

# Italian Expert Says, Build These Bridges!

Sept. 18—Prof. Enzo Siviero, Italy’s top expert in bridge construction, told *EIR*’s Claudio Celani today that the ongoing Egyptian great projects, starting from the doubling of the Suez Canal, underline the importance for Italy to build the long-discussed bridge across the Messina Strait separating the Italian mainland from Sicily.<sup>1</sup>

The bridge would create an integrated logistical platform, which will enable all of Southern Italy to meet the challenge of the increased maritime traffic from Suez. Ships now take 4-5 days to reach Rotterdam, whereas through the Gioia Tauro port, in the Messina Strait area, their freight could reach Berlin in one day. The Messina Bridge will create a large metropolitan area by connecting the two cities of Messina and Reggio Calabria, and will integrate the Sicilian network of ports, railways, and airports into the system.

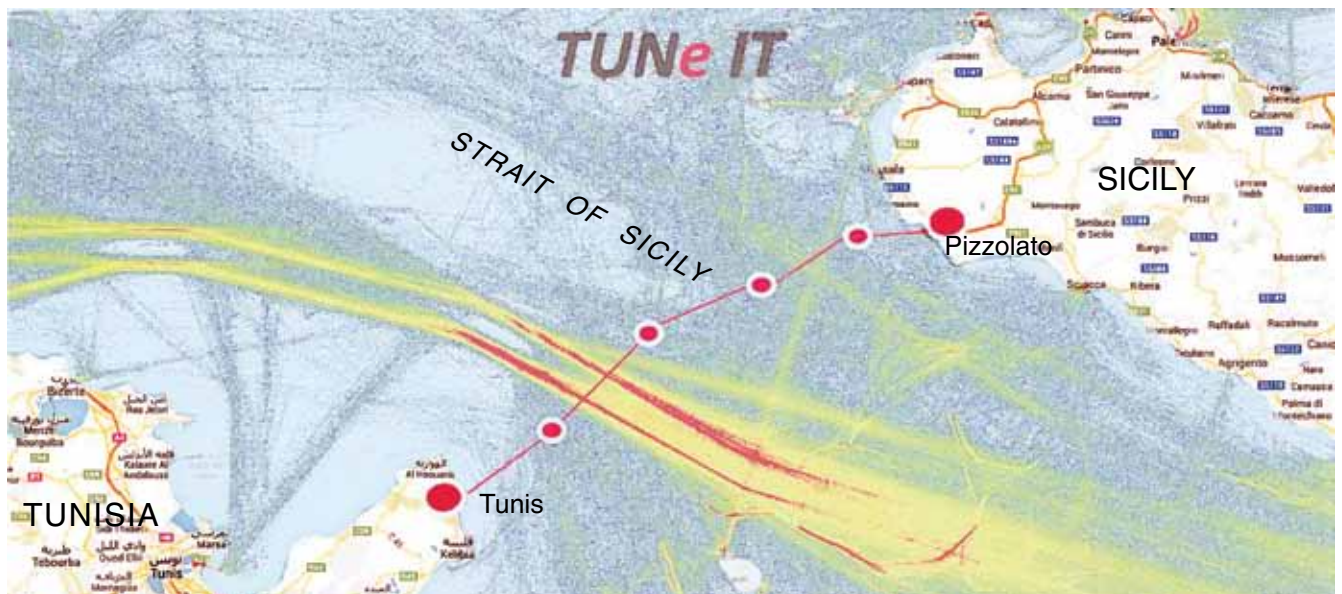
Siviero is professor of Construction Science at the

1. See, Fortunato Covelli, “Build the bridge over the Strait of Messina,” *EIR*, May 2, 1997.

IUAV University in Venice, and advising professor at the Civil Engineering Department at the Tongji University in Shanghai, China. He is founder and editor of *Galileo* magazine, whose latest [issue](#) is dedicated to the development of the Mediterranean, and features Siviero’s proposal to build a bridge between Tunisia and Italy, “the Mediterranean Bridge.”

The Mediterranean Bridge can be an alternative or a complement to the proposed tunnel—another Italian project—between the two countries. The 140-km-long tunnel involves a psychological aspect, Siviero says, as not many people would want to make such a long trip. The bridge would be essentially a multiple of the proposed 3-km Messina Strait suspension bridge, which would cross four man-made islands; the tunnel idea also includes islands built with the tunnel debris.

The Tunisia-Sicily link is “not only a trade and rail link for purely economic purposes, but also a road link which allows two worlds and cultures, deeply different in many aspects, to come into contact. The consequences: new scenarios of communications and relations among concerned countries, new programs for development and collaboration (especially of the economic and commercial kind) among regions of Europe and Africa, attraction of many foreign investors to the new infrastructure and/or in its framework. Work of this kind would undoubtedly be unique in the world!”



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*“The birth of a new connection between Europe and Africa across the Strait of Sicily, and the creation of new means of communication and relations among nations, will make possible new programs of development and collaboration.”—Galileo Magazine*