

Louis Vuitton Cup

At the beginning of October 2005 in Trapani (Western Sicily) the Louis Vuitton cup preliminaries will take place. This event, giving an important chance to develop the whole area, conflicts with another point of view: the one (i.e. Louis Vuitton cup preliminary regattas), for a territorial restyling and land development without any respect of EU and national laws. In contrast the other one tries to protect cultural, landscape and the natural wellbeing of the whole area; thoroughly respecting the law and its legalities as well as environmental protection principles. Indeed, the land development for the Louis Vuitton cup, insists that the natural reserve "Trapani and Paceco's Salt saltworks system", is becoming an obstacle for developing the coastal area. Works are leading to the reduction of some *Posidonia* beds, the *Calendula maritime* habitat, (which is an important endemic species in the Reserve) and in general, modification of the extension of many habitat patches which represent an important ecological corridor for the transient avifauna to and from Africa.

Environmental organizations and National Guard actions against the development have concurred. Up until now, the negative actions against the environment and the saltworks systems are in control. This precedent is destined to continue also after the sports event.

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