

**ABRUZZO REGION'S ACTIVITIES IN EUROPE**

**THE ABRUZZO REGION PARTICIPANT OF THE COVENANT OF  
MAYORS MEETING**

**BRUSSELS, 29 NOVEMBER 2011**

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During the annual meeting of the “Covenant of Mayors”, which took place in the hemicycle of the European Parliament on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2011, the Abruzzo region has been qualified as the “European model of excellence” in the setting up of the “Covenant of Mayors”.

In the past, the Abruzzo region had already been rewarded with the national prize “Eco and the City” awarded by the Foundation Giovanni Spadolini of Florence, within the framework of the project “Sustainable cities and territories” (more than 1000 proposals to their credit), for its capacity to implement through the “Covenant of Mayors” an institutional network able to set up ideas and projects of energetical efficiency.

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On that occasion, the president of the jury, Professor Augusto Marinelli, said that : “The Abruzzo region is the most advanced European reality in terms of sustainable policies and we wanted to reward the region to illustrate that the Abruzzo experience is also possible in other regions of the South”. The regional official of energy, Mauro Di Dalmazio, also added that: “If we think of what made possible to invest roughly 34 million euros on the territory, involving every cities and counties of the region, it is clear that this model created a vast innovation wave, with a common “management cell” which allowed all of the actors to express themselves and decide directly of the energetical efficiencies interventions needed.

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The meeting at the Parliament has been preceded by another small meeting exclusively for the Abruzzo region during which the European Commission official for the “Covenant of Mayors”, Pedro Ballesteros, rewarded the Mayor of the city of Brittoli, Domenico Velluto, for the best energetical efficiency intervention that the cities of the county of Pescara have realized with the funds made available by the Abruzzo region, within the framework of the project “Participative City” (also supported by the county).

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Eventually, the actual meeting gave a useful occasion to discuss and debate for all of the Italian and European regions and not only for the ones already involved, like the Abruzzo region, in the process of setting up the “Covenant of Mayors”.

During the meeting, a video about the city of L’Aquila, as well as two others about the cities of Lorca (ES) and Mostar (BA), has been shown. These cities want to start over from

initiatives such as the “Covenant of Mayors” to rebuild a climate of confidence and hope after the catastrophes which severely affected, at different levels, their communities.

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To represent the “Covenant of Mayors for Abruzzo” at the scheduled activities, there was, among others, Abruzzo region’s official for energy, Mauro Di Dalmazio ; the Regional chief executive of the presidential affairs, legislative and community politics, parks and energy, Antonio Sorgi ; Pescara county’s official for energy, Angelo D’Ottavio ; Teramo county’s president Valter Catarra ; Teramo city’s mayor, Maurizio Brucchi and L’Aquila’s mayor Massimo Cialente.

### **Link to the video-interview of the official Di Dalmazio (by the press office of the Region’s Committee)**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GMndx7e4KR4>

### **For more information about the European project “Covenant of Mayors”**

[http://www.pattodeisindaci.eu/index\\_it.html](http://www.pattodeisindaci.eu/index_it.html)

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### **For more information about the “Covenant of Mayors” in Abruzzo**

<Http://www.regione.abruzzo.it/xAraen/>

(Directorate presidency affairs – Cooperation activities UE – 5.12.2011)