

The **COMMITTEE FOR the SUPPORT OF LIBRARIES**  
presented at the IFLA Conference 2009 in Milan

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The CSL is now well known and appreciated for its work and efforts in the field of libraries all over Greece, but what about the rest of the world? Indeed, there are the webpage and the online journal ***Synergasia*** for communicating with the outside. Indeed, we were asked to present the Committee in Rome and we went to Brussels, the heart of Europe, in 2008 but this year the CSL wisely thought that we could take advantage of the IFLA Conference in Milan and go international.

Thus in October 2008, I was kindly asked if I would be willing to present a paper at the Conference on behalf of the Committee. So, with the precious advice of Marian Koren and well before the deadline in December, I submitted an Abstract. It was accepted.

The World Library & Information Congress-75<sup>th</sup> IFLA General Conference and Assembly was held at the Fiera Milano Convention Centre in Milan, Italy, from August 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The overall conference theme was *"Libraries create futures: Building on cultural heritage"*.

Finally, on August 26<sup>th</sup> I had the pleasure and the honor to present the paper entitled **"The COMMITTEE FOR the SUPPORT OF LIBRARIES: a model of library networking in Greece"** in the section Management of Library Associations and Continuing Professional Development with the theme: "Librarians on the Cat Walk: Communicating for Advocacy to Influence Policy and Practice". Actually, it was a one-day session as part of the conference program hosted by the Management of Library Associations Section (MLAS), and the Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning Section (CPDWL).

As invited speaker I was allocated 20 minutes for presentation. The paper was meant to present the **CSL** and its activities to the broader audience at the IFLA Conference as it can be considered a model of library networking aiming at strengthening the management of library associations in order to make associations stronger players in the development of libraries and thus in the development of the society in this part of the world. To my great satisfaction the reviews on the quality of the presentation were very good. My contribution has been well appreciated by the hosting sections as well as those who attended.

The IFLA 2009 Congress in Milan also offered many opportunities for social networking. Some of these events also gave us the possibility to visit local libraries or to experience the spirit and culture of Milan and Italy. I personally had the chance to take part in a guided visit to the **Biblioteca Ambrosiana**, which is an Historic Library (<http://www.ambrosiana.it/ing/index.asp>). Founded by Cardinal Federico Borromeo, the library is situated in Milan and was one of the first to be opened to the public. It was named Ambrosiana after the Patron of Milan, St. Ambrogio, and it collects a large number of codices in Greek, Latin, vulgar Latin and various Oriental languages.

Then, on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August, I was invited to an evening reception, offered by the Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Milan and the Director of the Goethe-Institut

Mailand, for German-speaking participants of the IFLA Congress and for foreign guests. The cocktail party was hold at the National Museum of Science and Technology Leonardo da Vinci.

Alongside the IFLA Conference, an **Exhibition Reception** took place at the Fiera Milano Convention Centre. The exhibition featured a wide selection of international and local vendors.