

Conclusions of the IIIth Congress

In the initial sequence concerning the general theme "Paradigms of the European Marina of the new Millenium", the members of the European Association of places with a Marina and Leisure Harbors, gathered at the occasion of their third Congress witch took place in Ghent – Begium in May 2002, confirm the interest to intensify the links for cooperation and work between the members, recognizing that the steps to be taken have to follow a global process of putting together ideas, initiatives and items of cooperation, until the realisation of its next congress in Villeneuve Loubet:

- ❖ Water in and around the city does not only mean a source of liveliness and atmosphere for the residents and visitors, but also a source of economic development and job opportunities for the retail trade, tourism, culture and catering industry ;
- ❖ More regular exchange and thematic organisation between the associates, that is going to facilitate the effort of its individual and collective competences;
- ❖ A bigger attention to the process of territorial planning, introducing Electronically Data Processing and Electronically Data Information System in the operation of the marinas, facing the obvious interactions that are noticed between the economic development and the necessity of preserving the environmental interests, in particular due to its important influence on the quality of life of the populations;
- ❖ Respect of the urban environment by adopting the onshore development to the existing architectural elements, improving the transport accessibility to the urban marina without congesting the surroundings ;
- ❖ Recognize that initiatives for protection and valorisation of the environment constitute themselves as being valorisation elements of the costal zones, and more particularly of the marinas and yachting harbours, from the moment that they play a part in attracting visitors ;
- ❖ Contribute to the implement of the norms that are already established by the legislation issued from the European Union for a more efficient management of the refuse hailing from nautical activity in general, and particularly from this one produced by recreation boats, by introducing measures of control on a national and local level in order contribute to reduce dumping and other polluting actions, stimulating to take innovating measures of integrated management of this problem on a local level;
- ❖ Take advantage of studies and experiences that today are being developed in different European countries to find new solutions for a more efficient management of the different type of marinas and existing sport harbours, through the implement of mixed solutions between the public and private sector, to which refer its conception, its construction, its financement and its exploration;
- ❖ Strengthen the initiatives for collaboration between private promoters of equipment linked to yachting and the public authorities with responsibilities concerning the management of the territory, by promoting the necessary synergies susceptible to contribute to our increasing offer of tourist services and linked activities ;
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- ❖ Acceptance of the compromise to collaborate to the creation of initiatives for exchanging experiences related to integrated management of the territory, the implement of quality systems and initiatives in the matter of marketing, through a discussion about examples of positive experiences and, as much as possible, to adjusted communal cooperation in order to attain the aim the purposes – as for example the Initiative of the Community Interreg III ;

These conclusions will have to be presented to both national and European authorities concerned by processes of planning and promotion of territorial development, from the moment that they reflect and transmit a desire of external affirmation of the association it selves, through the realisation of all efforts permitting the intensification of its image and capacity to mobilize local initiatives favourable to a more sustainable development of their territories, in order to have " fun in navigating in crystal-clear water " .