

## **BARI AND THE CITY NETWORKS**

**Mario Cucciolla** - Director General of the Commune of Bari

In my capacity of City Manager of the Commune of Bari, it is my turn to speak about a further but complementary aspect of the problem of the security in the city.

Speaking about new prevention that, in my opinion, must constitute the aim of an administration like the Commune of Bari, it is necessary to make a remark.

Undoubtedly there is a widespread need of security in the urban environment, but when a citizen is asked if the city is safe, the answer is it is not, while if they are asked if under their house it is safe, often the answer is it is.

The interpretation of this phenomenon is in the fact that each of us knows that, in reality, the phenomena are not so serious as to define insecure the environment in which we live, but, on the other hand, a feeling of insecurity persists, nearly a metropolitan legend that brings to over-estimate the subject.

It is then the Public Administration's duty, in its action, to locate and to create the conditions for the improvement of the quality of the life, for an endurable development that can eliminate to the root the evils that generate delinquency and diffuse crime.

The intervention of the administration moves in this very direction, elaborating interventions and work policies: the creation of mixed societies, the intervention on minors at risk to be inserted in companies, the creation of a task force for employment with the task to support companies in difficulty and to stimulate the establishing of new productive activities; they are all actions finalized to take territory away to those dark conditions of shadow where crime and contraband prosper.

The problem of employment, undoubtedly, has national and international character , but starting from local realities it is possible to put in practice the first decisive interventions.

Beyond all this - and the technology enters now into action - the networks have a substantial function.

As the Prefect justly said, it is necessary that the aims established within the Committee for the public order and the security are modular aims, and able to modify themselves from time to time and adapt themselves to the various situations.

In support of the location of the priority aims an efficient territorial informative system is necessary. As a matter of fact, in order to take decisions rapidly it is necessary to know deeply the problems, and to make this possible a strong flow of structured information is necessary. This is the function of the territorial informative system, a diffuse network of knowledge, a clear flow of information, coming from the public and the private area, so that the problems of employment, of urbanization, of the evolution or involution of the city traffic, of the commerce, and of all social areas are clear. In these terms, the territorial informative network is a fundamental instrument at the service of innovation.

On these aspects the Commune of Bari has left with strong delay. Only some years ago, in the entire Communal Administration - and it is quite symptomatic - there were 100-150 Personal Computers. Today 50% of our employees use a personal computer, with a rate of informatization that, though it is quite limited, is strongly inclined to widespread these informative networks over the entire activity of the Administration.

This allows us to design a new system of connection with citizens, enterprises, associations and agencies. For example, together with Telecom we are experimenting the creation of a web-site that, as well as answering to the necessities of the Commune for information and of extreme transparency towards the citizens, will collect other public and private realities of the territory. For example, we will allow the citizens to know, in real time, which the requirements and the personal needs of the staff of the Getrag are; the availabilities of some products on the territory; the possibilities of use of the funds of the Urban-2 project. On this subject I would like to remind the importance of projects of city requalification like Urban 1 and 2 in order to let a lot of entrepreneurs, younger and not, occupy the ancient village, giving it a different dimension, and offering citizens the possibility to take back possession of the ancient part of the city as centre of social exchanges, exchanges of life, of free time and of business activities.

This is an example of how it is possible to encourage initiatives that can later develop in more and more spontaneous way, putting in communication all the subjects of the social life.

Another example can be seen in a recent project given by the Ministry of the Interior: the electronic identity card. Through a chip and a plastic card similar to the cash card or to the credit card, it will be possible to be identified, to pay taxes, to have access to reservations, to be able to use public means of transportation and services, to have information on the urban world in real time. We will be truly able to connect the territory with the communal Administration and the agencies that run the services.

This is all which can be defined "new prevention", that is to say a way to intervene concretely on the development of the territory, both through the planning of the decisions within the Committee of security, and through other interventions.

On this subject we think about the positive influence determined by actions such as the territorial pact, the programme agreements and other meaningful projects. This morning, for example, together with the Region we have defined some aspects of development for the city park of Lama Balice. The project will offer young people various contracts of job for the cure of the park, its enjoying, services. Through the creation of a park agency guide services will be planned for those who want to visit it, scientific documentation, organization of meetings, seminars and everything else will be necessary, all activities that produce occupation and improve the quality of the life.

The Prefect, though, referred also to an other level of the use of the technological networks.

In these last days we are experimenting a project for monitoring of traffic with closed circuit cameras and in the press conference of presentation we have cleared the purposes of this system.

Today it is spoken very much about the "Big Brother", the television programme in which people's more intimate moments are spied; this is not our aim.

The aim is to have information in real time on the practicability of the roads, to locate the traffic flows, to monitor the situations of danger for the public security, planning the eventual interventions on part of the Civil Protection.

With the cameras connected to a control centre, we have today the possibility to intervene on twenty emplacements dislocated on the territory, in some time on forty emplacements: we are able to know in real time what is happening, to inform the forces of public safety for a rapid intervention in order to guarantee the security of the citizens.

Giving wide space and greatest information on the subject has not been casual: as a matter of fact, we are convinced that it is fundamental for the citizens to have the certainty that everything is under control, that someone takes care to verify what happens on the roads, what can attempt their safety and, in the shortest possible time, they intervene.

This one is concerted with another initiative, the Questor Malvano already referred to: the traffic winking lights at night. Independently from my function, I have been able to collect many demonstrations of appreciation for this action. The citizens, looking at the traffic indicators switched on, have the precise feeling that someone protects them, takes care of them and guarantees their security.

We think that we will receive the same appreciation for the use of the cameras. Through the web-site of the city of Bari, for example, it will be possible to use some fixed cameras, not zoomable, in order to receive in real time information about which the flows of traffic of the arteries with greater affluence in the city are, avoiding the fact of choosing road situations already compromised. It is a further sign of the presence of the local body and of the forces of public safety that are able, therefore, to supply a cognitive service about everything happens within the city area.

I would like to conclude pointing out another issue the Prefect spoke about: the technology is not a miracle.

I agree, but it is also true that the technology allows us to considerably reduce the times of reception of the information and to increase the diffusion towards the citizenship. What it is necessary is the attention to the way in which technology is widespread.

The " digital divide " is an Anglo-Saxon word that expresses the outcasting of those who do not have technological instruments: nowadays this is the risk. The danger is to divide the citizenship in two parts: those who have access to technological information and those who are not in a position to do it.

Therefore it is necessary that the local body takes care to form the citizens and give them the instruments, easily accessible, to let them a rapid approach to the information.

I refer to instruments widespread over the territory, in the Districts, in the public squares, on the roads, everywhere is possible, so that the citizens with little possibility are not cut out in comparison to those people who possess a Personal Computer.

I believe that if we pay due attention to a correct development of technology and of the networks, undoubtedly we will have large advantages.

We are in a phase of experimentation and great evolution, but if we operate in this way we will succeed in giving a remarkable support to the security in the city.