

INSULEURVOICE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE EUROPEAN ISLAND CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

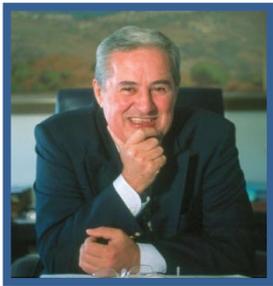
Number 0

www.insuleur.net

December 2007

INSULEURVOICE is born:

The newsletter of the European Insular Chambers



As President of INSULEUR, it is a pleasure for me to announce the birth of **INSULEURVOICE**, the newsletter of our Network of Insular Chambers of Commerce of the European Union. In this sense, and taking advantage of the successful celebration last November of the 7th Forum INSULEUR organized by the Gozo Business Chamber (MT) in Malta, and the Kick-Off Meeting of the 1st INSULEUR Executive Training Programme (ETP) today Friday 21st December in Brussels, I present you the number 0 of **INSULEURVOICE**.

Among the objectives by which this communication project is born I want to point out the increase of the interaction between the Chambers members of INSULEUR, the increase of understanding of the different local and national realities from our Chambers, as well as the promotion and education in European affairs, basically in two fields: European legislation and projects. I am thankful here from the support of the Chamber of Mallorca so that **INSULEURVOICE** is a reality.

INSULEURVOICE regularity will be bi-monthly, and then every year it will be published a minimum of 6 units. Also, special numbers may eventually be published in case that news, events or projects therefore would advise so. In a first stage, **INSULEURVOICE** will be distributed internally to the ordinary and associated members, and observers of our network, which will receive **INSULEURVOICE** in their email accounts. In a second stage, our newsletter will be distributed to actors of the local, national and European scene to strengthen the credibility and public image of INSULEUR, as well as to the public in general by means of our website www.insuleur.net.

On the other hand, I want to say that we are working intensively so that **INSULEURVOICE** would become a tool that helps to make reality the objectives of INSULEUR, offering services and being useful for our public. Of course, we are open to experts from our Chambers or external to the Network: they can write on subjects of its interests related to the economic and social development of our islands. Among some of the contents of **INSULEURVOICE**, I announce that spaces will be dedicated to news of local, national and European interest, articles on our Chambers, information dissemination regarding legislation, exchange of best practices concerning local, national and European projects, as well as diverse sections like the corner of the European expert, articles of opinion and events of the Chambers and INSULEUR.

Also, and taking advantage of the occasion, I would briefly like to remember the basic guidelines of the present Strategic Plan of INSULEUR in which we are working, being these the consolidation and reinforcing of our public influence, the strengthening of the cohesion and the cooperation between the Insular Chambers, and the improvement of means making reality the ambitions of our network.

Number 0:

**INSULEURVOICE is born:
the newspaper of the European Insular Chambers**
President Raymond Ceccaldi

**Kick-off meeting of the
INSULEUR Executive Training Program (ETP) in Brussels**

Outcomes of the 7th Forum INSULEUR 2007 in Gozo, Malta
Alexandre Czmal

INSULEURNAUTIC: supporting our tourism industry
Antonio Cañellas

News from Brussels
Competitiveness Council conclusions on Sustainable
Tourism
EU Council Summit: reference to the islands in respect to
EU Maritime Policy



Dear friends, 2007 is finishing, with the satisfaction of being fulfilling an important task for our Chambers, of which I must emphasize our activity of quality regarding position papers, the beginning of the collaboration between our members with respect to European projects, and the successful celebration of the 7th Forum INSULEUR in Gozo. In this sense, I want to thank and enormously encourage the Chamber of La Reunion which has the honor of being organizer of the 8th Forum INSULEUR next 2008. As well, I would like to make you note that the leader and organizer of the 9th Forum INSULEUR 2009 will be the Chamber of Piraeus.

With an optimistic spirit, I say goodbye, and take advantage of the occasion to wish happy holidays and a prosperous New Year 2008.

Raymond Ceccaldi

President of INSULEUR

Executive Training Program in Brussels

Join us in this project for 2008!

