SICILY REGION PRESIDENCY



STATUTE of the Sicilian Regional Government

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Translation of the introduction Edited by Roberto Giacovelli

Introduction: President Rosario Crocetta

Sicily, including the Eolian, Egadi, Pelagie, Ustica, and Pantelleria islands, is a Regione autonoma, i.e. an Italian region provided, within the framework of politically united Italy, with self-rule and a legal entity status as under the principles that inspire the nation's life.

Palermo is its capital city.

The present Statute starts with the article that contains the main items of my agenda; namely, Article 1 sets what shall make up my whole institutional activity insofar as it envisages the autonomy of Sicily meant as also encompassing those minor islands that need special attention and, although very often not taken into proper consideration by the latest policies, account for a great asset for our Region.

Sicily's autonomy is based upon the democratic principles that inspire the Region's life.

It is therefore inconceivable to stop enforcing it on the ground that many consider it as a source of waste and privileges, and even as the very cause of Sicily's underdevelopment - hence the reference to waste.

I strongly reiterate the concept that our autonomy must still be claimed and that its place is within the framework of the democratic principles enshrined in the Italian Constitution.

Loyalty to the Italian Constitution and to the Sicilian Statute: here is the basis of the oath that I am taking in front of all Sicilians.

I shall work with all regional and national institutions to make sure that these principles are abided by so as to allow our Region, now overwhelmed by an economic, social, and ethical crisis, to find its way again.

Men like Alessi, De Gasperi, and Togliatti were right when they thought that the development of an island could revolve around autonomy. And our island, that I can surely define as one of the most beautiful islands in the world, may well become one of the richest islands in the Mediterranean and in Europe.

Its history, made by the Greeks, the Romans, the Arabs, and the Normans through so many different civilizations and religions, is our History.

We shall work together in order to give Sicily an important role in the world political arena, one derived from the pride of having been at the centre of the Mediterranean for millennia.

Sicily, whose beauty, ethics, values, and history have been so brutally spoilt, shall recover its honour.

The present Statute is the basis of all future actions under my administration and my Presidency.

I call upon you, Sicilians and non-Sicilians, to convey this message of pride, that I am hereby delivering you, to all citizens.

Good morning Sicily, a new page has begun.

President Rosario Crocetta

STATUTE OF THE SICILIAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT

The text of the Special Statute of the Sicilian Regional Government, approved by the R.D.L. 15 May 1946, n. 455 (Published in the Official Gazette of the Kingdom of Italy n. 133-3 of 10 June 1946, was transposed into constitutional law on 26 February 1948, n. 2 (published in the GURI n. 58 of 9 March 1948), and was modified by the constitutional laws of 23 February 1972, n. 1 (published in the GURI n. 63 of 7 March 1972), 12 April 1989, n. 3 (published in the GURI n. 87 of the 14 April 1989) and 31 January 2001, n. 2 (published in the GURI n. 26 of 1 February 2001).

1. Sicily, with the Aeolian, Egadi, and Pelagie Islands, Ustica and Pantelleria, has been constituted as an autonomous Region and a legal entity within the political unity of the Italian State, based upon the democratic principles which underlie the Nation. The City of Palermo is the capital of the Region.

TITLE I ORGANS OF THE REGION

ARTICLE 2

1. The Organs of the Region are: The Assembly, the Regional Cabinet and the President of the Region. The President of the Region and the Regional Cabinet constitute the Regional Government

SECTION I

Regional Assembly

- 1. The Regional Assembly is constituted by ninety deputies elected in the Region by direct and secret universal suffrage, according to the law passed by the Regional Assembly and in harmony with the Constitution, the principles of the legal system of the Republic and in accordance with the present Statute. In order to promote the equal representation of the sexes the said law promotes equal access to the electoral process.
- 2. The Regional Assembly is elected for five years. The quinquennial period begins from the date of the elections.
- 3. Elections for the new Regional Assembly are called by the President of the Region and can take place from the fourth Sunday before and no later than the second Sunday after completion of the

period in the previous paragraph.

- 4. The decree inducing the election must be published no later than the forty-fifth day preceding the date of the election.
- 5. The new Assembly will gather, upon he summons of the Regional President, within twenty days of the proclamation of the members elected.
- 6. The Regional deputies represent the entire Region.
- 7. The Office of Regional Deputy is incompatible with membership of one of the chambers of the National Parliament, a Regional Council and the European Parliament.

