



CRPM CPMR

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CLAUDIO MARTINI ASKS FOR A EUROPEAN SUMMIT WITH THE REGIONS TO TACKLE THE CRISIS

"A European Summit between the Commission, the Council and the regional organisations to discuss the financial crisis," was the proposal **Claudio Martini** put forward yesterday in Prague during his speech at the Summit of Regions and Cities.

The Leader of Tuscany and President of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) feels *"the only way to tackle the crisis is to establish dialogue between Regions and Cities, national governments and the European Union."*

"We need a new development model, continued Claudio Martini, based on clean energy and the environment, on innovation and research, on the real economy and also on sound economic and moral rules that can limit the schizophrenia of the financial markets."

Claudio Martini, who is also Chair of the Constitutional Affairs Commission at the Committee of the Regions, recalled that efforts to preserve the environment must not be in contradiction with 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."*

Against a background of economic and social upheaval and at a time when the focus on challenges regarding energy and the environment has never been greater, the CPMR has been invited by the OCED (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) to take part in a forum on *"Global Crisis, Regional Responses"* on 30th March in Paris. The CPMR next 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.

Finally, Claudio Martini spoke on behalf of the Forum of Global Associations of Regions (FOGAR) of which he is President: *"The Czech Presidency did right in inviting Mr Obama to the European Summit on 5 April in Prague! Such a constructive dialogue between the EU and United States can no doubt help to implement a new model of development that we all need!"*

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