

*The Presidency*

Mme Josefina MORENO BOLARIN  
Chief Executive  
Intermediterranean Commission  
Conference of Peripheral Maritims Regions

Dear Madam,

The Mediterranean Commission of United Cities and Local Governments has the pleasure to inform you that the **2<sup>nd</sup> Forum of Local and Regional Authorities of the Mediterranean** will be held on 2 & 3 May 2010 in Barcelona (Spain).

This second Forum has the support of the City and the Diputacio of Barcelona, as well as the Generalitat of Catalonia, and is organized in partnership with the main networks of local and regional authorities active in the Mediterranean.

It is an opportunity for political expression, debate and exchanges among local and regional authorities of the three shores of the Mediterranean. It is also the occasion for local and regional authorities to contribute to the definition and promotion of policies and actions for the development and governance of their territories.

During the first Forum held in Marseilles (France) in June 2008, local and regional authorities expressed their views on challenges related to the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and to the development of Mediterranean countries. Their mobilization achieved genuine advances, most importantly, the recognition of their role in policies of major interest for the Mediterranean: sustainable development, climate change, renewable energies, water management, de-pollution of the Mediterranean, etc.

The 2010 Forum will be the occasion to articulate the vision of local and regional authorities and particularly their ambition to set up a strategy at Mediterranean basin scale, closer to the people. The strategy should be based on a common policy with a territorial approach to development, reinforced local governance, and local and regional authorities with adequate competences and resources matching current challenges.

Following the recognition in principle of the role of local and regional authorities, the key issue in this Forum will be to obtain the effective participation of local and regional authorities in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

I urge you to make note of this major event to which elected officials of all local and regional authorities of the Mediterranean and Europe will also be invited. In coming weeks, you will receive all the necessary information for your participation in the Barcelona Forum.

Looking forward to your presence in Barcelona, yours sincerely,



Abdel Moumen ARISS  
Mayor of Beirut