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REGIONAL GOVERNANCE IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT

“Regional Governance in a Global Context” is the subject of the conference held today and yesterday in Brussels at the initiative of the Commissioner for Regional Policy **Danuta Hübner**, in association with the Directorate-General for Development of the European Commission, the Committee of the Regions (CdR) and the **Forum of Global Associations of Regions (FOGAR)**.

The conference (http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/globalreggov/index_en.htm) was attended by representatives of Governments and Regions from Europe (within and outside the EU) and other continents, as well as representatives from international organisations such as MERCOSUR, UEMOA and the African Union. The aim was to think about how to organise efficient systems of governance capable of delivering regional development policies. The European Union gave an account, among other things, of the experience it has developed through cohesion policy.

“Together with the 17 networks of regions from around the globe, representing close to 1,000 of the world’s regions which make up FOGAR, of which I am President,” declared Claudio Martini, “we have reached the conclusion that in order to form the basis for a successful globalisation we must strengthen the major “regional” groupings such as the European Union, Mercosur, UEMOA etc, and increase the influence of the Regions in these groupings and at global level, and this needs to be accompanied by policies for territorial equity and cohesion.”

During the last 20 years in Europe the progressive implementation of a regional policy has helped, step by step, to build a true partnership between the Regions and the European Union. *“Our Regions do not go to Europe begging for funds, far from it,”* stated the President of Tuscany and of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR), Claudio Martini, *“on the contrary, they define, build and implement priorities, programmes, and actions which contribute to the development of their territory, for the well-being of their populations.”* The participation of the Regions has contributed to the growth, to the construction of a Union, which is, territorially, the most balanced Union possible, which has contributed to the citizens accepting and supporting the European idea. *“This role which the Regions have obtained after a long struggle at European level, must now be conquered at global level,”* concluded Claudio Martini.

The full speech made by Danuta Hübner can be found on the web:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/09/233&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=fr>

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