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A new season for town planning in Calabria *Michelangelo Tripodi*

Calabria is striving to come into line with the other regions in terms of territorial governance, towns and the latest-generation plans. The Department assigned to me at the beginning of the current legislature was lacking in any content and absolutely marginal in the regional context, performing mere bureaucratic functions, limited basically to approving municipal planning instruments and other similar activities. We have now started on a reform process giving priority to territorial and urban programming and planning at regional level. Furthermore, the Department has taken on functions regarding the historic centres, the landscape, maritime areas and regional cartography. After the approval of the regional planning guidelines in november 2006, a group of experts is now busy drawing up the regional territorial and landscape plan.

The themes concerned range from safeguarding and developing the coastline to new relations with marginal and inland areas, providing infrastructures coherent with the territories concerned, reorganizing the urban network and equipping the towns with the technologically most advanced systems, and protecting the landscape. Much remains to be done: we have reached midway and among the other objectives we propose to provide guidelines for the quality of the new plans (provincial and municipal) being defined and drawn up. This with a different way of looking at town and other planning based on strategic actions and on the real development of the territory. Lastly, we have devoted special attention to programming the European

structural funds for the period 2007-2013: within the framework of Por Calabria 2007-2013 a specific City-Urban areas-Territorial systems axis has been prepared, identifying the priorities and needs of the various regional contexts, endeavouring to place the territory as a resource in the centre of regional development policies.