



Conférence Permanente de l'Audiovisuel Méditerranéen
المؤتمر الدائم للوسائل السمعية والبصرية في حوض البحر الأبيض المتوسط
Permanent Conference of Mediterranean Audiovisual Operators

COPEAM carries on its action in favour of the Mediterranean Audiovisual sector

In the framework of the meeting of the Ambassadors in charge of the EUROMED Partnership held on the 8th April 2008 in Brussels, a hearing was accorded to COPEAM, represented by its Secretary General and Deputy-Secretary General, delegated by the ex President Habib Chawky Hamraoui.

This opportunity allowed the representatives of the Association to present its main activities carried out in the field of the Euro-Mediterranean audiovisual cooperation, including the ones carried out in collaboration with ASBU and EBU, and to ask for the maintenance of the EU Programme *EUROMED Audiovisual*.

The first result of this action has been obtained on the occasion of the Conference of the 39 EUROMED Countries' Ministers of Culture (Athens, 30th May 2008) who have recognised, in the Conclusions of the Summit (paragraph 43), the importance of the policies in favour of the audiovisual sector as well as of a Strategy for the Development of Euro-Mediterranean Audiovisual Cooperation, by stressing the necessity of a new regional programme for the Mediterranean aimed at granting the continuity of the current activities.

The third step of this pathway undertaken vis-à-vis the Institutions of the Region, with the aim of carrying on such action, is the **Call** that the new President of COPEAM, Mr. Emmanuel Hoog, has addressed to the Heads of State and Government - who will gather in Paris, on the 13th July 2008, on the occasion of the creation of the Union for the Mediterranean - for the inclusion of the Mediterranean audiovisual sector among the *UpM* priorities.

A mobilising action by COPEAM members in their own countries is required so to reach this common goal.

Read the Call in the following page

*CALL TO THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN HEADS OF STATE AND OF GOVERNEMENT
SUMMIT FOR THE UNION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN, PARIS - 13th JULY 2008*

Excellencies,

The summit that will gather you in Paris on the 13th July 2008, aims at strengthening and deepening the exchanges between the States and the peoples from the Mediterranean Basin providing them with a new institutional framework and with new devices to be adapted to the changes and the needs of the present world.

The Permanent Conference of the Mediterranean Audiovisual Operators (COPEAM) - an international inter-professional association assembling, among its members the majority of the public service Media of the region as well as prominent personalities of both the Mediterranean shores - praises such meeting that, after the Barcelona Process started in 1995 and the Neighbourhood Policy set up in 2005, opens to new perspectives of cooperation.

COPEAM is aware about your convictions and your determination in bringing the aspirations of the peoples sharing the Mediterranean, cradle of our History and of our civilizations. It knows you are more than ever committed to stand out against violence, intolerance, wars and to defend the values of cultural diversity, of co-development and of Peace. For this reason, our association wishes to express to you its full support and the one of all its members - institutions, Universities and professionals - to the initiatives that you will undertake, particularly to those concerning the Media.

Since its foundation in 1994, COPEAM has actually deployed in this domain several activities, thus contributing in making the audiovisual public sector a powerful tool to promote knowledge, to encourage exchanges of ideas, to share products, to spread works of the intellect, and an instrument to fight against ostracism, withdrawal, xenophobia and any kind of extremism.

Despite the dramatic events this Region has suffered, the Association's philosophy, projects and achievements have always been inspired by such deeply humanist ideal.

In the globalization era, it will keep basing its action on this principle, sure that the Media, where supported by the public powers and provided with the necessary means to accomplish their mission, are able to follow even the most ambitious projects.

The experience COPEAM has started in this framework, in collaboration with the Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU) and with the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), has made the achievement of important results possible in the news exchange, co-production and training fields.

Such outcomes have been awarded through the institutionalization of COPEAM University, that takes place every year in Algeria on different topics dealing with sustainable development and gathers a hundred TV and radio journalists and technicians from more than twenty Mediterranean countries.

Based on these remarkable marches, COPEAM wishes to take the opportunity of next Summit of Paris in order to draw your attention on the growth of the Mediterranean audiovisual sector, that should deserve a special place in the Declaration, in the Action Plan and in the recommendations that should issue from your Conference.

We wish that such a resolution could confirm the principle of a reinforced cooperation in the television and the radio fields, as well as of Internet. Endowed with clear rules and norms, this kind of collaboration should benefit of specific financial means so to promote the exchanges of technological and professional know-how. Such commitment would confer the Mediterranean Audiovisual sector with more legitimacy, dynamism and influence, so to bring the values and the beliefs we share to the widest audience.

We hope that the Call we are addressing to you today could be welcomed by Your Excellencies and translated into a document indicating the terms of the Audiovisual sector development recommended policy, which is essential to dialogue, to security, to co-development and the promotion of Peace in the Mediterranean region.

Wishing you the best success for your work, please, do accept COPEAM's highest regards and best wishes of prosperity and of progress for Yourselves and your peoples.

THE PRESIDENT OF COPEAM