

Honourable Ministers,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It's a honour to have a new opportunity to address to such a prestigious audience.

I would like to thank you by sharing with you some good news from the Mediterranean audiovisual field and, therefore, some words of hope.

During the last two years, jointly with ASBU, we have kept our promises: meeting regularly in order to exchange experiences, developing high quality tv co-productions, reinforcing training initiatives (we have just printed a book on tv formats in Arabic that has been the focus of our cooperation with the ASBU Training Centre of Damascus), increasing flow of exchanges (thanks also to the EBU satellite network), participating in common projects.

On these solid bases, with the strength of our results, I am here to seek your support in order to go further on along this road.

Our success does not make us blind. We are fully aware about political difficulties of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, we are fully aware about the irrationality of the situation in Palestine, we are fully aware about the lack of comprehension of collective and personal dramas.

We know the complexity of these issues, but we also know that there are people from one side and the other who are incessantly working for peace.

History has shown that things can move, beyond our imagination, and that walls can fall down. It was the case of Berlin, it will be the case of Gaza.

We can prepare the conditions to change: helping people to better understand and appreciate the diversity being proud of their own identity.

Going beyond geographical and mental frontiers, welcoming the Other do not mean determining the end of national history, but the beginning of Renaissance for the whole Region.

It is in this perspective that COPEAM has launched the Euro-Mediterranean tv channel project, a mirror of our enchanting beauty that has already made a “victim”: the European Parliament has recently approved a Resolution expressing its support to this project.

What is new about this channel compared to hundred other tv channels covering the Mediterranean basin is the crossed glance, instead of national ones, on regional culture, music, history, social habits, arts, tourism, economy, etc.

A common heritage composed of a variety of elements, each one different from the other but all magically contributing to a unique image, like the magnificent mosaics that, I think, well symbolise our complexity.

A life style “made in Mediterranean”. A way of thinking to be exported throughout the world as a possible answer to the challenges of globalisation.

For its past, the Mediterranean can candidate itself as one of the main global players of both the present and the future.

With this awareness as professional operators, we address to you in order to ask your support. We cannot go ahead without a wide institutional consensus and your will is particularly crucial for the success of this initiative.

Give us your hands, we will go far away along the way of peace and of prosperity of our region and our peoples.

Thank you.

Alessandra Paradisi
Secretary General of COPEAM