

# INSULEUR VOICE

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

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## President visits INSULEUR headquarters and Greek Government Chios & Athens - July 2009

**INSULEUR President Mr. Juan Gual de Torrella**, also Mallorca Chamber of Commerce President, since last May, visited the headquarters from our Network in the Greek island of Chios in July 2009. During his trip to Greece, Mr. Gual de Torrella also gathered in Athens with the main authorities responsible for insularity, that is, the **Greek Vice-Minister responsible for Insular Development, Mr. Panos Kammenos**, and the **Representative from the General Secretary from the Ministry of Economy**. Both of them met Mr. Gual de Torrella and his cabinet, and they were very interested on the new INSULEUR Strategic Plan for the next 3 years.

Furthermore, in Chios, at INSULEUR Headquarters, Mr. Gual de Torrella attended also to the EOAEN Administration Council (Network of Insular Greek Chambers), meeting as well the **EOAEN President, Mr. Themistodis Papatheofanous**, and with **INSULEUR's treasurer, Mr. Yiorgos Benetos**.



**Picture (among others):** Elias Michalakis (first INSULEUR and Honorary President), Juan Gual (President), Yiorgos Benetos (Treasurer) & Stylianos Giakoumogiannakis (Vicepresident)

President Gual de Torrella have proposed to work in two lines, being the first one to continue with the **action of lobbying before the local, national and European institutions** developed to date and in second place, developing **projects of cooperation** in network through European Programs, in tourism, transportation, energy and management of the environment, like options of business development.

In this sense, the network is trying to give a greater visibility to its work addressed to the media and to the society in general, to continue with the deepening of the know-how on development of the insular SMEs and of the economy of the insular regions in general.



## 1<sup>st</sup> International Forum on the Nautical Sector in Castelsardo (Sardinia) Organized by the Chamber of Commerce of Sassari

The **Chamber of Commerce of Sassari**, in collaboration with the Italian Institute of Foreign Trade and the local government, organized the First International Forum on the Nautical Sector in Castelsardo (Sardinia). During the celebration of this Forum, **INSULEUR President Mr. Gual de Torrella** met with the representatives of the Italian Cameras of Cagliari, Oristano and Sassari. In this working meeting were present the **Sassari Chamber of Commerce President Mr. Gavino Sini**, the **Oristano Chamber of Commerce President Mr. Pietrino Sacanu** and its **Secretary General Mr. Enrico Massidda**, and finally the **Cagliari Chamber of Commerce Secretary General Mr. Carlo Desogus**.





## II INSULEUR ETP in Greece:

Training actions, from Gozo 2008 to Heraklion 2009

Taking over the leading and starting role from Gozo Business Chamber last year in Malta, the **Heraklion Chamber of Commerce** in collaboration with INSULEUR brilliantly held the **II Executive Training Programme (ETP)** of our network last 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> in the Greek island of Crete, in the splendid Kastellaki Congress Hall, addressed to our experts at the INSULEUR Chambers, representatives of national and local governments and as well experts working for similar organisations interested on the insular development like CRPM (Conference of Maritime and Peripheral Regions) or ESIN (EU Small Islands Network).

INSULEUR and Mallorca Chamber of Commerce President **Mr. Joan Gual de Torrella**, supported the initiative as part of the Council of Administration Strategic Plan 2009-2012, specifically regarding the fifth axe, that is "**Training**". Mr. Gual de Torrella emphasized the meaningful objective of such events, that is, the deepening of knowledge on the insular enterprises and the insular regional economic environments.



**Picture (right):** Mr. Evangelos Douloufakis (Heraklion Chamber Expert)

First day, first session, lectures started with **Dr. Alkinoos Nikolaidis**, representative of **MAICH** on sustainable agriculture development and its coherence to regional economies with emphasis to tourism sector. Taking the floor, the **President of Union of Crete Exporters Mr. Alkiviadis Kalabokis** disserted on the **extroversion of VSMEs**, that is, the means and ways of enhancing export activities and the role of local stakeholders such as chambers and unions of exporters. Furthermore **consultant in tourism sector Mr. George Kokkinis** spoke on the evolution and implementation of a realistic marketing plan concerning tourism sector, basic principles and methods of achieving goals and targets.