ARTICLE 4

1. The Regional Assembly elects among its members the President, two Vice-Presidents, the Secretaries of the Assembly and the Permanent Commissions, according to its internal regulatory norms which also outline the functions of the Regional Assembly.

ARTICLE 5

1. The Deputies, before entering into the exercise of their duties, take an oath in the Assembly to carry out their duties for the sole undivided benefit of Italy and the Region.

ARTICLE 6

1. The Deputies cannot be held accountable for their votes in the Regional Assembly nor for the opinions expressed during the exercise of their duties.

ARTICLE 7

1. The Deputies have the right in the Assembly to make observations, ask questions and present motions.

- 1. The Commissionaire of the State, according to article 27, can propose to the National Government that the Regional Assembly be dissolved for continuous violations of the present Statute.
- 2. The dissolution decree has to be preceded by the deliberations of the legislative assemblies of the State.
- 3. The day-to-day management of the Region is then given to an extraordinary Commission composed of three members, nominated by the National Government based on the indications of the National legislative assemblies.
- 4. The Commission calls for the election of the new Regional Assembly within three months.
- 5. With a specific decree issued by the President of the Republic and following the procedures spelled out in the second and third paragraphs the President of the Region can be removed if, despite being elected by direct universal suffrage, has carried out acts which are in violation of the Constitution or repeatedly carried out serious acts in violation of the law. Removal can also be motivated for reasons of national security.

ARTICLE 8 bis

- 1. The simultaneous resignation of half plus one of the Deputies determines the early dissolution of the Assembly, according to the modality spelled out by a law adopted by the Regional Assembly and approved by an absolute majority.
- 2. New elections shall take place within ninety days beginning from the date of the resignation of the majority of the members of the Regional Assembly.
- 3. During the period between the dissolution of the Assembly and the nomination of the new regional government the President and Assessors can carry out ordinary administrative tasks.

SECTION II

President of the Region and the Regional Cabinet

ARTICLE 9

- 1. The President of the Region is elected by direct universal suffrage in conjunction with the election of the members of the Regional Assembly.
- 2. The President of the Region nominates and dismisses the Assessors, along with a Vice-president who replaces him in case of absence or impediment in carrying out his duties.
- 3. In accordance with the Constitution and the principles of the legal order of the Republic and in observance of what is established in the present Statute, the Regional Assembly with a law approved by an absolute majority of its members establishes the mode of election of the President of the Region, the nomination and dismissal of the Assessors, the eventual incompatibilities that accompany the office of regional Deputy and other roles and offices in addition to the relations with the Regional Assembly, the Regional Government and the President of the Region.
- 4. The office of the President of the Region cannot be held for more than two consecutive terms.
- 5. The Regional Cabinet is composed by the President and the Assessors. These are proposed for single branches of the Administration.

ARTICLE 10

1. The Regional Assembly can approve by absolute majority a motion of no confidence in the President of the Region. The motion must be presented by at least a fifth of the Assembly members and must be debated no sooner than three days from its presentation. If the motion is approved new elections for the Assembly and

President will be held within the following three months.

2. In case of the resignation, removal, permanent impediment or death of the President of the Region new elections of the Regional Assembly and President of the Region will be held within the following three months.

TITLE II

FUNCTIONS OF THE REGIONAL ORGANS

SECTION I

Functions of the Regional Assembly

ARTICLE 11

1. The Regional Assembly is called into ordinary session by its President during the first week of each two-month work period and in emergency session upon request of the Regional Government or by at least twenty Deputies.

- 1. Legislative initiatives can be taken by the Government and by individual Deputies of the Regional Assembly. The people can exercise legislative initiative through the presentation, on behalf of at least ten thousand citizens registered in the electoral roll of the cities in the Region, of a proposal subdivided into articles. Legislative initiative is also recognized on the part of Municipal Councils of the Region numbering no less than forty and representing at least 10 percent of the Sicilian population or at least 3 Provincial Councils.
- 2. Regional law governs the means by which popular initiatives on the part of citizens, Municipal or Provincial Councils can be introduced and it also defines the time within which the Regional Assembly expresses itself on said initiatives.

- 3. Legislative proposals are drafted by the Commissions of the Regional Assembly with the participation of representatives of professional associations and the technical offices of the Region.
- 4. The regulations governing the implementation of the laws passed by the Regional Assembly are issued by the Regional Government.