Today Friday 21st December, the kick-off meeting of the 1st INSULEUR Executive Training Program (ETP) will be held in Brussels in the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) from 09.00h to 13.00h. The 1st INSULEUR ETP is addressed to Directors, Experts or Members of the Chambers of Commerce of INSULEUR. It will be divided in two phases: a kick-off meeting in Brussels, and a three-day Seminar in an Insular Chamber, member of INSULEUR.

For your information, please see a list of subjects of the Seminars of the second stage of the program:

1. Insular development: problems and specificities
2. Introduction to the European institutions and selected European policies
3. Role of the Network of the CCI of the Insular Regions of the European Union
4. The information society and the insular development
5. Community programs and initiatives
6. Provision of services for SMEs of the insular areas
7. Electronic business procedures and electronic commerce in islands
8. Representation and effective lobbying
9. International economy, with an accent on the international trade
10. Tourism of the Islands: new forms of tourism for the European Islands - OTIE

The objective of this program is double: the creation of a sub-network of local experts in European affairs to become contact points and to facilitate exchange of views for the drafting of position papers; and the exploration of means of cooperation for submitting proposals to diverse European Union funding programmes and initiatives.



Executive Training Program: Agenda

Place: Brussels, European Economic and Social Committee, Room JDE61
Time: Friday 21.12.2007, from 9h to 13h

09.00 - 11.00: The role of INSULEUR in the decision-making process of the EU

Opening speech:

Mr. Andréas Pantelios, INSULEUR Vicepresident
(representing INSULEUR President, Mr. Raymond Ceccaldi)

Coordinator:

Mr. George Assonitis, INSULEUR Technical Committee

The New Treaty and Islands:

Mr. Panos Panagiotopoulos, Legal Advisor Permanent Representation of Greece before the EU

Analysis of the INSULEUR Strategy adopted by last General Assembly:

Mr. Olivier Lemerle, INSULEUR Technical Committee, ACFCI Brussels

Participation of INSULEUR in the public consultation process & successes stories: State Aid, Maritime Policy

Mr. Alexandre Czmal, INSULEUR Brussels Delegate, ACFCI Brussels

Discussion on the cooperation between INSULEUR and EUROCHAMBRES:

Ms. Marie-Elisabeth Rusling, ACFCI Brussels, Director European Affairs

Open Debate:

Participation of local experts in the preparation of "EU position papers" and policies in favour of islands

11.00 - 11.15: Coffee break

11.15 - 13.00: Participation of INSULEUR in European funding programs and initiatives

Introduction:

Mr. Mario Frontoni, INSULEUR Technical Committee

Cooperation EOAEN (Group of Greek Chambers for the development of Greek Islands) and INSULEUR:

Mr. Vagelis Douloufakis, EOAEN Expert

Cooperation between Local Chambers and INSULEUR:

Mr. Yanis Papatzanis, Rethymno Chamber Vicepresident

Observatory of European Island Tourism (OTIE):

Mr. Giovanni Ruggieri, OTIE President

INSULEURNAUTIC, nautical tourism project:

Mr. Antonio Cañellas, Mallorca Chamber Brussels Delegate, INSULEUR Technical Committee

Open Debate:

Participation of INSULEUR in European funding programs and initiatives

End of the Meeting





7th Forum INSULEUR – Gozo 2007

The Future EU maritime policy: European Islands in shady circles

This year, INSULEUR Network organized its last Forum in Gozo (Malta), on November 2nd 2007. It tried to answer to the following question: “The Future EU maritime policy and the European Islands - Which integrated approach for a sustainable development in the Islands?”

In order to reach such a goal, this Forum had the pleasure firstly to listen to the European Commission, particularly through the presence of Commissioner on Fisheries and Maritime Affairs Joe Borg, which presented its strategy from the Green Paper to the Blue Book (An Integrated Maritime Policy for the

European Union; presented in October 2007), and reminded that it was a long process which had to be driven step by step.



On the other hand, several Chambers presented their practical experiences when creating initiatives in order to develop economic growth in their islands. Such presentations were done in order to give the EU institutions concrete ideas for the implementation of the Blue paper. We can make a note for instance on the presentation of the nautical website www.insuleurnautic.com, backed by INSULEUR and 17 Chambers of Commerce.

