President of the session: Mr. Mohamed Idaomar, Mayor of Tetouan, Marocco.

The session has aimed to present best practice on young people employability in the Mediterranean carried out by local authorities, national ministries or international agencies at a city level. From concrete and successful initiatives, a debate was be launched on what can be the role of local authorities in promoting youth access into the labor market. Unemployment is one of the main challenges Mediterranean cities are facing and cities, as the administrative level closer to citizens, can develop innovative initiatives to answer this need.

A debate was be structured around the following point:

- What can cities do to tackle the challenge of youth employability?
- To what extent the implication of cities on this domain is an example of the emergence of new governance practices in the region?
- What forms of cooperation between cities can be developed in order to enhance their initiatives of youth employability?
- How cities can establish synergies with national and/or international institutions?

Presentation of Tansel Kaya, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Councilor:

Discover your inner talent at Ismek. (Vocational training center ISMEK- Istanbul)

Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality attributes great importance to social municipal services. Vocational Education is one of the priority services offered by Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, stressed Mr Tansel Kaya.

Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality conducts educational activities for adults through ISMEK.

The Professional training center ISMEK was established in 1996. Educations are free of charge, and funded by Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality.

ISMEK currently serves with 228 course centers in 39 districts of Istanbul and offers education in 218 branches under 29 main fields, such as journalism, child development and education, Office management and secretaryship, arts and design...etc.

During 2011-2012, besides the ISMEK 15th General Exhibition, 2 Fairs abroad, 6 National Fairs, 11 events, 32 Exhibitions were organized.

İSMEK has various trainings too for the disadvantaged groups of the society.

ISMEK has international partners, collaborates with some countries such as: Syria, Iran, Yemen, Morocco, Kuwait, Indonesia, Libya, Pakistan, Senegal, Egypt, Azerbaijan, Saudi Arabia, Cameroon, Sudan .

The 3rd Workshop on Millennium Development Goals, focused on sustainable development objectives and aid effectiveness in the Mediterranean (President: Mrs. Joana Ortega I Alemany, Vice-president of the Generalitat of Catalonia, Spain) and the 4th Workshop addressed the role of local and regional authorities beyond crisis situations (President: Mr.Nader Ghazal, President of the Urban Community of Al Fayhaa, Lebanon).

In conclusion all participants of the workshops highlighted the priority should be given to young people on the labor market, and the necessity to better supervise employment policies.

On Post 2015 agenda, the voice of local and regional authorities must be heard. The complexity of the ongoing crisis in the Middle East and the problem of Syrians refugees remains. We are seeing an "humanitarian" crisis. The international community but also local authorities closer to the citizens should be involved.

Second day: Thursday 4th April 2013

I- Democratic governance in the Mediterranean:

Round table of Mediterranean elected officials

moderated by **Mr. Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi**, Secretary General of UCLG Africa.

“Building a Mediterranean region that is closer to its citizens. Setting up local governments that are capable of meeting the expectations of their people”.

Mr. Peter Bosmann, Mayor of Piran, Slovenian, highlighted the necessity of intervention most important by local authorities regarding the instabilities. Each country has its own definition of democracy. The Arab Spring can not spontaneously provide democracy in each country.

Mr. Hasan Ünver, Mayor of Nevsehir, Turkey, noted that the States must further strengthen the power of local authorities. Women also have a very important role in the society. The government encourages the enrollment of girls in rural areas. He emphasized the importance of communication between local authorities, and pointed out that they must work together to be stronger and take advantage of communication networks placed at their disposal.

Mr. Michel Vauzelle, President of the Provence - Alpes - Côte d'Azur Region, France, stressed as elected official local and member of parliament, the importance of cumulative mandate that brings the region closer to the central government.

Participatory democracy allows local officials to discuss programs with citizens before the elections and discuss the results achieved or not after the election. Elected officials must be able to justify themselves from the population.

He also stressed the importance of the role of women and youth in society. In the Regional Council the equality between men and women is respected, there are so many women that men.

Between the North and South of the Mediterranean, we need a report of exchanges and not a report of superiority He noted that the North does not have to give a lesson to the South. Local governance must allow correct regional disparities between the seaside and rural areas.

Finally, he put the emphasis on women and young people in terms of housing and unemployment.

Afterwards, a debate followed between elected representatives and youth of the Mediterranean from the “youth and change” workshop.