- 1. The laws approved by the Regional Assembly and regulations emanated by the Regional Government are invalid if they lack the signature of the President of the Region and of the Assessor responsible for the policy.
- 2. They are promulgated by the President of the Region based on the terms specified in Article 29 and published in the Official Gazette of the Region.
- 3. They enter into force in the Region fifteen days after their publication, except if otherwise stated specifically in the law or regulation in question.

ARTICLE 13 bis

1. Through provisions approved by absolute majority of the members in the Regional Assembly are governed the scope and modality of referenda for the repeal, proposal and consultation of regional laws.

- 1. The Assembly, within the confines of the Region and within the limits imposed by the national constitutional laws, without conflicting with the agrarian and industrial reforms passed by the Constituent Assembly of the Italian people has exclusive legislative power in the following areas:
- a) agriculture and forestry;
- b) land reclamation;

- c) civic land uses;
- d) industry and commerce, except for the regulation of private interactions;
- e) increase of agricultural and industrial production; promotion, distribution and safeguarding of agricultural and industrial products and of commercial activities;
- f) planning law;
- g) public works, except for large public works of prevailing national interest;
- h) mines, quarries, peat fields, salt beds;
- i) public waters, as long as they are not subject to public works of national interest;
- 1) fishing and hunting;
- m) public charity and charitable works;
- n) tourism, hotel management, environmental protection, preservation of antiquities and works of art;
- o) local government and its related consortium and neighborhood activities;
- p) rules governing regional offices and agencies;
- q) legal and economic status of Regional employees and functionaries, in any case not below the status of State personnel;
- r) elementary school education, museums, libraries and academies;
- s) eminent domain for public utility.

- 1. The Provinces and the public bodies and entities connected to them with the Region are abolished within the Sicilian Region.
- 2. The organization of local government in the Region is based on Communes and voluntary communal consortia that are granted the widest administrative and financial autonomy.
- 3. Within these general principles the Region has the exclusive legislative power and right to govern in the matter of administrative

boundaries, powers and control over local governments.

ARTICLE 16

1. The administrative rules cited in the previous article will be determined, on the basis of the principles established in the present Statute, by the first Regional Assembly.

ARTICLE 17

- 1. Within the limits of the principles and common interests that serve as the basis of national legislation, the Regional Assembly, in order to serve the particular conditions and interests of the Region, can legislate on the following Regional policy areas:
- a) regional transport and communication of any kind;
- b) public health and hygiene;
- c) health coverage;
- d) secondary and university education;
- e) regulation of financial loans, insurance and savings;
- f) social legislation: labour relations, social welfare and care, in observation of the minimum standards prescribed by National legislation;
- g) agricultural taxes;
- h) provision of public services;
- i) all other policy areas entailing services of a prevailing regional interest.

ARTICLE 17 bis.

1. The laws referred to in article 3, first paragraph, article 8 bis, article 9, third paragraph and article 41 bis are subject to regional referenda, whose implementation is regulated by specific regional legislation, when within three months after their publication one fiftieth of regional voters or a fifth of the members of the Regional Assembly requests it. The legislation that is subject to a referendum cannot be promulgated if not approved by a majority of valid votes.

2. Laws approved by a two thirds majority of Regional Assembly members can be put to referend only if, within three months of their publication, the request is signed by one thirtieth of voters registered for Regional Assembly elections.

ARTICLE 18

1. The Regional Assembly can vote on and formulate proposals for matters that interest the Region but are the competency of National bodies and present these proposals to the legislative Assemblies of the State.

- 1. The Regional Assembly shall approve no later than the month of January the budget of the Region proposed by the Regional Cabinet for the next financial year.
- 2. The financial year of the Region will be the same as that of the State.
- 3. The Regional Assembly must also approve the general accounting of expenditures of the Region.

SECTION II

Functions of the Regional President and Regional Cabinet

ARTICLE 20

- 1. The President and Regional Assessors, in addition to the carrying out of the functions under articles 12, 13 first and second paragraphs, 19 first paragraph, carry out in the Region the executive and administrative functions regarding the policy areas under articles 14, 15 and 17. For areas not covered by articles 14, 15, 17, the President and Regional Assessors carry out administrative functions according to the directives of the National Government.
- 2. They are responsible for all of their respective functions in relation to the Regional Assembly and National Government.

