

## Calitri -Andretta: Is it only a road?

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The mayors of Andretta, Bisaccia, Cairano, Calitri, the president of the provincial administration, Francesco Maselli, the provincial Assessori Giovanni Romano and Giuseppe Di Mila, the president of the Mountain Community "Alta Irpina" Gaetano Sicuranza, the regional advisor Mario Sena, Pro-Loco Calitri, and the editorial director of "Ofanto" met in the old ECA [Communal Assistance Agency] room.

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*Translated from the Italian by Benjamin De Maio Montalbano*

The "Ofanto" editorial office, resuming the tradition of the "Editorial Office Meetings," has organized a conference on the building of the Calitri-Andretta road. In his short statement, the honorable **Mario Sena**, emphasized the excellent cooperation that exists between the true institutional levels, leading to remarkable results that allowed the fielding of a respectable amount of economic resources. The president of Pro-Loco, **Giovanni Rinaldi**, thanked Mario Sena for his participation, notwithstanding other engagements that required him to leave, and he thanked all the speakers who came for having accepted the invitation. Then he rapidly summarized the activities that took place during 2003 and turned the meeting over to the editor of the "Ofanto" **Vincenzo Di Maio**, for the presentation of the theme of the conference. The report is centered, above all, on the possibility that this road offers to the communes of Calitri, Andretta, Cairano, and Bisaccia. The communes will be so close in distance that, if they wish, they can plan some common initiatives. The Calitri-Andretta road frees up a territory that has already found space in the Socio Economic Development Plan of the "High Irpinia" Mountain Community in the proposal for the Parco dell'Orato [Park on the Orato River]. The Parco dell'Orato with the ruins of the Abbey of Santa Maria in Elce, is already by itself a complex of remarkable culture and natural value, not counting the environmental context into which it is inserted. In addition, the four communes could plan, even through a consortium, social services and infrastructures whose size is based on the sum of the respective populations. In addition, these services and infrastructures could be integrated into their already existing services. The speaker concluded by affirming that the Calitri-Andretta road, inserted in such thinking, is not a simple road, but the prelude to a much more broad

and articulated planning concept, if only the commune knew how to and wanted to connect to it. In his speech, **Vito Marchitto**, Mayor of Calitri, emphasized how this new work will allow the two communities to understand each other, to influence each other, and to experience responses, so that they will complement each other and grow together. In addition, this road, which will also connect to Bisaccia, Aquilonia, and Cairano, forms a pentagon, depicting a city under construction of which the communes are the districts and depicting a territory that is being organized. The mayor of Andretta, **Giuseppe Guglielmo**, points out that the hero of the conference is the territory. Many kinds of opportunities are presented in tourism (Parco dell'Orato), in the associated services, and other opportunities that the territory still expects. In all, Calitri-Andretta does indeed shorten distances, but it must above all allow the groups in the two communes to interact with each other. The provincial Assessore, **Giuseppe di Milia**, turning to the mayor of Andretta, affirmed that the most dynamic groups in the territory must already have faith, because this is just the basic objective of the, Calitri-Andretta and Calitri-Aquilonia projects, which have required eight million Euro. This is the increase in the value of a territory with great potential. The mayor of Bisaccia, **Marcello Arminio**, said he was available immediately to meet with the other mayors in order to continue the discussion started at the conference, but he also pointed out the serious difficulties of the industrial area of Calaggio, and asks everyone's participation in dealing with these difficulties in the best possible way, so that the Napoli-Bari highway does not become only a road, to paraphrase the title of the conference. The president of the Comunità Montana [Mountain Community] **Gaetano Sicuranza**, explained how much work it took to unify a territory that is

crisscrossed by breakaway impulses and also explained how a sound policy that is sensitive to the needs of the natural region has had a most positive and enthusiastic outcome in the drafting and approval of the Socio-Economic Development Plan. The provincial assessor **Giovanni Romano**, took the floor as head of the road building project and illustrated how, together with the entire committee, one can move to provide the Agency with Territorial Coordination Plan so that the initiatives to be taken are not disconnected. But the greatest result, continued the Assessore, is that we have given dignity and credibility to the provincial Agency. Out of an Agency of Janitors and Road Maintenance People, we fashioned a Planning Agency, a doer of projects, which is a qualified and transparent point of reference for all the institutions that operate in the territory. Finally, at the conclusion of the conference, the president, Francesco Maselli, spoke, and confirmed everything that the Assessore Di Milia and Romano had already said and added, proudly, that he has absolved everyone of the commitments they made in the election campaign of 1999. In addition, although wanting to admit some gaps, he left the Agency in better condition and with the following gratifying results: two industrial districts (Calitri and Solfora), two regional parks (Partenio and Picentini), two cultural itineraries (Valle Ofanto[Ofanto Valley] and regio Tratturo), area agreements that are finally released, the territorial agreement of the province of Avellino, and the Barony Agreement. All this in compliance with the stability pact and without bleeding the Agency, but instead leaving it in a very solid financial and economic situation, so much so that it can request certification.