II- The final declaration of the 3rd Forum of Local and Regional Authorities of the Mediterranean is read, adopted, and presented.

The local and regional elected representatives gathered at the Forum of Local and Regional Authorities of the Mediterranean have adopted a common political declaration.

They expressed their strong concern about the conflicts that remain in the region and also reiterated their commitment to build alongside governments and civil society, with international institutions and donors, a Mediterranean area based on a renewed governance.

The participants wish that the review of the Millennium Development Goals and the development of a new Global Development Agenda post-2015, together with a set of Sustainable Development Goals -become the occasion to establish a specific framework for the Mediterranean with means that will match the social, economic and environmental issues at stake.

To this end, they call for stronger convergence in the policies implemented by the principal fund donors in the Mediterranean.

The elected officials gathered in Marseille decided **to meet again in Rabat at UCLG’s World Congress** that will draw particular attention to the dynamics of change in the Mediterranean and to its implications in terms of governance, thus echoing the work carried out during the Forum. They will also hold there the second meeting of the Political Council of the Mediterranean Committee of UCLG.



MARSEILLE, 3-4 AVRIL 2013

PROGRAMME



With the support of:



Wednesday 3 April 2013

9:00 MEETING OF THE POLITICAL COUNCIL OF THE MEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION OF UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNEMENTS *(Only for members of the Political Council)*

10:45 Press Conference

11:00 Welcome of the participants – Registration

11:30 PLENARY SESSION AND OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE FORUM OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

Introduction of Mr. **Kadir TOPBAS** message, President of United Cities and Local Governments, Mayor of Istanbul, by Mr. **Mehmet DUMAN**, Secretary General of UCLG MEWA.

Speeches by:

Mr. Michel VAUZELLE, President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region, Co-president of the Mediterranean Commission of UCLG.

Mr. Jean-Claude GAUDIN, Mayor of Marseille, Co-president of the Mediterranean Commission of UCLG.

The President of the Political Council of the Mediterranean Commission of UCLG

Mr. Patrice BERGAMINI, Head of Division regional policies for the Southern Mediterranean, European External Action Service

12:30 Cocktail lunch at the Villa Méditerranée.

1:45 ELECTED OFFICIALS DISCUSS THE REPORT “DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN”

Presentation of the report by **Jean-Claude TOURET**, Chief representative of the Institut de la Méditerranée

“Elected representatives coping with economic and social crisis in the Mediterranean”

Round table of elected officials moderated by Mr. **Yves BLISSON**, journalist.

Mr. Konstantinos ASKOUNIS, President of Central Union of Municipalities and Communities of Greece, Mayor of Kallithea, Greece.

Mr. Abdelkebir BERKIA, President of Rabat Salé Zemmour Zaer Region, Morocco

Mr. Saad ELSAAITI, Vice-president the Local Council of Benghazi, Libya

Mr. Francisco DE LA TORRE PRADOS, Mayor of Malaga, Spain

Mr. Mohamad ISSA, Mayor of El Mina, Lebanon

Mr. Mabrouk KESSENTINI, President of the Special Delegation, Municipality of Sfax, Tunisia

Mrs. Fatimetou MINT ABDEL MALIK, Mayor of Tévragh Zeina, Mauritania

Mr. Lütfü SAVAS, Mayor of Antakya, Turkey

Mr. Ghassan SHAKAA, Mayor of Nablus, Palestine

Mr. André VIOLA, President of the General Council of Aude, France

4:00 Coffee break

4:30 WORKSHOPS

Workshop 1: Decentralisation and local public services

President: Mrs. Mercè RIUS, Deputy, Member of the Provincial Council of Barcelona, Spain

Workshop 2: The role of cities in the integration of young people into the Mediterranean labour market

President: Mr. Mohamed IDAOMAR, Mayor of Tetouan, Morocco
Commission Méditerranée de Cités et Gouvernements Locaux Unis

Workshop 3: Millennium Development Goals, sustainable development objectives and aid effectiveness in the Mediterranean

President: Mrs. Joana ORTEGA I ALEMANY, Vice-president of the Generalitat of Catalonia, Spain

Workshop 4: Role of local and regional authorities beyond crisis situations

President: Mr. Nader GHAZAL, President of the Urban Community of Al Fayhaa, Lebanon.

