

INTERVIEWS

VIDEO INTERVIEW OF CLAUDIO MARTINI "THE WHITE PAPER ON MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE"

Governance



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OPEN FORUM: BREAKING THE SPIRAL OF CRISES, BY CLAUDIO MARTINI published in Europolitics on 4th March 2009

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ARTICLE

NO SOLIDARITY NO EUROPE!

"There is no European Union without solidarity," stated José Manuel Barroso at the Summit of Regions and Cities, "and social and economic cohesion is the most important principle to implement this concept."

The Summit was organised on 5-6 March 2009 in Prague by the Committee of the Regions and both the President of the European Commission and the Commissioner responsible for Regional Policy, Danuta Hübner, took part in the discussions.

The financial crisis has been at the core of the debates during the two-day summit. Indeed, all Presidents of regions and mayors of Europe were very concerned about the recession and some of them asked for a *"European Summit between the Commission, the Council and regional organisations"* as proposed by Claudio Martini. Indeed, the President of the CPMR feels *"the only way to tackle the crisis is to establish dialogue between regions and cities, national*

governments and the European Union."

Along the same lines, Luc Van den Brande, President of the Committee of the Regions pointed out *"I take for granted that President Barroso will associate the Committee of the Regions in the next European Council, in Prague on 7 May."*

The Commission confirmed that since the crisis had started, *"a significant amount of money has been dedicated to the Regions that need it the most, to reduce the impact of the economic recession"*. "In 2009" Barroso said, *"11 billion Euros has been allocated as frontloading of the Structural Funds including the Regional Fund and the Social Fund. Particularly, 7.5 billion Euros to new Member States."* According to the President of the Commission, *"this is a concrete demonstration of solidarity, which proves that the problem is serious and it is not over. Indeed, we are paying the negative consequences from the financial instability especially in the social sector"*. Unemployment is the main problem for the Commission. However, with a common and prompt response at global level, and boosting investments, particularly in green economy, in energy efficiency, and in new technologies, confidence in the market could increase rapidly.

This position was also shared by Claudio Martini, who chairs the Constitutional Affairs Commission in the Committee of the Regions. *"We need a new development model, based on clean energy and the environment, on innovation and research, on real economy and also on sound economic and moral rules that can limit the schizophrenia of the financial markets."*

He also recalled that efforts to preserve the environment must not be in contradiction to measures introduced to cope with the crisis. *"On the contrary, only a truly ecological approach based on a cleaner productive model is able to guarantee new economic perspectives. New exceptional markets are opening up for renewable energy technologies and smart management of water and land resources. It is a short-sighted view to consider these two issues in opposition, and I am very concerned by the fact that this short-sightedness is beginning to affect governments, not least a number of European governments."*

The CPMR wishes to start looking at exchanging experiences between regional politicians. This work will conclude in a political seminar designed to put forward proposals to be held in Marseille at the end of 2009, with the expected participation of the new European Commission and Parliament.

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[Please click here for more information on the Summit](#)

EVENTS

23-26 March 2009, European Parliament Plenary Session, Strasbourg (FR)

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/plenary/agenda.do?language=en>

26-27 March 2009, North Sea Commission Executive Committee meeting, Vest-Agder (NO)

<http://www.crpm.org/index.php?act=6,1,2,117>

1-2 April 2009, CPMR Baltic Sea Commission Executive Committee meeting, Billund Midtjylland (DK)

<http://www.balticseacommission.org/ExecutiveCommitteedec08.html>

16 April 2009, CPMR Scientific Council on TEN-T Review, Zaragoza, Aragón, (ES)

<http://www.crpm.org/fr/index.php?act=6>

21 April 2009, nrg4SD Steering Committee & General Assembly, Quintana Roo, (Mexico)

<http://www.crpm.org/en/index.php?act=6,2,2,67>

21-22 April 2009, CoR Plenary Session, CoR Brussels (BE)

<http://www.cor.europa.eu/pages/EventTemplate.aspx?view=folder&id=87402c77-d94a-4381-95b0-5ee5b3ec2d2d&sm=87402c77-d94a-4381-95b0-5ee5b3ec2d2d>

22 April 2009, CPMR Employment & Training/Social Inclusion Seminar, Emilia Romagna Brussels office (BE)

<http://www.crpm.org/index.php?act=6,1>

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