



## 19<sup>th</sup> annual Conference and 18<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of COPEAM

*“Changes in the Euro-Mediterranean societies: the Media on the move”*

**Marrakesh, 29 March – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012**

The 19<sup>th</sup> annual Conference of COPEAM (Permanent Conference of the Mediterranean Audiovisual Operators), which took place at the Palais des Congrès of Marrakesh upon invitation of the Moroccan public broadcaster (SNRT) and in media-partnership with Babel TV on the theme *“Changes in the Euro-Mediterranean societies: the Media on the move”*, was officially opened by the Minister of Communication and spokesperson of the Moroccan government, Mustapha EL KHALFI.

During the three working sessions, a panel of experts from the media and the audiovisual sectors deepened the topic with a special focus on the sport rights issue, which is nowadays one of the most important challenges for the public broadcaster services, in both the North and the South of the Mediterranean basin.

The heated debate on sport rights involved several high-level personalities, among which Maurizio Beretta, President of the Italian Football League Serie A.

Then, COPEAM members adopted, as Final Resolution of the 18<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, a call for the right to have free access for viewers to general interest events and to the most important sport competitions.

In the same occasion, COPEAM main executive bodies were renewed, with the reappointment of Mathieu GALLET– President-Director General of INA – to the Presidency and the election of Pier Luigi MALESANI and Nicola CALIGIORE respectively as Secretary General and Vice-Secretary General, upon candidacy of RAI.

Alessandra PARADISI, departing Secretary General, was nominated President of COPEAM Strategic Committee, while Raouf El Hussein from Radio Tunisienne was appointed as President of the Financial Committee of the Association.

At the end of the works of the Assembly, the Director of the International and Institutional Relations, Marco SIMEON, announced that RAI will host in Italy, Cagliari, under the patronage of the Regione Sardegna, the 20<sup>th</sup> Conference and the 19<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of COPEAM in 2013.

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