8:00 Official dinner at the Palais du Pharo (*invited only*)

Transfer by bus from La Villa Méditerranée to the Palais du Pharo from 7 :15

Thursday 4th April 2013

8:30 Welcome of the participant

8:45 DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Speeches by elected officials, Presidents of Wednesday's workshops.

“Building a Mediterranean region that is closer to its citizens. Setting up local governments that are capable of meeting the expectations of their people”

Round table of Mediterranean elected officials moderated by Mr. **Jean-Pierre ELONG MBASSI**, Secretary General of UCLG Africa.

Mr. Peter BOSSMAN, Mayor of Piran, Slovenia

Mrs. Fatna ELK'HIEL, Presidente of the Rurale Municipality of Arbaoua, Morocco
Mr. Nader GHAZAL, President of the Urban Community of Al Fayhaa, Lebanon.
Mr. Mohamed IDAOMAR, Mayor of Tetouan, Morocco
Mr. Marco d'ACRI, Provincial Councillor, Province of Turino, Italy
Mr. Hasan UNVER, Mayor of Nevsehir, Turkey
Mr. Michel VAUZELLE, President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region, France

10:30 DEBATE BETWEEN ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES AND YOUTH OF THE MEDITERRANEAN FROM THE « YOUTH AND CHANGE » WORKSHOP

Debate animated by **Mr. Gérard Tur**, journalist

11:45 THE FINAL DECLARATION OF THE 3RD FORUM OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN IS READ, ADOPTED AND PRESENTED

Mr. Jean-Claude GAUDIN, Mayor of Marseille, Co-president of the Mediterranean Commission of UCLG

Mrs. Mercedes BRESSO, Vice-president of the ARLEM

Mr. Hugues MINGARELLI, Managing Director for North Africa, Middle East, Arabian Peninsula, Iran and Iraq, European External Action Service, European Commission

Mr. André AZOULAY, President of the Anna Lindh Foundation for the dialogue between cultures

Mr. Philippe DE FONTAINE VIVE, Vice-president of the European Investment Bank

Mr. Fathallah SIJILMASSI, Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean

Mr. Michel VAUZELLE, President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region, Co-president of the Mediterranean Commission of UCLG

1:00 Press briefing

1:30 Closing cocktail lunch at the Villa Méditerranée

The Forum of Local and Regional Authorities of the Mediterranean is organized by the Mediterranean Commission of United Cities and Local Governments in partnership with the City of Marseille and the Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur Region.

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In collaboration with:

Arc Latin, the French section of the Council for European Municipalities and Region (AFCCRE), [The Technical Office for Lebanese City \(BTVL\)/Bureau of UCLG in Lebanon](#), the Inter-Mediterranean Commission of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR), le Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), Cités Unies France (CUF), UCLG Africa, UCLG MEWA, Medcités, [the Arab Towns Organization \(ATO\)](#), Diputacio of Barcelone/The Commission of decentralization and local self-government of UCLG, City of Barcelona

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United Cities and Local Governments - Middle East and West Asia Section
منظمة المدن المتحدة و الحكومات المحلية - فرع الشرق الأوسط و غرب آسيا
Birleşmiş Kentler ve Yerel Yönetimler - Orta Doğu ve Batı Asya Bölge Teşkilatı

List of Participants

UCLG-MEWA:

- **Mehmet Duman**, Secretary General UCLG-MEWA
- **Dominique Gatto Koç**, Project Officer, UCLG General Coordinator of Committees and Working Groups.

TURKEY:

- **Hasan Ünver** Mayor of Nevsehir
- **Lütfü Savaş** Mayor of Antakya
- **Hayrettin Güngör** Secretary General of Union of Municipalities of Turkey
- **Mr. Ertan Filik**, Member of the Municipal Council, Gaziantep
- **Tansel Kaya**, Member of the Municipal Council, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality.
- **Cemal Baş**, Project Officer of Union of Municipalities of Turkey
- **Canan Keleş**, Project Officer of Union of Municipalities of Turkey

MEWA REGION :

- **Mr. Mohamad Issa**, Mayor of El Mina, Lebanon
- **Mr. Ghassan Shakaa**, Mayor of Nablus, Palestine
- **Mr. Nader Ghazal**, President of the Urban Community of Al Fayhaa, Lebanon.