Also, several representatives from public authorities such as the European Economic Social Committee (EESC), French ESC, Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR), National parliaments, Greek Representation to the EU, members of Maltese national and local authorities, gave their ideas for an efficient maritime policy and their comments on the Blue Book on Maritime Policy.

The debates which rose during the Forum showed that the people concerned with the issue of maritime policy expected a lot from the Blue Book. As INSULEUR wrote it last year in its position paper on the Green Paper, the latter had to be the Green Paper on Islands. If it is true that the Blue Book proposes actions regarding for instance innovation, fisheries, environment, it is above all source of questions for Island SMEs. Thus, it calls for efficient tools of governance, particularly through partnership, the consultation of the stakeholders, or data preparation & processing, and urges for taking islands and outermost regions into account. However, it is difficult to see how such good intentions could be implemented.



Therefore, the Blue Book which proposes an EU Integrated Maritime Policy must be considered as the foundations of an edifice which still needs to be built. INSULEUR will keep on taking part of the works. And the 7th Forum in Gozo was a concretization of its will.

Alexandre Czmal is INSULEUR Representative to the EU in Brussels and Expert at ACFCI Brussels





European projects and initiatives

INSULEURNAUTIC: supporting our tourism industry

INSULEURNAUTIC, backed by INSULEUR and coordinated by the Chamber of Mallorca, whose first initiative is the website of nautical tourism of the islands of the European Union www.insuleurnautic.com, which is at this moment in stage of preparation, it continues winning adepts. In the last weeks the Italian Chamber of Oristano has agreed to be INSULEURNAUTIC partner. As a brief summary, already 17 members of INSULEUR have given their approval and work in the provision of the necessary data so that the website can begin to offer real information on ports and companies of the nautical sector, to which address in case of, for instance, needing to rent a mooring in a certain nautical port, repairing a boat or to rent a sailboat.



In a second and more ambitious phase, local websites would offer greater contents, such as a directory of nautical schools, an agenda of sport events, a section of the news on sailing, motorboat, rowing, canoeing, diving, fishing or windsurf, weather information, job offers in the nautical industry, as well as articles, links or photos' galleries.

At the moment, this website in preparation already contains real data of some of the Chambers members of the project. However, and in order to increase the fluidity in the bidirectional communication of information and so that the coordination of the project is more effective, we are analyzing the possibility of creating a Technical Committee or Working Group at the beginning of 2008 with representatives of each participant Chamber, who will be responsible for the supervision of the progress according to the future Working Plan of the project. The contact between these members would be via electronic mail or telephone. Also, actual meetings of this Committee would be organized preferably every 3 months, but this still must be decided.

For several weeks and throughout beginning 2008 contacts with departments of the Government of the Balearic Islands have been developed. This institution supports the website www.balearsnautic.com since 2004, which promotes the nautical tourism of the Balearic Islands, and as well has been the leader of another similar project called NAUTISMED, project INTERREG IIIB MEDOCC from the 2005 to the 2007, with partners like the Province of Rome, the Region of Sardinia, the Region of Crete, the Panteion University of Athens, the Port of Dodecanese in Greece, and the city of Vila Real de Santo Antonio in Portugal.



At this stage of the project one of the goals would be the Chambers partners of INSULEURNAUTIC can manage to collaborate with their public institutions of the different islands in order to promote the project INSULEURNAUTIC.

Antonio Cañellas is Delegate of the Mallorca Chamber in Brussels and Editor of **INSULEURVOICE**



News from Brussels

Competitiveness Council conclusions on Sustainable Tourism: special reference to islands

The Council meeting on Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry and Research) gathered together last 22-23 November in Brussels to discuss, among several items, the Agenda for a Sustainable and Competitive European Tourism.

