

23rd General Assembly of AIVP in Ajaccio

On 10, 11 & 12 June last, the City of Ajaccio welcomed AIVP for their statutory Annual General Assembly and an international seminar devoted to "The Citizen, the driving force behind the City Port dynamic". About 120 delegates coming from 18 countries had travelled to Corsica to participate in this work, thus responding to the desires of the local organisers and AIVP. This event was organised in close partnership with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of South Corsica, the managers of the Port of Ajaccio, and an active member of AIVP since 1989. The Territorial authorities : City of Ajaccio and the Territorial Authority of Corsica also strongly mobilised themselves to ensure an exceptional welcome to the delegates.

The work of the General Assembly, led by the Chairman Jean-Pierre Lecomte in the presence of the Treasurer Vianney de Chalus, enabled the Activity Report and the 2009 Budgetary Report as well as the 2010 programme of activities to be approved. The delegation from Argentina reminded delegates of the importance accorded to the preparatory work for the 12th International Conference in Buenos Aires and Rosario from 15 to 19 November next. Still on the chapter of international events in preparation, the vote of the delegates approving the 2012 International Conference to be held in Nantes and Saint-Nazaire in France must be mentioned. This followed a presentation of the project given by Monsieur Joël-Guy Batteux, Mayor of Saint-Nazaire. New Directors of AIVP were elected in Ajaccio in the persons of : Colleege "Local Authorities" : the City of Owendo (Gabon) and the City of Dakar (Senegal), for the Colleege "Port Authorities" : Port of Brussels (Belgium) and as regards the Colleege "Enterprises" : SOGARIS (France, Logistics Platforms) and Moffats & Nichols (USA, seaport and waterway civil engineering). It must besides be mentioned that the Region Pays de Loire (France) and the City of Barcelona (Spain) were nominated as Vice-Chairmen of the Committee of the Association, the mandate of Chairman of Jean-Pierre Lecomte being renewed unanimously.

AIVP Days Seminar on "the Citizen, Driving Force behind the City - Port dynamic"

Following the work of the statutory General Assembly, the question of the integration of the citizen in the dynamics of city-port projects was clearly posed. Beyond the numerous projects of communication and developments enabling the city to be opened to the water and the port activities, illustrated by the examples of Gijón, Lorient or Rosario, the necessity for increased consultations between the institutional port stakeholders carrying the projects and citizen groups was reasserted by the speakers. Instruments such as "Port Centres" presented here through the examples of Genoa and Antwerp constitute specific initiatives to bring the population to support more actively the port dynamic. By giving the public the means to understand port activity better, these structures encourage the appropriation by the citizen of the development projects of the port and the constitution of a port community. The Port Authority of Rotterdam for example are multiplying initiatives in this sense. One session dedicated to the European Project of the UrbAct network, CTUR, led by the City of Naples, enabled a better understanding of the challenges of cruise calls and their consequences on urban dynamics through the examples of Helsinki, Oporto-Leixoes, Rhodes or Dublin.

In the context of this work, a session was naturally devoted to the projects of Ajaccio for the redevelopment of their port installations in the gulf which should lead at term to a better integration of the port with the city by enabling the reorganisation of traffic flows. Economic stakeholders, yachtsmen, cruise passengers but also the citizens of Ajaccio will tomorrow share the splendid natural surroundings and the superb stretch of water of the Gulf of Ajaccio more harmoniously. An ambitious project being closely watched by AIVP.