Political declaration of Local and Regional Authorities of the Mediterranean gathered at their 3rd FORUM on 3 & 4 April 2013 in Marseille (France)
Preamble

We, Mediterranean local and regional elected officials, gathered in Marseille this 3 & 4 April 2013 on the occasion of the 3rd Forum of Local and Regional Authorities of the Mediterranean wish to address heads of State and Government, international fund donors, members of parliament and all the different actors of civil society. Five years after the 1st Forum of 2008, our assessment of the situation is categorical: the Mediterranean region is ailing. Conflicts proliferate and our peoples suffer. All through the three shores, escalating unemployment weighs particularly on the youth and essential questions related to a just and sustainable development are being sidelined to address immediate and brutal economic crises. The insecurity and poverty are more severe, extended and expanding into new groups and population segments, at the risk of becoming chronic.

We support the mobilisation of the citizenry South and North, with the youth and women on the front line, aspiring to other models of social justice and liberty. In the South, this massive mobilisation led to the Arab revolutions, to the social revolutions and the political changes we all know. In the North, the “Indignants” expressed their despair from being isolated and forgotten through this crisis that deeply affects them. The mobilisation continues in many countries as a clear expression of the people’s aspirations for States that will uphold the law, the principle of solidarity and the respect for democratic processes. We note today that these high hopes for a renewal of democracy have only been partially fulfilled.

We, local and regional elected officials, are directly confronted to this loss of confidence in political actions. In the North and in the South, we strive daily to meet local needs. But we must devise and promote together a new model, new ambition that will measure up to the legitimate needs of respect, dignity and equality voiced by our peoples.

The Barcelona Process and the Union for the Mediterranean, each at their own moment, embodied and spearheaded this common project. Today, we must go even further and open new roads for future prospects. The extent of the challenges to be faced and the complexity of the situation call for responses adapted to the different realities. We expect a stronger and deeper Euro- Mediterranean Partnership from European institutions for 2014-2020.

We need the support of all leading international fund donors to back up our development, not only old actors but also new ones, such as the major emerging countries. As partner local and regional authorities of the three shores of the Mediterranean, we chose to focus the debates and challenges of this 3rd Forum on **“democratic governance”**.

Without true democratic governance, there is a serious risk of spreading dissatisfaction and misunderstanding among populations and neighboring territories. Our people cannot wait any longer. It is up to us, together, to give them answers that will meet their expectations.

Declaration

We, local and regional elected officials of the Mediterranean, gathered this 4 April 2013 in Marseille:

1. Stress the need to replace peace and reconciliation at the heart of our deliberations. [Longstanding conflicts in Palestine](#), more recently in Libya and currently in Mali and [in Syria should convince us of the absolute necessity to tear down the walls of egoism and violence](#).
2. [Ask the international community to bring to bear as much pressure as possible to help stop de war in Syria and to assist neighbouring local governments in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey in managing the influx of migrant families from Syria, and to give them rapid financial support](#).
3. Reaffirm our will to contribute to the creation of a Mediterranean space of peace and solidarity, and projects that will deliver concrete results for our citizens.
4. Wish that the review of the Millennium Development Goals and the development of a new Global Development Agenda post-2015, together with a set of Sustainable DevelopmentGoals - become the occasion to establish a specific modality for the Mediterranean withmeans that will match the social, economic and environmental issues at stake. To this end, we call for the implementation of the principles of the Busan declaration in the Mediterranean basin. The Busan declaration proposes to improve the coordination in thefield of bilateral and multilateral aid and to enhance the participation of local and regional governments in the process. Support to decentralisation should be an integral part thereof.