ARTICLE 21

- 1. The President is the Head of Government of the Region and the representative of the Region.
- 2. Moreover the Regional President represents in the Region the National Government which may send on a temporary basis commissioners to carry out individual national functions.
- 3. With title of Minister the Regional President participates in the Council of Ministers with a deliberative vote on matters that involve the Region.

ARTICLE 22

1. The Region has the right to participate through a representative, nominated by the Regional Government, in the setting of national railway rates and in the implementation and regulation of national telecommunication, ground transportation, maritime and air services that interest the Region.

TITLE III JUDICIAL ORGANS

ARTICLE 23

- 1. The national judicial organs shall have their respective sections in Sicily covering the affairs concerning the Region.
- 2. The sections of the Council of State and the Court of Accounts shall carry out their respective consultative, administrative oversight and accounting functions.
- 3. The magistrates of the Court of Accounts are jointly nominated by the National Government and the Region.
- 4. On an extraordinary basis the appeals against regional administrative acts will be made by the President of the Region after having consulted with the regional sections of the Council of State.

ARTICLE 24 (2)

- 1. A High Court has been created in Rome composed, in addition to the President and the Attorney General, of six members and two adjuncts nominated in equal numbers by both the Legislative Assemblies at the national and regional levels, and chosen from individuals with particular judicial expertise.
- 2. The President and the Attorney General are nominated by the same High Court.
- 3. The financial cost of the High Court shall be shared equally between the National Government and the Region.

- 1. The High Court deliberates on the constitutionality of:
- a) laws emanating from the Regional Assembly;
- b) laws and regulations emanating from the National Government with respect to the present Statute and to their effect within the Region.

1. The High Court deliberates upon crimes, alleged by the Regional Assembly, to have been committed by the President and the Regional Assessors while carrying out their functions as per the present Statute.

ARTICLE 27

1. A commissioner, nominated by the National Government, can present to the High Court cases relating to articles 25 and 26, even if in the latter case, there are no accusations on the part of the Regional Assembly.

ARTICLE 28

1. Within three days of their approval, laws passed by the Regional Assembly will be presented to the National Commissioner, who within five days can appeal them to the High Court.

ARTICLE 29

- 1. The High Court will express itself on the appeal within twenty days of its reception.
- 2. If within eight days a copy of the appeal has not been received by the President of Region or if within thirty days of the appeal the President of the Region has not received notification from the High Court of the annulment of the laws, they shall be promulgated and immediately published in the Regional Official Gazette.

ARTICLE 30

1. The President of the Region, also on the basis of a vote in the Regional Assembly and the Commissioner under article 27 can appeal, on the basis of unconstitutionality, to the High Court laws or regulations passed by the National Government within thirty days of their publication.

- (2) The competencies of the High Court have been declared by the Constitutional Court's decision # 38 of 1957 to have been "absorbed into the Constitutional Court".
- (3) Declared unconstitutional by the Constitutional Court (decision # 6 of 1970).
- (4) Section referring to article 26 declared unconstitutional by the Constitutional Court.
- (5) Following the sentence of the Constitutional Court #38 of 1957 where by High Court is intended Constitutional Court;
- (6) The Constitutional Court with decision #545 of 1989 declared null and void the power of the State Commissioner to appeal national laws and regulations.

TITLE IV POLICE

- 1. The President of the Region in maintaining public law and order has at his disposal the national police, which in the Region depends in terms of discipline and use and utilization on the Regional Government. The President of the Region can request the use of the national armed forces.
- 2. Nevertheless, the National Government can assume control of the security forces upon the joint request of the Regional Government and the President of the Assembly or, in exceptional circumstances, at his own initiative when the national interests or security are at stake.
- 3. The President has the right to propose to the National Government, justifying such a request, the removal or transfer away from the island of a member of the police force.
- 4. The Regional Government can organize special administrative police units for the protection of certain services and interests.

TITLE V PROPERTY AND FINANCE

ARTICLE 32

1. The property of the State, including the public water resources present in the Region, are assigned to the Region with the exception of those concerning National defence or services of a national character.

ARTICLE 33

- 1. Moreover, those properties of the National Government which are present in the Region and which are not covered under the previous article are assigned to and are the property of the Region.
- 2. The following are the unalienable property of the Region: forests which currently are legally National Government property in the Region; mines, quarries and peat fields when they have been expropriated from the owner; objects of historical, archaeological, pale ontological and artistic importance found by any person in the subsoil of the Region; buildings assigned for public use on the part of the Region including their furniture and furnishing destined for the provision of a public service on the part of the Region.

