CIVVIH- ICOMOS with support of ICOMOS Hellenic, in cooperation with various local bodies including Technical Chamber of Greece, University of Patras, Municipality of Patras, had organized a meeting in Patras (on 9-12 March, 2006) to discuss the constitution of a CIVVIH’s Sub-Committee for the Mediterranean.

The meeting consisted of three parts: a scientific symposium titled “Historical city ports of the Mediterranean region and urban operations of the 20th century”, a visit to the WH archaeological site of Olympia and a CIVVIH business meeting.

At the Symposium were participated Ray Bondin, President of CIVVIH, Sofia Avgerinou Kolonias V. President of CIVVIH, Michel Bonnette President of ICOMOS Canada and V. President of CIVVIH, Michal Firestone, Secretary General of CIVVIH, and the members of the Bureau of CIVVIH: Nur Akin, Alvaro Gomez Ferrer Bayo, Joao Campos, Michel Van Der Meerschen, Elvira Petroncelli, Christopher Pound.

Also there were present some members of CIVVIH, Teresa Coletta (Italy), Astrid Debold Kritter (Germany), Nevzat Ilhan (Turquie), Vladimir Krogius and Olga Sevan (Russia), Saleh Lamei (Egypte), Corinne Langlois (France), Jean-Louis Luxen (Belgium), Athina Papadopoulos (Cyprus), Krzysztof Pawlowski (Poland), Georges Zouain (Lebanon), Helen Maistrour, Maria Daniil, and Maria Tsimikas (Greece).

Gustavo Araoz V. President ICOMOS, Christoph Machat as interim President of SC, Valter Shtylla President ICOMOS Albania, Shadi Ghardban (Palestine), Pamela Jerome ICOMOS USA, Nikos Belavilas President TICCIH-Greece, Nikos Agriantonis President ICOMOS Hellenic and the Board of Directors of ICOMOS Hellenic, Greek experts and representatives of different institutions had already assisted as well.

During the process, 13 lectures of Mediterranean members of CIVVIH were presented, concerning the topic of the Scientific Symposium. The participant members of ICOMOS had decided the constitution of the Mediterranean Sub-Committee of CIVVIH. They had decided and signed a Regulation of Operating as well that has already been translated into 5 languages (Greek, French, English,
Spanish and Arabic). As an interim president was indicated Mrs. Sofia Avgerinou Kolonias.

The aim of the foundation of the sub-committee is the promotion of collaboration between the members of the CIVVIH that represent the countries of the Mediterranean, according to the aims of the CIVVIH-ICOMOS and in the framework of the Eger-Xi’an (2005) principles for the International Scientific Committees ICOMOS, as well as according to the spirit of the Euromediterannean Collaboration (Appeal of Barcelona - 1995).

A more specific aim of the Sub-committee is the development of solidarity in the area of the Mediterranean for the sustainable protection, management and development of historical cities, through common meetings of collaboration, where their particular characteristics in the common historical space of the Mediterranean will be analysed and relative studies, researches, and educational programs for all stages of education will be promoted.

For the promotion of the mentioned above, it is also essential to consider the collaboration with the research and educational institutions as well as with the responsible and relevant organisations, national and international ones.

Today, one year later, the publication of the proceedings are done and going to be published in a short time. Sofia Avgerinou Kolonias, Heleni Maistrour, with the support and collaboration of Ray Bondin and Michel Bonnette have already composed a project concerning the creation of a Data Base on the Historical City Ports of the Mediterranean. (That will help to identify and form a project and approach possible partners for this work – both within and outside ICOMOS)

A new meeting of CIVVIH’s Mediterranean Sub-committee is going to take place in Corfu-Greece in the next autumn (2007). The Scientific Symposium will discusses the case of the Historical Urban Landscapes in the Mediterranean. The platform of the meeting is prepared and will circulate the next weeks.

Sofia Avgerinou Kolonias
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