“Wise Cities” in the Mediterranean? Challenges of Social and Environmental Sustainability

March 8 – 9, 2018
Sciences Po, 27 rue Saint Guillaume, 75007

The “Wise Cities” Conference is an initiative organized by the Kuwait Chair at Sciences Po’s Paris School of International Affairs (PSIA), in collaboration with CIDOB (Barcelona Centre for International Affairs) and funded by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS).

Thursday, March 8:
17:00 – 19:00
Amphitheater Jacques Chapsal

Policy seminar on “Wise Cities” in the Mediterranean: Challenges of Social and Environmental Sustainability

Welcome Remarks | Enrico Letta, Dean, Paris School of International Affairs (PSIA) at Sciences Po and former Prime Minister of Italy

Key Note: Cities, Education and Integration | Wolfgang Schuster, Chairman Telekom Foundation, Honorary President of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) and former Mayor of Stuttgart

Mega Cities in the Mediterranean | Dominique Lorrain, Director of Research, French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS)

Tunis: A City in Political and Socio-economic Transition | Khaled Ben Abdesslem, MedCities, Tunis

Q&A | Moderator: Eckart Woertz, Scientific Advisor to the Kuwait Chair, Sciences Po, PSIA and CIDOB
Friday, March 9:

8:30-9:00  Registration (Salle Goguel)

9:00-10:15  Session 1

Moderator | Eckart Woertz, Scientific Advisor to the Kuwait Chair, Sciences Po, PSIA and CIDOB

Wise Cities in the Mediterranean: Conceptual framework and issues | Josep Coll, Consultant and CIDOB Senior Associate, Barcelona

Alexandria and other Egyptian coastal cities: Development challenges of “second cities” | Azza Sirry, Housing and Building National Research Center (HBRC), Cairo and Metropolis Associate

Locating the next Wise Cities in Urban Systems: The multilevel challenges of MENA’s emerging urban regions | Borja M. Iglesias, University of Lleida, Network for Strengthening the Informal City (NSIC), Consultant to the United Cities Local Governments (UCLG), Barcelona

NGOs and neighborhood initiatives: The case of Cairo | Ibrahim Kareem, Takween Integrated Community Development, Cairo

10:15-11:30  Session 2
Salle Goguel  Environmental Sustainability of Cities in the Mediterranean

Moderator | Patrick Le Galès, Sciences Po

Environment and Urban Security Risks | James Russell, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterrey, USA

Energy Transitions and Urban Governance | Eric Verdeil, Sciences Po

100 Resilient Cities Strategy: The case of Byblos, Lebanon | Tony Sfeir, CRO Byblos – 100 Resilient Cities

How can regional cooperation in the Mediterranean support cities’ efforts in energy transition? | Olgu Okumus, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), Barcelona

Q&A (30 minutes)
11:30-12:00  Coffee Break

12:00-13:15  Session 3

Salle Goguel  Social Sustainability of Cities in the Mediterranean

Moderator | Josep Coll, Consultant and CIDOB Senior Associate, Barcelona

Preservation of Urban Cultures and Traditions: The history of urbanization in the Mediterranean | Marie Karner, Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz

Runaway Urbanization in Tunis: Rethinking the Territorial Box of the Metropolis | Max Ajl, Cornell University

Mediterranean Cities and Vertical Farming: Fostering Sustainable Local Food Production and Building Neighborhood Esprit de Corps | Joel L. Cuello, University of Arizona

Informal Settlements’ Dwellers in Algeria: How local initiatives and practices contribute to improve living conditions | Farida Naceur, University of Batna, Algeria and Laboratoire RIVES, Lyon and Belmessous Fatiha, CNRS, Lyon

Q&A (30 minutes)

13:15-14:30  Lunch

14:30-15:45  Session 4

Salle Goguel  Economic Dynamics and Cities in the Mediterranean

Moderator | Eric Verdeil, Sciences Po

Building a prospective Mediterranean vision of local development through new economic and governance models, keeping man before technology | Jean-Charles Lardic, Deputy Head of General Management of Services and Director of Prospective in the City of Marseille, Member of United Cities Local Governments (UCLG)

Tourism: Opportunities and Pitfalls | Waleed Hazbun, American University of Beirut

Public Private Partnerships in an urban context: Case study of the New Cairo Wastewater Treatment Plant | Miquel Rodriguez Planas, IESE Business School, Barcelona

A smarter Rome: critical assessment of the new Food Waste Management Plan | Daniele Fattibene, IAI, Rome

Q&A (30 minutes)
15:45-16:15  Coffee Break

16:15-17:45  Session 5

Salle Goguel  Beyond the Mediterranean – Views from Neighboring Regions: The Gulf and Sub-Saharan Africa

Moderator | Farah Al-Nakib, American University of Kuwait

Why have Saudi cities sprawled in the last fifty years, and what does this mean for politics and religion? | Pascal Menoret, Brandeis University

The Aftermath of a Master Plan: An exploration into the forces shaping the Kuwaiti City | Sharifah Alshafan, LSE, London and Supreme Council for Planning and Development, Kuwait

Jeddah: A “Wise Old City” Facing the Challenges of Sustainability? | Elena Maestri, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (UCSC), Milano

Urbanization in Sub-Saharan Africa | Julia Bello-Schünemann, Lagos / Institute for Security Studies, Pretoria

Q&A (30 minutes)

17:45-18h  Concluding remarks

Salle Goguel  Luis Gomez, Commissioner for Economic Promotion, Enterprise and Innovation, City of Barcelona