ARTICLE 34

1. Buildings which are located within the Region and which have no legal ownership are property of the Region.

ARTICLE 35

1. Commitments already made by the National Government toward regional entities shall be honoured and adjusted for their value at the date of payment.

ARTICOLO 36

1. The financial requirements of the Region will be met from

- earnings generated by properties of the Region and from taxes raised by the same.
- 2. However, taxes on production and revenues from tobacco and the lottery will remain the exclusive reserve of the National Government.

- 1. For industrial and commercial firms, which are headquartered outside of the Region but which have assets within its territory, the quota of company revenues generated within the Region shall be based on said assets.
- 2. The taxes relating to the above quota of revenues shall be of and collected by the Region.

ARTICLE 38

- 1. The National Government will disburse to the Region on an annual basis an amount on the basis of national solidarity, to be used according to an economic plan to finance public works.
- 2. This amount is intended to compensate the Region for lower income levels vis-a-vis the national average.
- 3. The amount disbursed will be reviewed every five years in line with variations in the economic data used for its calculation.

- 1. The customs regime in the Region is the exclusive competence of the National Government.
- 2. The maximum levels of customs duties which concern the Region will be set once the Regional Government has been consulted.
- 3. Agricultural equipment and tools as well as equipment for the processing of the Region's agricultural products shall be exempt from custom duties.

- 1. Exchange rate controls of the National Government will also apply to the Region.
- 2. However, for the duration of exchange rate controls, the Bank of Sicily shall have a compensation account in which shall be deposited the foreign currencies generated from Sicilian exports, remittances, tourism and freight charges from ships with Sicilian registry.

ARTICLE 41

1. The Regional Government shall have the ability to provide for internal loans.

Final and transitory arrangements ARTICLE 41 bis

- 1. The arrangements regarding the form of Government contained in article 9, first, second and fourth paragraphs, and article 10, shall after their first implementation be modifiable by law on the part of the Regional Assembly by an absolute majority of its members.
- 2. If the President of the Region is directly elected by universal suffrage the arrangements under article 9, first, second and fourth paragraphs and article 10 shall remain in force.
- 3. If the President of the Region is elected by the Regional Assembly the Assembly shall be dissolved if it is not able to function due to the impossibility of forming a majority within sixty days of the election or resignation of the President.

ARTICLE 41 ter

- 1. For the modification of the present Statute the procedures established by the Constitution for constitutional laws shall apply.
- 2. The legislative initiative also applies to the Regional Assembly.
- 3. The National Government shall notify the Regional Assembly of draft of national laws intended to modify the present Statute.

The Regional Assembly shall have two months to express its opinion.

4. Modifications to the Statute are not subject to approval by a national referendum.

ARTICLE 42

- 1. The High Commissioner and the Constituent Council of Sicily, including advisors, will continue to carry out their duties until the first elections for the Regional Assembly, which shall be organized by the National Government within three months of the approval of the present Statute, and which shall be conducted according to the National electoral law.
- 2. There shall be nine electoral colleges corresponding to the current provincial constituencies and the number of deputies shall be based on the population of each constituency.

ARTICLE 43

1. A Joint Committee of four members nominated by the High Commissioner and by the National Government shall determine the transitional norms to be applied to the transfer of national offices and staff to the Region as well as the norms for the implementation of the present Statute.

Other transitory arrangements contained in the constitutional law of 31 January 2001, number 2, "Arrangements concerning the direct election of the Presidents of special Statute Regions and of the autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano" relating to the special Statute of the Sicilian Region.

ART. 1 (Modifications of the Statute of the Region of Sicily)