On the second session **expert Advisor to the Secretary General of the Region of Crete Ms. Maria Tikmanidi** talked about the economic environment and insular enterprises. Additionally the **Director of Development Agency of STEP-C Mr. Artemis Saitakis** explained the **role of research institutions** facilitating the effectiveness of the local chambers of commerce on technology transfer to spin-offs and SMEs.

Second day, **member of the European Parliament from 2004 to 2009 Mr. Stavros Arnautakis** chatted on the EU programs and initiatives and the importance for insular SMEs. Environmental management and energy savings also had its part on the Programme, mainly with presentations of successful water-saving innovated procedures in **Aldemar Hotels**, by company representative **Mr. E. Makogamvrakis**. Last but not least, **President of Minoan International College Mr. Nikos Skoulas** gave a speech on diversified tourism development at insular regions.



After general discussion, the **Heraklion Chamber of Commerce and Industry and former Vice-President at EOAEN and INSULEUR Mr. Nikitas Dolapsakis** concluded the II ETP 2009 thanking all the participants coming from around Europe and also invited the attendants to a succulent Gala dinner made out of typical Cretan gastronomy.

**Picture:** Heraklion Chamber President Mr. Nikitas Dolapsakis

## Special Dossier:

### European Parliament Elections

#### 1) Election results and constitution of EP committees

Last 4-7<sup>th</sup> June, the European citizens of the 27 member countries elected a total amount of 736 MEPs to represent them during the next five years term. Turnout ballot reached 43%.

In this sense, regarding **election results**, the Group of the European People's Party (EPP) reached 265 seats (36%), the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament (S&D) attained 184 seats (25%), the Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) got 84 seats (11.4%), the Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance (GREENS/EFA) obtained 55 seats

(7.5%), the European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR) won 54 seats (7.3%), the Confederal Group of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left (GUE/NGL) gained 35 seats (4.8%), the Europe of Freedom and Democracy Group accomplished 32 seats (4.3%), and finally the MEPs Non-attached to other group (NA) acquired 27 seats (3.7%).

Along the inaugural plenary session in Strasbourg last 14-16th July, MEPs elected **Jerzy Buzek (EPP) to be the new European Parliament President** with 86.18% (see picture right during inaugural speech following his election). Being the first President of the European Parliament to come from Central and Eastern Europe following the EU's enlargement in 2004, the Polish MEP will lead the chamber until January 2012.



Furthermore, fourteen Vice-Presidents were elected, together with five Quaestors. Among them, **Ms. Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou**, born in the Greek island of Zakynthos was elected in the 1<sup>st</sup> round as **Vicepresident of the European Parliament**. Before summer break, Brussels held the constitution of the Parliamentary committees and the election of chairs and vice-chairs during 20-23th July.

**Picture (left):** Ms. Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou & Mr. Jerzy Buzek

## 2) 2009-2014 main challenges

On 4-7<sup>th</sup> June 2009 elected European Parliament for the 7<sup>th</sup> term will face several challenges along the next five years. Among them, one can include financial services, social policy, climate change, EU enlargement, agriculture and, if and when ratified by all Member States, the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty.

Regarding the **Economic and Monetary Affairs** the financial market crisis is now having an impact on the rest of the economy as the credit squeeze affects industrial investment. Improving Europe's framework of financial regulation will be a major issue for the next European Parliament.

Concerning the chapter of **Climate Change and Energy**, the EU will be simultaneously pursue talks on a worldwide post-Kyoto climate regime, to be agreed in Copenhagen by the end of 2009. As the EU works towards the 2020 deadline for its 20/20/20 targets (20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, 20% improvement in energy efficiency, and 20% renewables in the EU energy mix), it also faces the challenge of halving global greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Parliament wants the EU and other industrialized countries to agree, as a group, to try to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 25-40% by 2020, and at least 80% by 2050, compared to 1990.

Parliament recommended that global warming and the resulting climate change issues be tackled in all spheres and policies, that is from energy and tourism to health, agriculture and intelligent computer systems.

