

REPORT ON THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

“LA VALORISATION DU PATRIMOINE URBAIN EN MÉDITERRANÉE - URBAN HERITAGE ENHANCEMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN”

ARLES, 18 & 19 SEPTEMBER 2008

BY
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On the 18th and 19th of September an International Seminar on the subject of: «*La valorisation du Patrimoine urbain en Méditerranée – Urban heritage enhancement in the Mediterranean*» was held in Arles, France.

This Seminar was realized under the auspices of UNESCO and was organized by the *Union Internationale des Associations et Organismes Techniques* (International Union of Technical Associations and Organizations- UATI), the city of Arles, the Sorbonne University (Paris IV) and the *Alliance de Villes Européennes de Culture* (AVEC) network.

The Seminar benefited from the participation of the local authorities, of French competent bodies as regards to matters of residence policy, of representatives of the competent ministries, university teachers from countries of the Mediterranean, and towns' representatives. In the seminar they participated also the vice president of the French ICOMOS O.Poisson, the Secretary General M.Pratt and the members of CIVVIH Samir Abdulac, Michel Van der Merchen and Andree Van Bever.

The seminar was constructed around 4 thematic unities, within the context of which were presented case studies of cities, issues and implemented projects and policies.

A. *Urbanisme et Architecture* – Urbanism and architecture

B. *Questions Sociales* – Social Issues

C. *Questions Opérationnelles et techniques* – Operational and technical issues

D. *Vulnérabilité du patrimoine et développement durable* – Vulnerability of heritage and sustainable development

The 34 proposals highlighted theoretical and practical issues, the need for a deeper knowledge of the problems of historic cities of the Mediterranean, as well as the necessity to mobilize modern techniques in order to deal with these problems, along with new planning methods.

The cooperation of the implicated contributors constitutes a necessary presupposition for the success of the aforementioned actions.

I participated in this meeting representing the CIVVIH as an interim president of the *Sous Comité Méditerranéen* – Mediterranean Sub-Committee, as authorized by our president Ray Bondin, following an invitation sent by the organizers to the International Secretariat of ICOMOS.

Within the context of the Seminar's proposals, my suggestion on the subject of «Un réseau pour la sauvegarde des villes et villages Historique de la Méditerranée. Le Sous Comité Méditerranéen du CIVVIH» underlined the work and proposals of the committee to this day. The discussions and collaborations which took place in the seminar revealed interesting prospects for cooperation, about which I will be informing you.