

METROPOLIS DAILY NEWS

11th
International
Metropolis
Conference

**Paths & Crossroads:
Moving People, Changing Places**

2-6 October 2006
Lisboa, Portugal

A Word By The Mayor of Lisbon

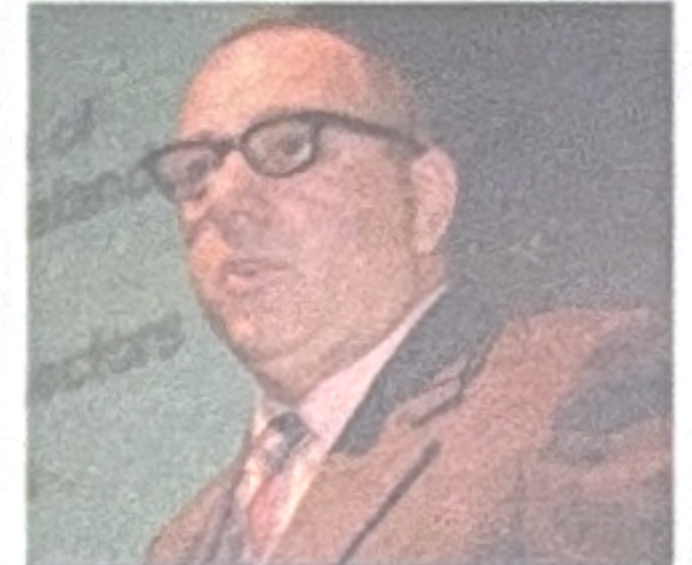
António Carmona Rodrigues

FROM ITS EARLIEST DAYS, Lisbon, this city whose rich maritime tradition is illustrated by the endeavours from the times of the Discoveries, has been touched by the phenomenon of migration – both emigration and immigration. The city's identity, forged over centuries of intercontinental exchange, is based upon tolerance and multicultural diversity. Given our history, it is with pleasure – and a sense of duty – that the city of Lisbon welcomes the 11th International Metropolis Conference, a conference that addresses international migration and its impact on urban management. This city, which for centuries has been the point of departure to and arrival from other continents, has become – particularly in recent decades – a receiving city, just as many of its European counterparts. This thus raises new challenges to employment



sustainability and economic development, as systematically foreseen in the Lisbon Strategy directives. From our end, the European Union policies that we have pursued intend to strengthen our intercultural and multicultural Lisbon, a reality of which we are already proud. In what concerns local government, one of the decisive steps towards the sustainable development of cities is the creation of integration policies targeting immigrant communities. As in the case of Lisbon, large historic urban centers are obliged to see social integration as an

opportunity for perfecting social policies and not as an inconvenience necessitating a quick solution. Providing solid social conditions for integration and the promotion of diversity and tolerance are crucial in order to work towards harmonious progress and sustainable development in a strong, cohesive Europe. Therefore, the city of Lisbon is proud to welcome the 11th International Metropolis Conference as we are certain that this conference will provide precious insight into the work that we all – citizens, local government, central government and European Union institutions alike – must undertake. To all conference participants I wish you all the best with your work and a pleasant stay in Lisbon, a city open to the world.

