

On the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2012, during the meeting of the CoR ENVE Commission for the Environment, Climate Change and Energy, Mr Gianni Chiodi, President of the Abruzzo Region, provided a general outline of the ENVE commission external meeting and conference in the Abruzzo Region.

The proposal had been approved unanimously with the support of the two great European political families on the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2011.

This is the very first time that an official meeting of one of the European Institutions will be hold in the Abruzzo Region.

The meeting will be hold in Penne and Pescara on 20-21 September. The themes will be the protection of biodiversity, regional natural parks as well as the sustainable development, in particular sustainable tourism.

The conference will be entitled: “Promoting synergies between biodiversity protection and regional development”.

The programme will include:

- a) an international conference in Penne (20<sup>th</sup> September A.M) ;
- b) a study visit to Penne Lake Protected Area and Gran Sass/Monti della Laga National Park (20<sup>th</sup> September P.M) ;
- c) an external meeting of the ENVE commission in Pescara (21<sup>st</sup> September A.M) ;

Some officials of the Italian and European institutions have already announced that they would attend the meeting :

- the new President of the Committee of the Regions (CoR) and the President of the Autonomous Community of Murcia;
- the European Commissioner for the Environment, Janez Potocnik ;
- the Italian Minister for Environment, Territory and Sea, Corrado Clini ;
- numerous mayors and presidents of regions coming from different European countries, with numerous members of the CoR among them ;
- representatives of the main non-governmental organisations working for the environment ;
- representatives of the local authorities (administrators and producers) ;

In his speech, the President said that it was an honour for the Abruzzo Region to host this meeting. He talked about the beautiful landscapes and nature of the Abruzzo Region. He boasted the dynamism of the region and its capacity to make proposals and to achieve projects on international and European scales.

To illustrate its commitment, the President talked, among other things, about the following initiatives :

- the Abruzzo Region promotes, with Molise, Basilicata and Sardinia, other Italian regions, the “network of transition regions” that brings together twenty or so regions from seven different European countries (Italy, France, Spain, England, Belgium, Austria and Finland). In October, the Abruzzo Region will co-organise one of the main events set up to support the proposal of the Commission for the future cohesion policy 2014-2020;
- the Abruzzo Region is the managing authority of the “Adriatic IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme” and is a partner of the DG Enlargement for its «Local Administration Facility» Programme that aims at strengthening the institutions in the Balkan countries ;
- in October, the Region will take part in the “Open Days” as a leader-partner of the consortium on the Adriatic and Ionian Macro-region that gathers thirteen administrations representing more than 20 million of inhabitants ;
- two weeks ago, during the United Nations Conference on sustainable development in Rio, the Abruzzo Region presented the European project “POWERED” that it leads with three other national governments. This project aims at the exploitation of wind energy off the Adriatic coasts.
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The President concluded his speech saying that he would be glad to meet his colleagues on the Adriatic coasts to make progress towards a better institutional cooperation between territories in order to build a Europe where there is more unity, cohesion and solidarity.

After Mr Gianni Chiodi’s speech, the video “Pescara, dove il tempo vola...” (Literally: Pescara where time does not matter...) was broadcast to present the city where the meetings will be held on 20-21 September.

*Link to the speech of Mr Gianni Chiodi, President of the Region of Abruzzo :*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WXzhtUmJkWw>

*(Regional Directorate for Presidency Affairs-Liaison activities with E.U. - 02/05/2012)*