Regarding **Agriculture** the European Parliament will take part in preparations for the next major overhaul of the CAP (Common Agricultural Policy), scheduled for 2013. The outcome will depend partly on the expected budgetary battle between Member States on the post-2013 period. The Lisbon Treaty, if ratified, will give Parliament joint-decision making powers with agriculture ministers in this area, which is currently not the case. Furthermore consequences for arable farming such as more drought and smaller harvest in the south or an increased risk of natural disasters is keen on be reflected gradually in policy decisions on agriculture.

Lastly, the future of **Rural Development Policy** in preserving territorial cohesion and the public's expectations, notably as regards quality and respect for the environment will probably be key features of the reform.

If ratified by EU Member States, the **Lisbon Treaty** will give the European Parliament more power over the EU's decision making in areas like agriculture, and as well on new policy areas to be introduced by the Lisbon Treaty which will be subject to codecision such as tourism, energy, services of general economic interest, or personal data protection, among others.

## 3) Standing Committees: INSULEUR start to focus on the legislative work at the EP

Among the 22 Committees at the European Parliament, and according to the main and first axe of INSULEUR Strategic Plan 2009-2012, that is, continuing fruitful and constructive lobbying action to the European Institutions, the legislative work of the several nine Committees is interesting to follow up. European laws are modified and take shape ahead of them being debated by the full Chamber. Each Committee is led by the vital role played by one Chair and four Vice-chairs, regarding work coordination, but also due to their political prestige.

**Committee on Regional Development (REGI)** is responsible for regional and cohesion policy, in particular, the European Regional Development Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the other instruments of the Union's regional policy, assessing the impact of other Union policies on economic and social cohesion, coordination of the Union's structural instruments, outermost regions and islands as well as trans-frontier and interregional cooperation, relations with the Committee of the Regions, interregional cooperation organisations and local and regional authorities.

Elected chair is former Regional Policy Commissioner, **Danuta Maria Hübner** (EPP, Poland); four Vice-chairs are Giorgos Stavrakakis (S&D, Greece - born in Lassithi - Crete), Markus Pieper (EPP, Germany), Filiz Hakaeva Hyusmenova (ALDE, Bulgaria), and Michail Tremopoulos (Greens/EFA, Greece)

**Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN)** is responsible for tourism and matters relating to the development of a common policy for rail, road, inland waterway, maritime and air transport, in particular common rules applicable to transport within the European Union, the establishment and development of trans-European networks in the area of transport infrastructure, the provision of transport services and relations in the field of transport with third countries, transport safety, and relations with international transport bodies and organisations.

Elected chair is **Brian Simpson** (S&D, UK); four vice-chairs are Dominique Riquet (EPP, FR), Peter van Dalen (ECR, NL), Silvia Adriana Țicău (S&D, Romania), and Dieter-Lebrecht Koch (EPP, Germany).

**Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON)** is responsible for the economic and monetary policies of the Union, the functioning of Economic and Monetary Union and the European monetary and financial system, the free movement of capital and payments, the international monetary and financial system, rules on competition and State or public aid, tax provisions, and the regulation and supervision of financial services, institutions and markets including financial reporting, auditing, accounting rules, corporate governance and other company law matters specifically concerning financial services.

Elected chair is **Sharon Bowles** (ALDE, United Kingdom); four Vice-chairs are José Manuel García-Margallo y Marfil (EPP, Spain), Arlene McCarthy (S&D, United Kingdom), Theodor Dumitru Stolojan (EPP, Romania), and Edward Scicluna (S&D, Malta).

**Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)** is responsible among other areas for environmental policy and environmental protection measures, in particular concerning air, soil and water pollution, waste management and recycling, dangerous substances and preparations, noise levels, climate change, protection of biodiversity, sustainable development, international and regional measures and agreements aimed at protecting the environment, and restoration of environmental damage.

Elected Chair is **Jo Leinen** (S&D, Germany); four Vice-chairs Corinne Lepage (ALDE, France), Carl Schlyter (Greens/EFA, Sweden), Boguslaw Sonik (EPP, Poland), and Dan Jørgensen (S&D, Denmark).

**Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE)** is responsible among other areas for the Union's industrial policy and the application of new technologies, including measures relating to SMEs; the Union's research policy, including the dissemination and exploitation of research findings; Community measures relating to energy policy in general, the security of energy supply and energy efficiency including the establishment and development of trans-European networks in the energy infrastructure sector; the Euratom Treaty and Euratom Supply Agency; nuclear safety, decommissioning and waste disposal in the nuclear sector; the information society and information technology, including the establishment and development of trans-European networks in the telecommunication infrastructure sector.

Elected Chair is **Herbert Reul** (EPP, Germany); four Vice-chairs are Patrizia Toia (S&D, Italy), Jens Rohde (ALDE, Denmark), Anni Podimata (S&D, Greece), and Evzen Tosenovsky (ECR, Czech Republic).





**Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI)** is responsible among other areas for the operation and development of the common agricultural policy; rural development, including the activities of the relevant financial instruments; the improvement of the quality of agricultural products; supplies of agricultural raw materials; and forestry.

Elected Chair is **Paulo De Castro** (S&D, Italy); four Vice-chairs are Rareş-Lucian Niculescu (EPP, Romania), José Bové (Greens/EFA, France), Janusz Wojciechowski (ECR, Poland), and Marit Paulsen (ALDE, Sweden).



**Committee on Fisheries (PECH)** is responsible for the operation and development of the common fisheries policy and its management; the conservation of fishery resources; the common organization of the market in fishery products; structural policy in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, including the financial instruments for fisheries guidance; international fisheries agreements.

Elected Chair is **Carmen Fraga Estévez** (EPP, Spain); four Vice-chairs are Struan Stevenson (ECR, UK), Alain Cadec (EPP, France), Guido Milana (S&D, Italy), and Carl Christopher Haglund (ALDE, Finland).



**Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO)** is responsible for coordination at Community level of national legislation in the sphere of the internal market and for the customs union, in particular the free movement of goods including the harmonisation of technical standards, the right of establishment, and the freedom to provide services except in the financial and postal sectors; as well measures aiming at the identification and removal of potential obstacles to the functioning of the internal market.

Elected Chair is **Malcolm Harbour** (ECR, UK); four Vice-chairs are Eija-Ritta Korhola (EPP, Finland), Bernadette Vergnaud (S&D, France), Lara Comi (EPP, Italy), and Louis Grech (S&D, Malta).



**Committee on Development (DEVE)** is responsible among other areas for the promotion, implementation and monitoring of the development and cooperation policy of the Union, notably political dialogue with developing countries, bilaterally and in the relevant international organizations and interparliamentary fora, aid to, and cooperation agreements with, developing countries; matters relating to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement and relations with the relevant bodies.

Elected Chair is **Eva Joly** (Greens / EFA, France); four Vice-chairs are Michèle Striffler (EPP, France), Nirj Deva (ECR, UK), Iva Zanicchi (EPP, Italy), and Corina Cretu (S&D, Romania).

## 4) Islands represented at the new European Parliament:

The European Parliament, the only directly-elected body of the European Union, remains a key institution in many policy areas, which decisions on new European laws are made jointly with Council of Ministers, which represents Member States.

Among the 736 new elected members of the European Parliament (MEPs), who are going to divide their time between Brussels, Strasbourg and their constituencies, several islanders will defend and encourage social and economic cohesion for their territories. In Brussels they will attend meetings of the parliamentary committees and political groups, and additional plenary sittings. In Strasbourg they will attend 12 plenary sittings per year.

Next, a detailed description of islands' MEPs is presented being divided by country, and as well by political group, island territory and parliamentary committees that they already belong.

### **CYPRUS (6)**

#### **Takis HATZIGEORGIOU**

(Born on 11 December 1956, Pafos).

Member at Committee on Foreign Affairs and substitute at the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy.

EU political group: European United Left - Nordic Green Left

National group: Anorthotiko Komma Ergazomenou Laou - Aristera - Nees Dynameis





**Ioannis KASOULIDES**

(Born on 10 August 1948, Lefkosia).

Member at the Committee on Foreign Affairs and substitute at the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs.

EU political group: Vice-Chairman at the European People's Party

National group: Dimokratikos Synagermos



**Kyriakos MAVRONIKOLAS**

(Born on 25 January 1955, Pafos).

