

# INSULEUR VOICE

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

Issue 7

www.insuleur.net

November 2009

## 9th INSULEUR Forum: "Islands - Which value for European construction?" Piraeus, 20-22 November

The cornerstone event of our Network, that is, the **9th INSULEUR Forum**, is being organized in collaboration with the Professional Chamber of Piraeus and the Piraeus Chamber of Commerce and Industry. This year, the event will take place in **Piraeus**, at the Hotel Metropolitan, next **20-22 November**, aiming to be the epicentre of the public debate based on **"Islands: Which value for European construction?"**, enhanced by further topics to be discussed amongst the representatives of our 45 Chamber Members, national and island regional political delegates, representatives of European Institutions, important academic and associations defending island areas interests such as CRPM or OTIE



*"On behalf of INSULEUR and the Business Community of the wider area of Piraeus, we would like to invite you all to the next Forum of the Network of the Insular Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the European Union which will be held in November, in Piraeus.*

*We will be particularly delighted and honoured to welcome you in Piraeus in view of such an important event. We strongly believe that we will have the chance to deal with crucial issues regarding the EU islands in general, by highlighting the problems as well as*

*by suggesting solutions in favour of our beautiful islands.*

*We are looking forward to meeting you all in Piraeus.*



**Joan Gual de Torrella**  
INSULEUR President



**Georgios Benetos**  
Professional Chamber of Piraeus



**Georgios Kassimatis**  
Piraeus Chamber of Commerce & Industry

With the support of:



In order to **register for our 9th Forum**, please visit the following links:  
[programme](#); [registration](#); [accommodation](#) ; [official website](#)



## INSULEUR Board of Directors 13<sup>th</sup> October – Brussels

The **INSULEUR Board of Directors**, chaired by President Mr. Joan Gual de Torrella, met on 13<sup>th</sup> October in Brussels for the first time since the approval of the Spanish candidacy to head the network for the next three years. The statutory meeting took place at the headquarters of the Economic and Social Committee (EESC), and was as well attended by Vice-president of the network, Mr. Arturo Escuder and Chamber of

Tenerife Vice-President, Vice-president Mr. Giancarlo Deidda and President of Cagliari Chamber, Mr. Yiorgios Benetos, INSULEUR Treasurer and Professional Chamber of Piraeus President, and Mr. Joe Grech, Secretary General and President of the Gozo Business Chamber (see picture above left) and the INSULEUR Technical Committee. The EESC attended the meeting, represented this time by Ms. Sylvia Gaucci, Vicepresident of Group I Employers.

During the meeting, and among the **main issues** reviewed were discussed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Executive Training Seminar in Heraklion in June, future training actions, and the project status of the European Project "Euroislands - Insular Development and Cohesion Policy", the participation of island Chambers of Commerce in European projects, and the Workshop to be held in Tenerife in March 2010.



## INSULEUR at EUROCHAMBRES "Chambers meet MEPs" 14<sup>th</sup> October – Brussels

In this sense, the agenda of the Board of Directors was followed by the attendance to the **Eurochambres event "Chambers meet MEPs"** (see opening picture right), on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>, with President Joan Gual, Vicepresident Giancarlo Deidda, Vicepresident Arturo Escuder and Secretary General Joe Grech as representatives of INSULEUR.



More than 350 representatives of European Chambers (see left picture) and the spokespeople of the 5 major groups of the European Parliament (see picture right above), met first in the new extension of this institution, built to house the representatives of the 10 new member countries derived from the enlargement of the EU in 2004. This session raised questions with such political representatives on **four key issues**: internal market, innovation, the Lisbon Treaty and employment, and energy efficiency.

Following the debate, the European Chambers hosted a **reception** to the new democratically elected MEPs last June, which will represent their countries during the next five years. More than 150 MEPs exchanged intentions of working with representatives of the chambers. In this sense, Mr. Gual Torrella had the opportunity to talk with the Balearic MEP Ms. Teresa Riera (see picture right) and the Canary and Socialist group leader Mr. Juan Fernando López-Aguilar, and as well with the Balearic Ms. Rosa Estaràs.



