

**COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS' ENVE COMMISSION
(ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY) IN ABRUZZO
FOR AN EXTERNAL MEETING**

Today, during the meeting of the Committee of the Regions' ENVE Commission (Environment, Climate change and Energy), the proposal of holding an external meeting of the Commission in Abruzzo in the course of 2012 has been approved unanimously, with the support of both groups of the major European political parties, the European people's Party and the European socialist Party, as well as the entire Italian delegation.

It is the first time that an official reunion of a European institution will be held in Abruzzo.

The chosen theme is: "Promoting synergies between regional development and biodiversity protection".

The proposal has been presented by the president Giovanni Chiodi, effective member of the Committee of the Regions and vice-president of the Assembly of European Regions.

Abruzzo's meeting will be held from 20 to 21 September and will address themes such as protection of the biodiversity, natural parks, sustainable development with a particular attention dedicated to the sustainable tourism. It will include:

- a) A reunion of the Commission (including more or less 80 participants including Regions' presidents and European cities' mayors - all members of the Committee of the Regions - as well as administrative staff and translators).
- b) An international conference (co-organized by the Committee of the Regions), which schedules the direct implication of the institutions linked to the chosen theme.
- c) A tour of the national park of la Majella to observe bears and wolves in their natural habitat.

The Committee of the Regions will pay:

- All of the costs linked to aerial transportation, housing, restaurant services for all the participants except for a welcome buffet-dinner which is, normally, offered by the host cities.
- Translations and the interpreting works

While the Abruzzo Region will be providing :

- An adequate room for the Commission's meeting, equipped with the ad hoc material as well as interpretation booths.
- An adequate room for the Conference, equipped with the ad hoc material as well as interpretation booths.
- The park's tour, transport included.

The reunion of the ENVE Commission in Abruzzo will take place during the Italian presidency of the deputy Ugo Cappellacci, president of the autonomous region of Sardinia, who will be replacing the outgoing president at the end of his mandate, thus from the month of July 2012.

(Directorate presidency affairs – Cooperation activities UE – 30.11.2011)