Vice-Chairman at the Subcommittee on Security and Defence, member at the Committee on Foreign Affairs and substitute at the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety.

EU political group: Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats

National group: EDEK Kinima Sosialdimokraton



**Antigoni PAPAĐOPOULOU**

(Born on 8 July 1954, Morfou).

Member at the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs and substitute at both Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, and Women's Rights and Gender Equality.

EU political group: Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats

National group: Dimokratiko Coma



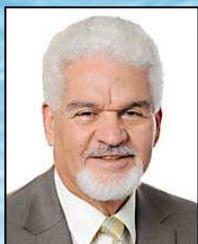
**Eleni THEOCHAROUS**

(Born on 24 June 1953, Amiantos).

Member at the Committee on Development and substitute at the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety.

EU political group: European People's Party

National group: Dimokratikos Synagermos



**Kyriacos TRIANTAPHYLIDIS**

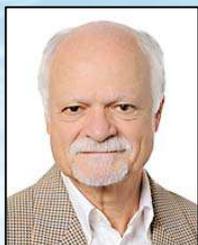
(Born on 3 September 1944, Palaihor).

Member at the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection and substitute at the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs.

EU political group: European United Left - Nordic Green Left

National group: Anorthotiko Komma Ergazomenou Laou - Aristera - Nees Dynameis

**FRANCE (4)**



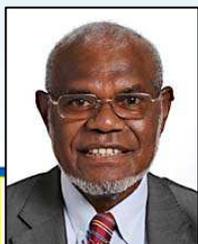
**Elie HOARAU**

(Born on 8 July 1938, Sainte-Suzanne, La Réunion).

Member at the Committee on Regional Development and substitute at the Committee on Legal Affairs.

EU political group: European United Left - Nordic Green Left

National group: Liste "Alliance des Outre-Mers"



**Maurice PONGA**

(Born on 5 June 1947, Kouaoua, Nouvelle-Calédonie).

Member at the Committee on Development (member) and substitute at the Committee on Regional Development.

EU political group: European People's Party

National group: Union pour un Mouvement Populaire





**Patrice TIROLIEN**

(Born on 17 March 1946, Grand-Bourg, Guadalupe).

Member at the Committee on Development and substitute at the Committee on Regional Development.

EU political group: Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats

National group: Parti socialiste



**François ALFONSI**

(Born on 14 September 1953, Ajaccio, Corsica).

Member at the Committee on Regional Development, substitute at both the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, and Budgets.

EU political group: Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance

National group: Partitu di a Nazione Corsa

## **GREECE (3)**



**Rodi KRATSA-TSAGAROPOULOU**

(Born on 15 April 1953, Zakynthos).

Vice-President at both the European Parliament and the Parliament's Bureau, member at both Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, and Women's Rights and Gender Equality, and substitute at the Committee on Regional Development.

EU political group: European People's Party

National group: Nea Dimokratia



**Silvana RAPTI**

(Born on 10 November 1958, Kerkyra – Corfu). Member at the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, substitute at both the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection, and Petitions.

EU political group: Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats

National group: Panellinio Socialistiko Kinima



**Georgios STAVRAKAKIS**

(Born on 15 October 1954, Christo Ierapetras, Lassithi, Crete).

Vice-Chairman at the Committee on Regional Development, member at the Committee on Budgetary Control and substitute at the Committee on Budgets.

EU political group: Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats

National group: Panellinio Socialistiko Kinima

## **ITALY (6)**



**Antonello ANTINORO**

(Born on 3 August 1960, Palermo).

Member at the Committee on Fisheries and substitute at the Committee on Budgets.

EU political group: European People's Party

National group: Unione dei Democratici cristiani e dei Democratici di Centro



**Rita BORSELLINO**

(Born on 2 June 1945, Palermo).

Member at the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs and substitute at the Committee on Culture and Education.

EU political group: Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats

National group: Partito Democratico





**Rosario CROCETTA**

(Born on 8 February 1951, Gela).

Member at the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, and substitute both at the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, and at Petitions.

