



AISBL PARTENALIA CONFERENCE

BRUSSELS

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Intermediate Local Authorities and other supra-local institutions are guarantors of the principle of subsidiarity and they ensure the institutional capacity of municipalities in the development of more efficient and effective public policies. This allows them to keep their competences in the local sphere and bring them closer to the citizens. They are a key step for multilevel governance in Europe, ensuring economic, social and territorial cohesion.

This level of local government must be integrated and acknowledged as a key actor at the European level in the starting up of the Union policies and, in particular there needs to be an acknowledgment of their participation in the design and implementation of the common policies.

In 1993, a few months after the coming into effect of the Maastricht Treaty, certain administrations with a forward-looking approach decided to take a step towards the enhancement of the visibility of intermediate local authorities, and in the promotion of common policies at the local level. In a context of acknowledgement of the local and regional dimension for the first time, PARTENALIA was created with the aim of becoming a platform that would represent the interests of local intermediate authorities in the European Union.

PARTENALIA has a key role in the construction of a more integrated Europe, as it is the voice of intermediate local administrations and offers them a privileged working platform in order to promote innovative initiatives and the interchange of best practices on a transnational scale. With more than sixteen years of experience, PARTENALIA has become a frame of reference for the involvement of local collectivities in the European project, and for the development and implementation of innovative policies at the local level.

Today, a few months after the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty and in an institutional context that fosters the local and regional dimension in the juridical framework of the European Union, PARTENALIA gets established as a non-profit International Association. The network also launches anew its ambitions and displays the will to assume a crucial role in the new European Agenda.

The undersigned hereby, in representation of several local intermediate authorities and other supra-local European institutions, commit themselves to develop European territorial cooperation in order to improve local and European policies, making citizens the real beneficiaries of the European project being developed.

Brussels, 5th of March 2010