



# COMUNE DI VENTOTENE

Provincia di Latina  
Isola della Pace – Porta d'Europa

Piazza Castello n.1 – tel. 0771/85014 – fax 0771/85265 - P. IVA 00145130597

to the kind attention **Mr. Georgios Marinakis**  
Mayor of the Municipality of Rethymno

Dear Mr. Marinakis,

first at all, let me to say that I am very honored to be in touch with you, thanks to Mr. Haris Roditakis' cooperation, that is a good friend of our Island, Ventotene.

I admire so much your Town because of its important History and beautiful Environment: it is really a place blessed by Beauty and Art. It leads a contemporary life that honors its cultural heritage and looks up to a better future worthy of its glorious past.

I hope that you know the Municipality of Ventotene: it includes the island of Ventotene and the small ancillary island of Santo Stefano, both of them lying in the Tyrrhenian Sea, in front of the Region Lazio and the Region Campania.

The island of Ventotene, called *Πανδαταεργία* by the Old Greeks, had an important History during the Roman Empire and today it is also a meaningful example of nature reserve in order to preserve the ecological and naturalistic environment.

Anyway, I am sure that you know well Ventotene because of the *Manifesto of Ventotene*, officially entitled *For a Free and United Europe*, written by Altiero Spinelli, while he was imprisoned in Ventotene during the Second World War. He was a strong opponent to the Fascism and for that he was imprisoned and sent to the Island.

The work was completed in 1941 and it soon became the program of the Movimento Federalista Europeo and it already had the farsighted idea of the United Europe.

Altiero Spinelli is known as one of the *Fathers of the United Europe* and, at Bruxelles, the building of the European Parliament is called with his name, *Altiero Spinelli Building*.

So, inspired by its History, the Municipality of Ventotene would want to create a network among Mediterranean Islands (till arriving to include all European Islands) to underline every own insular identity and, in the same time, underline the shared difficulties of the inhabitants in the Islands, in order to find common solutions and promote them furtherly.

I am very glad and deeply honored to ask you to share this cultural, social and European network because of lot of things that link our Islands.

And – above at all – I am honored to ask the sharing of your Municipality because of its cultural and natural features.

If you agree and like this proposal, I would like to ask a simple *letter of intents* for declaring the mutual interest in order to establish the first step toward a collaborative partnership in areas of shared interest and, among other, for foreseeing regular consultations, sharing practice and expertise, exchanging information to the visibility of the partner institutions

And then, if the first step will be good, we could sign an agreement of friendship (or twinning) in order to work together to a very high level.

Thanking for your kind attention, I look forward hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Ventotene, 19 OTT 2020

Gerardo Santomauro

Mayor of the Municipality of Ventotene



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