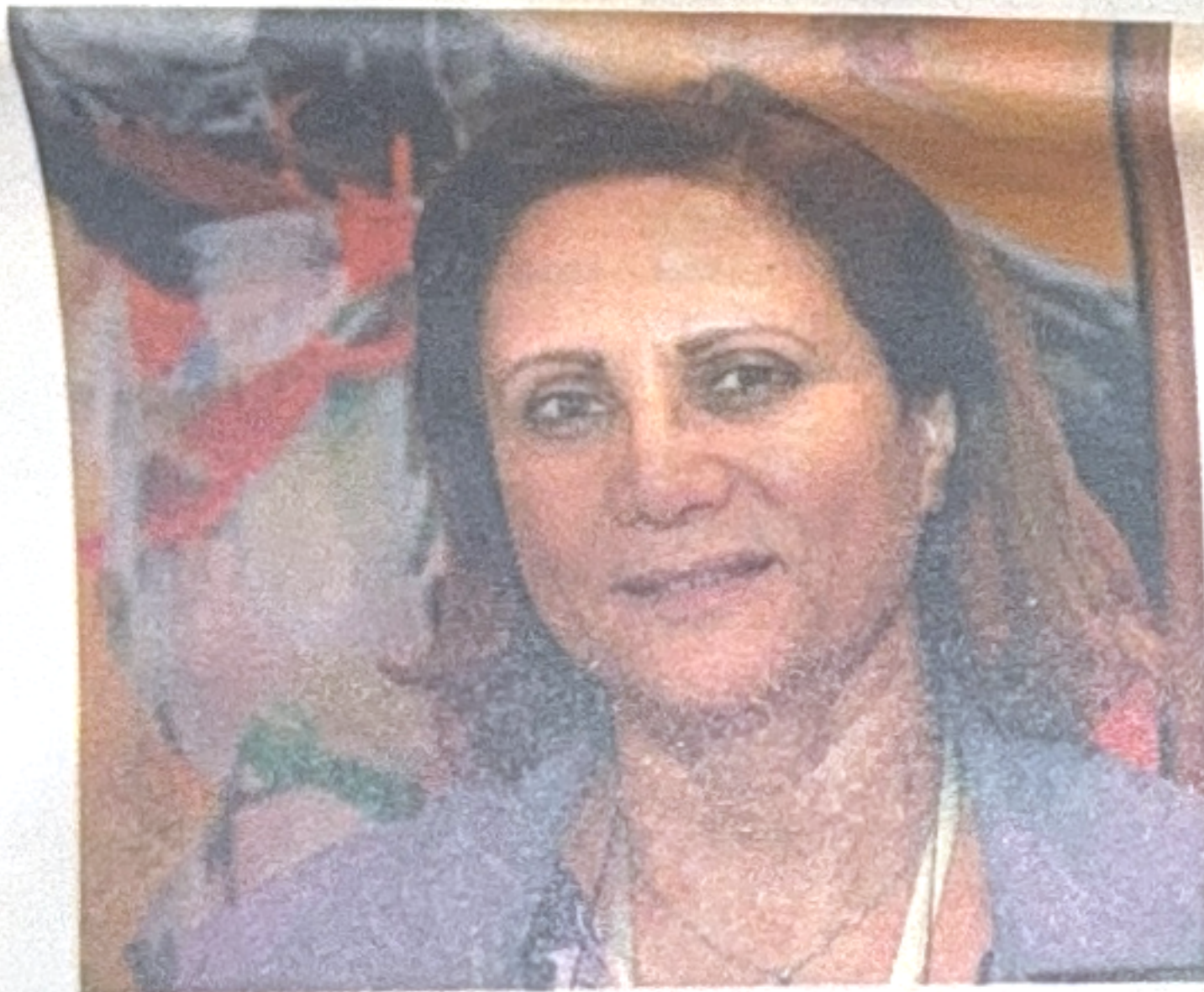


INTERVIEW //

Jan Rath

One of the speakers at yesterday's Plenary Session I (*Urban Vitality, Urban Renewal: How Immigrants Are Transforming Cities*) was Jan Rath from Utrecht University. During an interview, he stressed the importance of drawing attention to the positive impact of immigration on today's cities.

PO3 >>



A VIEW FROM THE OTHER SHORE

Khadija Elmadmad

MORE THAN ANY OTHER COUNTRY IN NORTH AFRICA, Morocco has always been a country of migration, as witnessed by its races, traditions and different cultures which illustrate the diversity of its population.

Used to receiving people, Morocco is also increasingly becoming a country of people on the move, arriving from different latitudes of the African continent and seeking a better life further north.

Khadija Elmadmad, a Professor of Law and also an attorney, stresses the difficulty which the Government in Rabat has had in adopting effective immigration policies for such a transitory population. Pressure on Morocco comes from the destination countries of these immigrants not to provide them with easy passage. In addition, the scarcity of economic resources of the country to deal with this reality has further aggravated the problem.

Khadija Elmadmad also emphasises that the lack of a common agenda, specifically with regard to the five countries of the Maghreb, has made it more difficult to find solutions for this problem which, in time, will become unsustainable. As regards the neighbourhood policy adopted by the EU to enter into dialogue with the countries to the south of it, Dr. Elmadmad criticises it for being excessively suffused with fears and insecurities and as such does not reflect a true partnership between equal parties.

The few NGOs which focus on the problems of illegal immi-

gration are still not enough to cope with the enormous demand for help, protection and support still to be provided in this area. The demographic set of circumstances which Morocco is currently experiencing has led to the establishment and development of their work, and in particular the Casablanca UNESCO Chair in "Migration and Human Rights", of which Dr. Elmadmad is the holder, and from where she, as an academic, tries to find solutions for the problem of illegal immigration. This, in her opinion, is the greatest challenge to come from the Western Mediterranean.

A woman's point of view.

Khadija Elmadmad knows the positive side of immigration but does not forget the dramatic situation of many women whom she has got to know through her work and who often, unaided and with children to support, live through days of uncertainty and fear.

THE CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

VENUES	Culturgest		Culturgest / Gulberkian Hotel Holiday Inn Continental / Hotel Holiday Inn Lisbon Hotel Biscuits		Various Sites
	MORNING	AFTERNOON	AFTERNOON	EVENING	
WEDNESDAY 4 OCTOBER	Plenary Session 3: Panel Contemporary Immigration Management: The Return to Temporary Programmes?	Plenary Session 4: Panel Migration Challenges in the Western Mediterranean Region	Workshops	Workshops	Classical Organ Concert at Lisbon's Cathedral