- 1. (Omissis).
- 2. Until the entry into force of the law envisaged by article 9 of the Statute of the Sicilian Region, as modified by the paragraph 1 of the present article, the President of the Region is directly elected by universal suffrage. The election is in conjunction with the renewal of the Regional Assembly. Within ten days of the notification of the winner the President elect shall nominate the members of the Cabinet and can subsequently dismiss them; attribute to one of the members the title of Vice-President. If the Regional Assembly approves by absolute majority a no-confidence vote in the President of the Region, presented by at least one-fifth of the councillors and voted upon three days after being presented, new elections for the President of the Region and for the Regional Assembly shall take place within three months of the no-confidence vote. New elections for the President of the Region and for the Regional Assembly shall also take place in case of the voluntary resignation, removal, permanent impediment or death of the President. Based on what is provided for by the third paragraph, the provisions of the present paragraph do not apply to the regional Assembly on the date when the present constitutional law enters into force. If not otherwise provided by the regional laws foreseen by articles 3 and 9 of the Statute of the Sicilian Region, as respectively modified and substituted by the first paragraph of the present article, the current statutory provisions of the constitutional law are applied to the Regional Assembly.
- 3. If by the date of the initiation of the electoral campaign for the first renewal of the Regional Assembly subsequent to the entry into force of the present constitutional law there has not been the approval of the law foreseen by the cited article 9, third paragraph,

of the Statute of the Sicilian Region or there has not been an approval of the subsequent modifications of the regional electoral law foreseen by the cited article 3 of the Statute for the election of the Regional Assembly and the President of the Region what applies if compatible are the provisions of the national laws that govern the election of the Councils of the ordinary statute Regions. The electoral constituencies established by these provisions consist of the confines of each province of the Sicilian Region and for the Deputies elected by the majority system by the entire Region.

The heads of the regional electoral lists are the candidates for the President of the Region. The candidate with the highest number of votes in the Region shall be proclaimed President of the Region. The President of the Region is part of the Regional Assembly. The provisions of the fourteenth paragraph of article 15 of the law #108 of 17 February 1968, introduced by the second paragraph of article 3 of the law #43 of 23 February 1995, and the provisions of the second to last period of the present paragraph are applied in substitution of the number of Deputies established by the cited article 3 of the Statute. The candidate with the second highest number of votes in the Region, after the candidate who is declared President of the Region, shall be elected Regional Deputy.

The central regional Office reserves for this purpose the last seat eventually to be allocated to the constituency list associated with the head of the regional list for the role of Deputy according to the hypothesis foreseen by number three of the thirteenth paragraph of article 15 of the law #108 of 17 February 1968, introduced by the second paragraph of the law #43 of 23 February 1995; or otherwise the seat attributed with the remaining votes or with the fewest electoral votes among those same lists within the region-wide constituency for the distribution of the residual constituency seats. If all of the seats attributed to the lists have been attributed by the

entire quotient within the constituencies, the central regional office proceeds to attribute an additional seat in case provisions have to be made to assign the percentage of seats assigned to the majority list within the Regional Assembly. To these elections there continues to be applied, for additional purposes and if compatible with the requirements of law #108 of 17 February 1968 and its subsequent modifications and law #43 of 23 February 1995, the norms of the laws of the Region of Sicily for the election of the Regional Assembly, limited to the rules of the administrative organization of the electoral procedures and the elections.

ART. 6

(Final arrangements)

- 1. Within twelve months from the date on which the present constitutional law enters into force the Government shall draw up, without modifying it in any way, the text of the special Statute of the Region of Sicily which results from the royal decree 15 May 1946, n. 455, converted into constitutional law of 26 February 1948, n. 2, into constitutional law 23 February 1972, n. 1, and into constitutional law 12 April 1989, n. 3, remaining in force and those referred to in article 1 of the present constitutional law.
- 2. (Omissis).
- 3. (Omissis).
- 4. (Omissis).
- 5. (Omissis).

Art. 7

(Norms regarding regional elections)

1. Regional elections already called at the date of entry into force of the present constitutional law shall be delayed by one-hundred-twenty days in order to allow the calling of new regional elections.

- 2. Within thirty days of the implementation of the present constitutional law the Regional Assembly elected in the semesters prior to the entry into force of this constitutional law shall be dissolved by decree of the President of the Republic.
- 3. The electoral campaigns are to begin within sixty days of the dissolution of the Assembly.

Index

Introduction: President Rosario Crocetta	Pag.	5
TITLE I Organs Of the Region	Pag.	8
SECTION I Regional Assembly	Pag.	8
SECTION II President of the Region and the Regional Cabinet	Pag.	11
TITLE II Functions of the Regional Organs	Pag.	12
SECTION I Functions of the Regional Assembly	Pag.	12
SECTION II Functions of the Regional President and Regional Cabinet	Pag.	17
TITLE III Judicial Organs	Pag.	18
TITLE IV Police	Pag.	20
TITLE V Property and Finance	Pag.	21
ART. I Modifications of the Statute of the Region of Sicily	Pag.	25

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