



Aboard Mediterranea
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Mediterranea Project: this Manifesto was released by the scientific, cultural, nautical expedition sailing across the Mediterranean on the occasion of the Italian Presidency of the European Union.

The semester of the Italian Presidency of the European Union starts today. **Simone Perotti**, captain of Mediterranea Project, the scientific, cultural and nautical expedition which at present is sailing across the Peloponnesus, presents the **Manifesto of Mediterranea**, a range of proposals to think about, ponder, discuss and work. *“This is a great opportunity – Perotti said - It is an opportunity even for those who do not believe in politics and institutions any longer. But any step forward, any opportunity can turn out to be useful. There is a huge work to do, it belongs to our culture, which was great any time it led our people to make brave efforts to change route, and thanks to our people’s talents and visions created works and meanings of great significance for us and the rest of the world. Every time we conformed to others we lost our identity, strength and meaningfulness of being together, and that prevented our contribution to the common good”.*

According to the captain of the expedition, *“Italy, for example, may act as a Mediterranean country rather than a mild and a poorly effective European country. Our European identity is a controversial issue, but it might be proved. **Strangely enough we have a poor sense of Mediterranean belonging.** The time is ripe to work on that geographical area, including at least 29 countries which need to communicate and discuss the very issues of such an extraordinary convergence of three continents, three main monotheistic religions, different peoples and cultures. A valuable heritage with no equal that is often underestimated.”*

*“With the Italian Presidency – Perotti added – a turnround ought to occur at least in purpose. **Stop talking about economy, or at least considering it the fundamentals to which everything belongs.”***

Herby the items of Mediterranea Manifesto:

- We need to face and **find a solution to the holocaust of people and the tragedy of survivors at the southern border** of this careless when not even murderous Europe.
- We need to tackle the dramatic issue of the **precious artistic heritage of coastal countries**, where economic and political crises seriously endangered the cultural heritage.
- We need a **wide, reliable, effective and efficient programme to safeguard fishing, protect the sea, analyse and fight pollution, take action against territorial decay, waste, and destruction.**
- We need to work hard to **protect, support, and promote the autochthonous food-and-wine products of the Mediterranean**, that provides quality food supplies for the whole world.
- We need to provide **massive meeting opportunities for the leading intellectuals of the Mediterranean area** to gather and share knowledge, ideas, initiatives, creativity.



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- We need to promote **exchange opportunities for young people of neighbouring countries** in a sort of “Mediterranean Erasmus exchange programme”.
- We need **Italy and the other Northern Mediterranean countries to bring their resources, know-how, activities, and work on the Southern shore**, providing economic benefits and development opportunities.
- We need a **new tourist Mediterranean model** that at the same time protects and give access to the environment, safeguard and enhance the cultural heritage.
- We need a **wide-ranging estate project for the recovery of villages, coastal towns, traditional buildings**, in order to stop and prevent uncontrolled building and losing valuable architectural heritage.

*“Why shall Italy not commit in a serious programme of bilateral agreements to this respect?” – Perotti said -
“We wish it will. **Some opportunities only come once, we shall size them.**”*

Mediterranea Project is the first *co-sailing* experience in the world. It has no main sponsors and is supported by dozens of Mediterranean sea and culture enthusiasts who will join the 5-year journey throughout the Mediterranean, the Black Sea and the Northern Red Sea.

