

**PRESIDENT OF REGIONAL COUNCIL PAGANO MEETS PRESIDENT BARROSO
CALLING ON INTERMEDIATE REGIONS AND IMPROVED DIALOGUE ON
IMMIGRATION**

President of the Regional Council of Abruzzo, **Nazario Pagano**, as **President of the Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies (CALRE)**, attended a meeting in Brussels between the **presidents of associations representing local and regional authorities**, the President of the Committee of the Regions, **Mercedes Bresso**, and the President of the European Commission, **José Manuel Barroso** the last 16th of June.

The meeting happened only two weeks prior to the unveiling of the **post-2013 EU financial framework** and gave to the local and regional leaders the opportunity to urge the European Commission to acknowledge the **Lisbon Treaty 'upgrade'** for regions and cities in the discussions on the **cohesion policy** and the future EU budget as well as on the **Europe 2020 strategy**.

Attended to the meeting the President of **Committee of the Regions Mercedes Bresso**, the First Vice-President of the **Committee of the Regions** and President of the Murcia region **Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso**, il Presidente della Conferenza delle regioni periferiche marittime (CRPM) **Jean-Yves Le Drian**, Presidente della regione francese della Bretagna, il Presidente della Conferenza delle regioni europee con potere legislativo (REGLEG) **Jean-Luc Vanraes**, ministro della regione di Bruxelles-Capitale e responsabile per le Finanze, il bilancio e le relazioni esterne, la Copresidente del Consiglio dei comuni e delle regioni d'Europa (CCRE) **Annemarie Jorritsma**, sindaco della città olandese di Almere, il Presidente dell'Associazione delle regioni frontaliere europee (ARFE), **Karl-Heinz Lambertz**, primo ministro della Comunità di lingua tedesca del Belgio ed infine la Presidente dell'Assemblea delle regioni d'Europa (ARE), **Michèle Sabban**, vicepresidente della regione francese dell'Ile-de-France.

During his intervention Mr **Pagano** said: *"In support to the position expressed by the European Parliament on 8 June, the European Commission should introduce a category of "intermediate Regions" whose level of per capita GDP is between 75% and 90% of the EU average, for the future planning period of European structural funds. In the light of the recent Mediterranean crisis, recognition of a "common European border" and an appropriate revision of the Schengen provisions would be desirable. On behalf of the many CALRE Regions having to deal with migratory flows, I call on the European Commission to continue its dialogue with the Southern Mediterranean countries on the themes of migration, mobility and security."*

The program of activities as been carried on by the **Presidency of the Regional Council of Abruzzo** with the support of the **Abruzzo Regional Representation Office** in Brussels.

Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies (CALRE) website:

<http://www.calrenet.eu/2011/Home.html>

Link to the Press Release by the Committee of the Regions:

<http://cor.europa.eu/pages/PressTemplate.aspx?view=detail&id=a594cc3a-bffc-4585-893f-b0d334193e2d>

(Regional Directorate for Presidency Affairs -Liaison activities with the E.U.-20th June 2011)