

ARCHIMED EGCT



General Assembly of the EGTC ARCHIMED on October 30, 2025

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the General Assembly of the members of the EGTC ARCHIMED was held at 11:00 AM at the seat of the Municipality of Palermo - Palazzo Palagonia - in via 4 Aprile n. 2.

In accordance with the agenda, the Assembly addressed the following points:

- Communications from the President;
- Approval of financial statements;
- Appointments;
- Adhesion of the City of Palermo;
- Establishment of the technical secretariat and projects;
- "Al Idrisi" Award;
- Miscellaneous and any other business.

The following individuals were present, as per the attached attendance sheet:

- The President of the EGTC ARCHIMED, Lawyer Francesco Attaguile;
- Dr. Eugenio Ceglia, General Director of the Municipality of Palermo;
- Dr. Massimo Rizzuto, Manager of the Municipality of Palermo;
- Dr. Diego Bellia, E.Q.A.P. of the Municipality of Palermo;
- Dr. Davide Crimi, authorized official of the Municipality of Catania;
- Dr. Gian Andrea Garancini, representing Anetel (Cyprus);
- Dr. Antonella Querci, representing the Port Authority of Livorno (ADSP MTS);
- Dr. Luigi Amato, representing the GAL "Tirreno Eolie" scarl;
- Dr. Francesco Strafalaci, representing the EEIG "Costa Med" of Malta;
- Dr. Vincenzo Antonucci, EEIG "Costa Med" of Malta;
- Dr. Giuseppe Rallo, representing ARCES;
- Dr. Alessandro Pernice, ARCES.

The President, Lawyer Francesco Attaguile, opened the Assembly proceedings by thanking the participants and providing guidelines and information regarding the experiences of the EGTC ARCHIMED. He briefly reviewed the events that have marked its developments and, at times, the slowdowns due to the long-standing defaults of the host region, which can only now be compensated by the services of other members, Sicilian and non-Sicilian. He also recalled the long-unresolved judicial dispute, with the ongoing attempt to reach a settlement, allowing for the hoped-for return of the Sicilian Region to the organization. He reminded the Assembly that the EGTC ARCHIMED is the first with its headquarters in Italy to be regularly registered in the specific register of European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation. He continued by referring to the events that led to the current size, following the withdrawal of the Balearic Islands in previous years and the recent one received from Ancim – which must be accepted – compensated by the recent adhesion of the City of Palermo, an indicator of the renewed vitality of this EGTC. The report and proposals presented by the President were **approved unanimously**.

The General Director of the Municipality of Palermo, Dr. Eugenio Ceglia, delegated by the Mayor Prof. Roberto Lagalla, extended greetings from the host city, reiterated the municipal administration's interest in the activities of the EGTC ArchiMed, and presented the staff of the Directorate designated to support it, including a specific agreement which he illustrated. He expressed his conviction that joining the EGTC is a

source of concrete favorable opportunities, also for the capital of the largest island region in the Mediterranean.

The Assembly **approved the adhesion and the relative agreement with the Municipality of Palermo**, Capital of Sicily, authorizing the President to sign it together with the Mayor and to transmit this adhesion to the Presidency of the Council so that – upon approval – it can be noted in the appropriate Register as a new Italian member.

The President then proposed to continue the work with the other formal fulfillments, postponing the technical-operational aspects to the specific Technical Committee, which he proposed to approve in the attached composition, so that it can be installed in the same afternoon. He also proposed to approve a **zeroing of the previous debt for unpaid fees**, also in relation to the periods of forced inactivity, while inviting current members to comply for the current year by December 31st next. These proposals were also **approved unanimously**.

Moving to the second point on the agenda, "Approval of financial statements," the President recalled that the resignation of the auditor, Dr. Sabina Ippoliti, had been announced some time ago, proposing to accept it also due to her residence, which is no longer functional to the current logistical and organizational arrangements. Copies of the excerpts from the single current account held at the Taormina branch of Monte dei Paschi were distributed, containing the few movements that describe the accounts for the years from 2022 to the current date.

After an extensive discussion by the Assembly, the aforementioned **accounts were approved**, identifying them with the bank statements of which copies were provided, and which remain attached to the minutes.

Dr. Amato, director of the GAL "Tirreno Eolie" scarl, proposed that the first communication action for the functioning of the Entity should be the dissemination of the Statute, Convention, and Regulation. He also proposed, as a necessary element for the functioning of the Entity, to **reconfirm the President**, to proceed with the **appointment of a new Auditor**, and to equip the headquarters.

Regarding the proposal to confirm him in the role of President, Lawyer Attaguile declared his availability to accept the proposed reconfirmation within the limits of the transition and the start-up of the new phase. As for the headquarters, he reported that premises made available by the Municipalities of Palermo and Catania are available, but that the legal headquarters remains in Taormina, as provided for by the Statute, and - in the absence of Palazzo Ciampoli, assigned by the Sicilian Region and then revoked - at Palazzo dei Giurati, the seat of that Municipality. Dr. Querci of the Port Authority of Livorno illustrated a strategy to be understood as a programmatic guidance and promotion tool. She hoped for the **recovery of relations with Corsica and the Balearic Islands** within the framework of a coherent relaunch with the construction of the Euro-Mediterranean Insular Macro-Region, also recalling the previous I.MED.OC. experience.

