

COMMUNICATION PROJECT OF JÉRÔME BIGNON FOR THE OCCASION OF HIS NOMINATION AS THE
«AMBASSADOR OF THE COAST»

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

I may not, unfortunately, be with you to thank each and everyone for the honor that was made to me, to be nominated by the plan of Action for the Mediterranean Sea / United Nations Environment Program, as the Ambassador of the Coast.

Indeed the French Parliament is actually elaborating the 2010 budget which, in this difficult period, makes absolutely necessary the presence of all the members of parliament.

So I have asked Mrs. Isidore to address to you these few words on my behalf.

Among the Five Ambassadors of the Coast, I am certainly the less Mediterranean.

Deputy of the North of France, my sea sides are certainly different from yours, but they are however essential in the important ecological balances.

So our humid zones, of world importance, witness the passage of migratory birds which spend winter at your side.

My dear Baie de Somme, this Camargue of the North, is then a key element in the constitution of important ecological corridors in the preservation of the biodiversity.

Certainly, a member of parliament is locally elected but he represents above all the nation, and also has to deal with problems concerning the whole territory and more again, in our domains, in the international relations.

This is the reason why from my first political mandates, I was particularly interested in the problems of environment in particular at this interface earth / sea which accumulates conflicts.

As a deputy, I was given numerous missions concerning the coast either within the National Council of the Coast, or as the President of the Agency of Protected Marine Areas and of the Conservatoire du Littoral which you know well.

It is for me evidence that it is necessary to bring a quite particular attention to this coastal zone which undergoes and will undergo within the nearest future, the strongest pressures.

This interface thus has to be the privileged place of new governances.

Seas and oceans have nothing to do with borders and only collective action completing that of States will allow facing the multiple challenges. Actually, the Mediterranean Sea is the best example.

For the first time and at the highest level the political decision-makers of a regional geographical set decided, more than thirty years ago, to work together in order to preserve a collective space, sharing element of their identity?

It is the big innovation of the Barcelona Agreement and thus the PAM and its Centers.

The realizations have been important, protocols are the legal constituents.

The last among them concerns the integrated management of the coastal zones, elaborated with the active support of the RAC / PAP; it was signed by 14 of 22 Contracting parties in Madrid in January, 2008.

The practice of this protocol will intervene after ratification by six, these Parties and I have pleasure to notice that, some few weeks ago, Slovenia and France have been the first States voting for necessary laws for this ratification, so giving hope for a fast implementation.

As for me I hope, with my colleagues Ambassadors, to be an effective carrier and motivated proselyte of our communal vision and very sincerely thanks you for your choice.