## President Gual meets Spain Permanent Representation to the EU and Spanish Chambers of Commerce Delegation

During his work visit in Brussels, President Gual de Torrella met with the Ambassador of the Permanent Representation of Spain to the EU, Mr. Carlos Bastareche, to discuss the collaboration with INSULEUR during the imminent Spanish Presidency of the European Union, starting on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010.

Furthermore, President Gual met with the Economic Coordinator at the Spain Permanent Representation, Mr. Jose Carlos García de Quevedo, and Mr. Fernando Puerto, Director at the Spanish Chambers of Commerce Delegation in Brussels.

## Interview with Henri Malosse (France) President of the EESC employers group

Interview by Carine PIAGUET, INSULEUR representative to the EU



### Europe: "the fight of my life"

**INSULEURVOICE:** You have spent 30 years of your life working on European affairs: what made you attracted to Europe?

**Henry Malosse:** First, I'm a son of the Franco-German reconciliation: my father was professor of German, I participated in twinning and cultural exchanges between French and German, I was deeply interested in the history of the Second World War ... All those factors had an influence on me. Then I wanted to go further East. I got interested in the "Greater Europe", in the East-West dimension. I learned Polish, I wrote books on that issue. At the age of thirteen I knew I wanted to take part in the construction of that Europe.

**INSULEURVOICE:** What have you done then, before you became President of the Employers' group of the Economic and Social Committee?

**Henry Malosse:** I studied at "Sciences Po" and later did a master degree focused on "Eastern and Central Europe". Then I started to work in the European institutions as an intern. By chance I crossed the way of the Chambers of commerce. In 1979 I joined the newly created European office of the Assembly of French Chambers of Commerce and Industry as an assistant, and later became its director for 15 years. For me, working for the Chambers of commerce is as worthy as working for an institution. I really believe in the role of Chambers of commerce in the European construction. The "Euroguichets", later called "Euro Info Centers", which have made possible many businesses' development at the same time as Europe's development, is one of my accomplishments I'm especially proud of.

**INSULEURVOICE:** You also have a strong commitment and interest in the islands...

**Henry Malosse:** My attachment to islands and to Corsica in particular is due to my origins. Once in Brussels, I worked on programmes and conferences dedicated to the islands, and I think that experience reinforced my interest for the territories. Since that time I've been trying to support the islands and to promote their specificities. I also have a strong commitment in Corsica through the "Corsican Foundation" who will present an exhibition at the EESC in a few days.

**INSULEURVOICE:** Do you think that a strong regional identity is compatible with European identity?

**Henry Malosse:** Of course! I believe that regional identity is more compatible with European identity than with national identity. I'm in favor of a Federal Europe, of an European army, but at the same time I think the European Union has to recognize the right to diversity, in particular regional diversity. Europe should deal with major issues, like the European army for example, and leave local issues, like the marketing of goat cheeses in markets for instance, to local actions. This European action affects the image of Europe.

**INSULEURVOICE: Don't you think that claiming specificity can lead to marginalization?**

**Henry Malosse:** Not at all, on the contrary! The Insuleur network for example, because of its vocation to integrate all the islands of the European Union, supports the development of regions that have been abandoned by the State and by the central government. They would be marginalized if they remained in a one-way dialogue with the central government. The work of the Chambers of commerce of the islands and of Insuleur is courageous. Today the elected representatives of the islands are absent from the European debate and that is why we need to develop solidarity between European islands.

**INSULEURVOICE: What do you think are the major coming European issues for islands?**

**Henry Malosse:** The revision of the cohesion policy is central for the future of islands. This policy must continue, even if things have to be changed: additionality has to be removed and procedures have to be simplified. But above all, this new EU cohesion policy shall include a specific priority for the islands, funds that would help them to raise their handicaps and give them support, that would develop relations between them and break their isolation.

**INSULEURVOICE: You are president of the EESC Employers' Group, director and advisor on European matters at the Assembly of French chambers of Commerce and industry, teacher, you wrote books about Europe, you did some great things for Europe: what else could you do for Europe?**

**Malosse Henry:** I think the major danger facing the EU today is technocracy. Officials from the institutions lose contact with reality. I wish my action, which is bringing voices of businesses to Europe, could bring real life back to Brussels.

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