The President proposed to the Assembly to delegate the representative of the Port Authority of the Upper Tyrrhenian, Dr. Querci, and Dr. Gianandrea Garancini, as representative of the Cypriot member Anetel, the task of **promoting new adhesions and projects and consolidating current ones**, respectively, the former in the Western Mediterranean and the latter in the Eastern Mediterranean. A similar proposal was put forward to attribute the same role to the Maltese EEIG Costa Med towards the Government of Malta and the facing Tunisia, as entities from third countries are also admissible to the EGTCs, following the 2013 amendment to Regulation 1082/2006. The Assembly **approved**.

Architect Antonucci, on behalf of Costa Med, here represented by Dr. Francesco Strafalaci, confirmed the need to give the structure **operational capacity**, an essential element for building results, in a path consistent with the vocation of the EGTC ArchiMed as a support tool for the members' initiatives.

Gian Andrea Garancini illustrated the **"Migrate" project**, presented by some members following a Horizon Program call, and underlined the EGTC's role of **guidance rather than operational partner**, whose statutory configuration, as per the European founding Regulation, identifies it primarily as a subject of political guidance and institutional relations between Entities from different countries.

This statement was supported by Dr. Crimi, representative of the Municipality of Catania, who identified the specific role of the EGTC not as an operator responsible for the implementation of operational lines, but rather as an **institutional subject responsible for promoting agreements, understandings, steering committees, and other territorial animation solutions**.

Dr. Garancini resumed his intervention, stating that the functioning EGTCs, in the institutional experience of these years, have proven to be the **cross-border ones**, considering the purpose of cooperation and taking into account that this ground, full of complexities, can sometimes also be a source of "stop" phases, often due to centralist national policies. He also reported that there is a **proposal from the European Commission to provide funding for common cross-border programming precisely by using the EGTC instrument**; therefore, it is appropriate that territorial macro-areas for coordinating local entities and stakeholders be established alongside the Presidency, as previously deliberated.

Dr. Pernice of ARCES highlighted the importance of **integrated communication**, emphasizing the need to update the EGTC's institutional website and, for quick communications, to establish a specific chat. The Assembly **approved**.

The President then moved to the third point on the agenda, "Appointments," and proposed **Dr. Crimi** for the statutory role of **Director**, as Prof. Mario Bolognari's term has expired and is not renewable, whom the President and the entire Assembly thanked for his work. The Assembly **approved**. **Dr. Pietro Cirrincione**, a well-known professional from Palermo who meets the requirements, was proposed as **Auditor**. The Assembly **approved**. Dr. Strafalaci indicated, reflecting the general sentiment diffused in the Assembly, that these appointments - which are also mandatory by Statute - should be made in relation to the resources currently available and with particular reference to the possibility of availing oneself of public officials to be used within the EGTC Entity based on the skills they possess.

The Assembly **welcomed the reflection and unanimously validated the appointments** proposed by the President.

Dr. Rizzuto, in relation to point 4, presented the **Memorandum of Understanding** that will be signed with the Municipality of Palermo, consistent with what the Council formalized with a resolution. He indicated the **impossibility of committing fees as long as the condition of financial imbalance persists**. This situation temporarily makes it necessary to contribute with the "in kind" accounting formula, in terms of headquarters provisions, equipment, and personnel, similarly to what has long been resolved for the Municipalities of Taormina and Catania, as long as they are in the same situation. Dr. Rizzuto indicated the responsible structure in this regard, composed of the office he himself directs and, more specifically, designated the official **Diego Bellia**, proposing the official signing of the Protocol, signed by delegation by Dr. Ceglia.

Moving to the fifth point on the agenda, the president informed that the **Technical Secretariat** provided for by the Statute, as per the nominative list of components designated by each member which is attached, will be **installed in a specific meeting in the afternoon**. The members' indications are of an operational nature and maintain a constant possibility of re-modulation.

Moving to the sixth point on the agenda, the President placed specific attention on the significance of the **"AL IDRISI" Award**, the Arab geographer who promoted and implemented intercultural dialogue, becoming

a respected advisor to the first Norman kings. This award, attributed in the past for some years to a personality from the European shore and another subject representing the North African shore of the Mediterranean, has not been assigned for many years due to lack of initiative. There was a widespread desire to restore it, and the EGTC ArchiMed is the most suitable entity to resume it, due to the natural vocation, history, and tradition of the Mediterranean islands to constitute a bridge between the cultures and peoples that face this sea. After extensive discussion, in which this role was reiterated, the Assembly **resolved to reorganize the Award**, establishing a specific scientific committee, in collaboration with those members who have already expressed their availability, starting with the Municipalities of Palermo, Catania, and Taormina, which would host the event.

Regarding point 7 - Miscellaneous and any other business - Dr. Gianandrea Garancini reported on the next **Westmed initiative**, which will take place in Tunis at the end of November and believes the participation of the EGTC ArchiMed is useful. The Assembly **resolved to delegate Dr. Garancini to participate** and also approved the **participation, open to all members, in the meeting organized by the C.N.R. in Rome on November 17th next**, to present a study to the twelve EGTCs headquartered in Italy, to which EGTC ArchiMed collaborated.

With no other business resulting for deliberation, the General Assembly session was adjourned at 1:30 PM.

L.C.S.

Attachments:

- Attendance sheet;
- Resolution on the adhesion of the City of Palermo.