5. Call for stronger convergence in the policies implemented by the principal fund donors in the Mediterranean: UN instruments (particularly UNDP and UNEP), the World Bank, the OECD, the European Union and bilateral cooperation initiatives, including decentralised cooperation. We also wish Mediterranean specificities will receive special attention during the Habitat III Summit. We ask that democratic governance be considered as a major priority of these programmes and that it is promoted at all the different levels of government, including the local and regional governments. Particular efforts are also needed in the areas of employment and capacity building, as well as in sustainable development fields that are particularly meaningful for Mediterranean basin populations, including the depollution of the Mediterranean Sea, water, and climate change.
6. Regret the weak political impetus of the European Union in the Mediterranean, even though we welcome the new tools proposed in the bilateral programmes of the European Neighbourhood Policy of 2014-2020 in favour of local and regional authorities. We therefore encourage the States to seize the opportunities to support decentralisation and deconcentration that are included in the proposals of the European commission: “the promotion of cultural dialogue and local governance” and the “promotion of socio-economic development and enhancement of territories”. The concept of economic, social and territorial cohesion should be a priority in these interventions.
7. Ask European institutions to go even further by adapting intervention modalities to each national situation so that the European Neighbourhood Policy may enter a new stage that emphasizes, as close to the field as possible, programming local and regional actions.
8. As declared in 2010, we also eagerly hope for the optimisation of local and regional cooperation tools:
 - In the Euro-Mediterranean partnership as a whole, through the reinforcement of decentralised cooperation policies (following on programmes such as Non-State Actors and Local Authorities, CIUDAD, Euromed Heritage, etc.).
 - At Mediterranean basin level, through the concept of macro-region integrated strategy that should strengthen the programme for cross-border cooperation by sea basin associating ERDF and ENPI funds. On this last point, we invite Mediterranean States to intensify consultations at the highest level, with the support of the Union for the Mediterranean, in order to set up a global programming that should include local and regional authorities right from the start in the definition of priorities and foresee appropriate resources for the start-up of the strategy.
9. Welcome the initiative of the new co-presidency of the UfM to organise sectoral conferences starting in the summer of 2013 and we ask the co-presidency, partner States and the Secretariat to associate local and regional governments to these actions.
10. Are convinced that the reforms taking place in most Mediterranean States, whether they focus on modernisation, deconcentration or decentralisation, will contribute to identify concrete answers to meet the needs voiced by the people

for broader participation of men and women in democratic life. We ask that Local and Regional Authorities be included in all respects in these processes and propose to share our experience and good practices to identify structured responses for institutional capacity building (institutional twinning, training for local executives, mutual commitments, promotion of cross-border cooperation, etc.).

11. Eagerly hope new forms of political mobilisation will be promoted enabling us to avoid the deadlock that would be inevitable in non-democratic governance situations.
12. Welcome the initiative of the President of the European Parliament to organise over the next few days in Marseille the Summit of Presidents of Parliaments of Euro-Mediterranean countries, making thus possible concomitant major events of members of parliament, local and regional elected officials and the civil society of the Mediterranean. We support the action of the Parliamentary Assembly of Mediterranean that should continue to play a key role to strengthen these ties.
13. Need the support and good will of all Euro-Mediterranean local and regional actors to promote inter-regional democracy capable of federating efforts into common projects. This is why we encourage EMRLA to continue the dialogue with the UfM, in order to assure its territorial dimension, the EU institutions and, in close collaboration with the Committee of the Regions, to maintain its capacity to offer operational solutions to those actors who may request them. In this sense, we welcome the agreement recently signed between the EMRLA and the UfM, which aims to foster their cooperation, promote synergies and contribute with concrete initiatives and projects to the development of an area of peace, stability and prosperity in the Mediterranean.
14. Civil society is the most direct expression of the people's aspirations. Political messages need to be renewed at all levels, and representatives of civil society should help us accomplish this task. We are glad the Anna Lindh Forum coincides so closely with the FLRAM and are very pleased with the work we have started today together with their youth representatives, which should continue in the future. We invite these representatives of Mediterranean youth and civil society to continue these exchanges on the occasion of our 4th Forum so that together we may take stock of the progress accomplished.
15. Highlight the key role that Mediterranean women should play in favour of a democratic space and of economic, social and cultural development. In this respect, the equal participation of women in all decision-making mechanisms at local and at Mediterranean levels appears as essential. It will facilitate their political participation and their economic empowerment.
16. The "Political Council" of the Mediterranean Commission of UCLG will monitor advances targeted in terms of democratic governance, the core issue in the search for peace, stability and prosperity in our territories. The **Political Council of the Mediterranean Commission of UCLG** was specifically

created to be able to engage in a permanent dialogue with States, fund donors and international institutions. We request that the Forum's results be conveyed to all member States of the UfM, as well as to international institutions and organisations active in the Mediterranean. Let us all convene again at the 4th Forum of Local and Regional Authorities of the Mediterranean.