EU political group: Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats

National group: Partito Democratico



**Salvatore IACOLINO**

(Born on 18 November 1963, Sicily). Vice-Chairman at the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs and substitute at the Committee on International Trade.

EU political group: European People's Party

National group: Il Popolo della Libertà



**Giovanni LA VIA**

(Born on 28 June 1963, Catania, Sicily).

Member at the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, and substitute at the Committee on Budgets.

EU political group: European People's Party

National group: Il Popolo della Libertà



**Giommaria UGGIAS**

(Born on 29 March 1961, Villanova Monteleone, Sassari, Sardinia).

Member at the Committee on Transport and Tourism, and substitute at Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety.

EU political group: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe

National group: Italia dei Valori - Lista Di Pietro

**MALTA (5)**



**John ATTARD-MONTALTO**

(Born on 7 February 1953, Sliema).

Member at the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, and substitute at the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EU political group: Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats

National group: Partit Laburista



**Simon BUSUTTIL**

(Born on 21 March 1969, Attard).

Member at both the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, and on Petitions, and substitute at the Committee on Fisheries.

EU political group: European People's Party

National group: Partit Nazzjonalista



**David CASA**

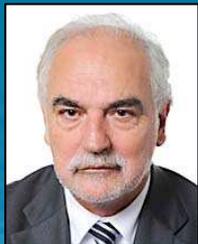
(Born on 16 November 1968, Valletta).

Member at the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, and substitute at the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs.

EU political group: European People's Party

National group: Partit Nazzjonalista





**Louis GRECH**

(Born on 22 March 1947, Hamrun).

Vice-Chairman at the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection, and substitute at the Committee on Budgets.

EU political group: Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats

National group: Partit Laborista



**Edward SCICLUNA**

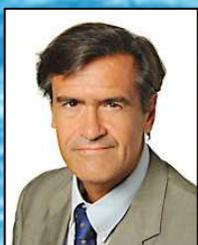
(Born on 19 October 1946, Naxxar).

Vice-Chairman at the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, and substitute at the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety.

EU political group: Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats

National group: Partit Laborista

**SPAIN (5)**



**Juan Fernando LÓPEZ AGUILAR**

(Born on 10 June 1961, Las Palmas).

President at the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, and member at the Conference of Committee Chairs, and substitute at the Committee on Legal Affairs.

EU political group: Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats

National group: Partido Socialista Obrero Español



**Teresa RIERA MADURELL**

(Born on 13 October 1950, Barcelona).

Member at the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, substitute at both the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Subcommittee on Security and Defence.

EU political group: Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats

National group: Partido Socialista Obrero Español



**Rosa ESTARAS FERRAGUT**

(Born on 21 October 1965, Palma de Mallorca).

Member at the Committee on Regional Development, and substitute at three, the C. on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, the C. on Transport and Tourism, and the Subcommittee on Human Rights.

EU political group: European People's Party

National group: Partido Popular



**Antonio LÓPEZ-ISTÚRIZ WHITE**

(Born on 1 April 1970, Pamplona).

Member at the Committee on Legal Affairs, and substitute at the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EU political group: European People's Party

National group: Partido Popular



**Gabriel MATO ADROVER**

(Born on 29 April 1961, Madrid).

Member at the Com. on Agriculture and Rural Development, and substitute at the Committee on Fisheries.

EU political group: European People's Party

National group: Partido Popular (President PP La Palma)





## Regional Policy: 6<sup>th</sup> progress report on Economic and Social Cohesion: Creative and Innovative Regions

Last June 2009, EU Commission presented the final results of the public consultation examining the *green paper on territorial cohesion*, to which INSULEUR present its own position paper. Results are collected on the 6<sup>th</sup> interim report on economic and social cohesion, which focuses on creativity and innovation as a means to recover from the current economic crisis.

The European Economic Recovery Plan together with Cohesion Policy targets investments that strengthen the EU longterm competitiveness, such as entrepreneurship, access to finance for SMEs, human capital, ICT, green technology and energy efficiency.