In this sense, this Competitiveness Council adopted several conclusions such as *stressing the crucial role that tourism plays in generating growth and jobs in the EU and noted the importance of sustainability to ensure a long term competitiveness of the tourism enterprises and destinations.*

Regarding INSULEUR interests, we should note that the Competitiveness Council declared to have **taken the view that sustainable tourism constitutes a tool to help the regeneration and economic development of destinations, in particular of sensitive areas as for example islands and remote areas, contributing to an increase in the quality of life of both host and guest communities while maintaining the natural and cultural heritage of Europe.**

Regarding the Member States, the Competitiveness Council asks them to support the implementation of pilot projects within this context, as well as the development of integrated models for the management of destinations; to promote the effective use of European financial instruments for the implementation of the "Agenda"; and to participate actively in the EDEN (European Destinations of Excellence).



Regarding the participation of the European Commission, the Competitiveness Council invites to devote particular attention to the impact that legislation may have on the tourism sector, within the undergoing Programme of Better Regulation; to support the creation of a network for the exchange of experiences and good practices and the dissemination of knowledge in the field of sustainable tourism; to develop a communication campaign in close cooperation with Member States aimed at improving the understanding and the visibility of sustainable tourism in Europe; to lend continuous support to local and regional networks committed to sustainable destination management and notably to their Euro-meeting in November this year in Florence; to further support and intensify the cooperation in the field of tourism with neighboring countries, such as the countries of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership or Eastern Europe countries; and to closely cooperate with international organizations that are directly or indirectly related to tourism, in order to effectively address challenges that require global action.

Finally the Competitiveness Council invites the European Tourism Industry and other stakeholders in the tourism sector to actively participate in the implementation of the "Agenda", thus achieving the objectives of the renewed Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs, as well as the renewed Sustainable Development Strategy; to contribute to the development of products and services based on sustainable patterns of production and consumption; to actively participate in the dissemination of good practices within the context of sustainability; to consider sustainability as a key factor in the management of business activities; and to make the best use of available European financial instruments for tourism-related projects within the framework of the implementation of the Agenda.

On this issue, the European Council made up of all 27 Heads of State and Governments of the European Union met last 14th December 2007 in Brussels, being the last time chaired by Portugal and among several conclusions, *stressed the crucial role that tourism plays in generating growth and jobs in the EU.* As well the Council calls on the Commission, Member States, industry and other stakeholders to join forces in the timely implementation of the recently adopted Agenda for a sustainable and competitive European tourism.

EU Council Summit: reference to the islands in respect to EU Maritime Policy

Following the fruitful discussion on the Communication of the Commission regarding an Integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union that took place last November in Gozo during our 7th Forum INSULEUR, the Council of the European Union, after the last Council Meeting of 2007 celebrated last 14th



December in Brussels, declared that welcomes the Commission Communication on an integrated maritime policy for the European Union and the proposed Action Plan which sets out the first concrete steps in developing an integrated approach to maritime affairs. Also the Council stated that the broad participation in the preceding public consultation and the comprehensive debate at the Lisbon Ministerial Conference reflected the interest which stakeholders show for the development of such a policy. The future integrated maritime policy should ensure synergies and coherence between sectorial policies, bring added value and fully respect the principle of subsidiarity.

Special interest and importance for INSULEUR are these words of the Conclusion of the Council Meeting on the Blue Book on Maritime Policy stating that furthermore it should be developed as a tool to address the challenges facing Europe's sustainable development and competitiveness. **It should take particularly account of the different specificities of Member States and specific maritime regions which should call for increased cooperation, including islands, archipelagos and outermost regions as well as of the international dimension.**

Finally, the European Council invites the Commission to come forward with the initiatives and proposals contained in the Action Plan and calls on the future Presidencies to work on the establishment of an integrated maritime policy for the Union.

For more information:

INSULEURVOICE EDITOR:

Antonio Cañellas

acanellas@cscamaras.es; tel: +32 2 7060896

INSULEUR REPRESENTATIVE TO THE EU IN BRUSSELS:

Alexandre Czmal

bruxelles@insuleur.net; tel: +32 2 2210432

INSULEURVOICE is powered by:

INSULEUR

&

MALLORCA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND NAVIGATION

www.insuleur.net

*INSULEUR wants to express its gratitude to Nicolas Pérez-Lozana for his great job on the graphic design of this number 0 of **INSULEURVOICE**