

COMUNE DI  
VENEZIA



**Cultural and urban cooperation protocol between  
the City of Venice and the Greater Istanbul Municipality**

In today's Europe, the scene of radical changes. Cities are both the cradle of democracy and in the position of being units that serve as models followed by their inhabitants in their search for identity. There can be no doubt that a dialogue and an exchange of knowledge and experience between peoples of differing cultural heritages is the most important factor contributing to world peace.

It is the responsibility of local government on the one hand to achieve an accommodation between rapidly-developing technology and basic human values and, on the other, to protect both the natural and the historical environment.

Sharing this opinion as they do, the Municipality of Venice and the Greater Istanbul Municipality have come to an accord on the matters first of exchanging knowledge and experience in the cultural and urban fields and second of developing, at the Venice and Istanbul level, the traditional Turkish - Italian relations.

The purpose of this co-operation is to assist the municipal administrations to better serve their inhabitants, to solve their problems in solidarity, to develop the concept of local administration and to foster participation, to contribute to democracy, to universal stability and eventual integration of nations, especially within a European context.

Thus, one the basic aims of this protocol is to raise, to the highest level, the contributions than the people of both cities can make to the development of democracy through their active participation in it. Both Municipalities will strive in common as required in order to turn these opinions into reality and give them life.

All relations will be governed within the framework of the principles and aims of the Istanbul Declaration signed at the conclusion of the First General Assembly of the EURODIALOGUE platform in 1991, whose establishment was an initiative of the Greater Istanbul Municipality.

4th March 1993, Istanbul

Avv. Ugo BERGAMO Mayor of Venice

Prof. Dr. Nurettin SÖZEN Mayor of Greater Istanbul