The main goal of this report is to show which factors can boost creativity and innovation in both developed and less developed regions. The report covers technological innovation, but also many non-technological forms of innovation such as social, artistic, cultural, process and service innovation. The report also provides a synthesis of the debate on Territorial Cohesion, launched by a Green Paper last year. The Commission received 391 responses from all Member States, also from INSULEUR. Key outcomes from the consultation arouse a broad agreement on the goal and basic elements of territorial cohesion, being the goal to encourage the harmonious and sustainable development of all territories by building on their territorial characteristics and resources.

Many contributors underlined the solidarity dimension of territorial cohesion; some as territorial dimension of the European social model. This implies that economic and social disparities between territories at all levels (from the EU to the regional and local level) need to be taken into account. Many replies stated that a good quality of life, equal opportunities and access to services of general interest in all territories are crucial both for solidarity and competitiveness.

Some respondents proposed to link territorial cohesion to a small number of geographical features which may influence development. They also proposed specific EU policies and funding or even comprehensive EU strategies for these territories.

Many replies argued that territorial cohesion should lead to a further improvement of the territorial dimension in the design and implementation of Community policies. For example, many reactions asked for a better coordination and coherence between different EU instruments and funds.

A clear consensus emerged that public policies at different levels need to take into account their territorial impact to avoid contradictory effects. This is particularly true for European policies with a territorial impact, such as cohesion, transport, energy, agriculture, environment, employment, competition and research policies.

Taking the territorial impact into account during the phase of policy formulation would improve synergies and effectiveness. That is why a better understanding of the territorial impact of public policies is needed. The important role of regional and local actors – including representatives from the private sector and civil society – in formulating, implementing, and evaluating policies was emphasized by many replies.

Regarding improving understanding of territorial cohesion all respondents agreed that better tools for territorial analysis and indicators to understand territorial trends are needed. The ESPON program is regarded as key asset in this respect.

Finally, the Commission is urged to complement for analytical purposes GDP per head with other indicators of quality of life (e.g. human development, sustainability, vulnerability, accessibility of services).

**Source: EU Commission**

**For more information on the 6<sup>th</sup> interim report on economic and social cohesion:**

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docoffic/official/reports/interim6\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/reports/interim6_en.htm)



## European Projects: Call of Proposals

### INVESTinMED: 3<sup>rd</sup> and last call

The third and last call for initiatives of the **Invest in Med** programme has been launched. The deadline for submitting your initiatives is the **18 November 2009**. For this call the priority sectors and the instruments available have been changed:

#### Priority areas:

1. Energy efficiency and renewable energies
2. Industrial value added
3. ICT
4. Pharmacy, health, cosmetics
5. Vocational training
6. Distribution and logistics
7. Urban development
8. SME's access to finance

#### Available instruments:

1. B2B meetings
2. prospective workshops
3. technical assistances
4. short term missions
5. trainings
6. long term secondments

The eligibility criteria are still the same – to be leader of the initiative, you have to be a direct member of either EUROCHAMBRES, ASCAME, Businessmed or ANIMA and be based either in the EU 27 or in one of the 9 Med beneficiary countries.

**For more information on the Invest In Med procedure, please visit:**

<http://www.invest-in-med.eu/en/rubrique-Propose+an+initiative-13.html>



### ENPI CPC-MED: 1<sup>st</sup> call for Standard Projects

The "ENPI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Program 2007/2013" is a multilateral cross-border cooperation program co-financed by the European Union under the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI).

The Program provides the framework for the implementation of cross-border and cooperation activities in the context of the European Neighbourhood Policy, complementing efforts exerted within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, with the final aim of developing an area of peace, stability, prosperity and good neighborliness involving EU Mediterranean Countries (EUMC) and Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC).

This program has launched its first call for proposals. Before submitting any project proposal, applicants are invited to consult the Joint Operational Program approved by the European Commission on August 14th 2008, the ENPI Regulation (EC) n. 1638/2006, the ENPI CBC Implementing Rules Regulation (EC) n. 951/2007.

After having assessed the situation in the different eligible territories, the Joint Monitoring Committee has decided to postpone the **deadline for the submission** of the project proposals until **October 20th 2009**.

**For more information, please visit:**

<http://www.enpicbcmed.eu/en/index.php?xsl=866&s=29&v=9&c=5902&na=1&n=10>

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