



REPUBLIC of SERBIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



ADRIATIC AND IONIAN INITIATIVE
CHAIRMANSHIP OF SERBIA
JUNE 2019-MAY 2020

MEETING OF THE **COMMITTEE OF SENIOR OFFICIALS**
OF THE **ADRIATIC AND IONIAN INITIATIVE**
18 February 2020

BRUXELLES

AGREED MINUTES

The second meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials under the All Serbian Chairmanship was held in Bruxelles on 18 February 2020. The CSO was chaired by the Head of Department for Regional Initiatives and National Coordinator of the Republic of Serbia for EUSAIR and All, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, Mr. **Pavle Janković**, with the assistance of the All Senior Advisor, **Amb. Fabio Pigliapoco**.

Before kicking off the works of the CSO, **Mr. Janković** welcomed the participants and addressed Senior Officials stressing that the Serbian Presidency stands ready to cooperate and be active for a successful All Chairmanship and for achieving tangible results for the benefit of the Region.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Mr. Janković took note that the Agenda of the meeting was acceptable to all participants with no exception.

2. Briefing on the activities conducted so far under the Calendar of the Serbian Presidency

The **Chair** informed Senior Officials that the Government of Serbia has formally adopted the All/EUSAIR Programme and Priorities and the Calendar of activities.

The **Chair** shared with All Senior Officials the 17 events and activities implemented so far by the Serbian Chairmanship:

- **MOSAICS HERITAGE IN THE AI REGION** - Expert-level meeting of representatives of the Ministries of Culture in the Adriatic-Ionian region (Belgrade and Zaječar – Felix Romouliana, 30/09-3/10-2019);
- **SEE MOSAICS** - Meeting of Conservation Experts (Zaječar – Felix Romouliana, 01-04/10/2019) with the support of the Serbian Ministry of Culture and Information and the Central Institute for Conservation;

- **Meeting of EUSAIR National Coordinators** (Belgrade, 21/10/2019);
- **Technical meeting of EUSAIR Pillar Coordinators** (Belgrade, 21/10/2019);
- **All Committee of Senior Officials** (Belgrade, 21/10/2019);
- **10th EUSAIR Governing Board** (Belgrade, 21-22/10/2019);
- **2nd Trio Presidency** (Belgrade, 22/10/2019);
- **4 meetings of the Thematic Steering Groups (November 2019);**
- **All Round Table on “The Intermodal Connections to the Hinterland within the Adriatic Ionian Region”** (Belgrade, 20/11/2019), organized in cooperation with the All Permanent Secretariat and the EUSAIR Thematic Steering Group 2;
- **All Round Table on Energy Inter-Connections** in the Adriatic and Ionian Region (Belgrade, 20/11/2019), organized with the support of the All Permanent Secretariat and the EUSAIR Thematic Steering Group 2;
- **All Round Table on Inter-University Cooperation** in the Adriatic and Ionian Region (Belgrade, 20/11/2019), organized in cooperation with UNIADRION, the All Permanent Secretariat and the Belgrade University;
- **All Round Table on “Labour emigration”** (Belgrade, 21/11/2019), organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour, Veteran and Social Affairs of the Republic of Serbia and the All-PS, at the presence of the Minister of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, **Zoran Đorđević**, and the Minister without portfolio responsible for demography and population policy, **Slavica Đukić-Dejanović**;
- **All Roundtable on Environmental Protection** (Belgrade, 17/12/2019) on the topic "Development of joint management plans for cross-border habitats and ecosystems with particular reference to large carnivores", organized in cooperation with the Serbian Ministry of Environmental Protection with the support of All-PS and EUSAIR Thematic Steering Group 3;
- **Meeting of EUSAIR National Coordinators** (Bruxelles, 18/02/2020);
- **Technical meeting of EUSAIR Pillar Coordinators** (Bruxelles, 18/02/2020);
- **All Committee of Senior Officials** (Bruxelles, 18/02/2020);
- **11th EUSAIR Governing Board** (Bruxelles, 18-19/02/2020);

3. Calendar of upcoming activities under Serbian Presidency

The **Chair** illustrated the calendar of the upcoming events and activities:

- **3rd Trio Presidency** (Belgrade, 13/03/2020);
- **42nd International Tourism Fair** (Belgrade, 20-23/02/2020), in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia;
- **9th Energy and Investment International Days** (Novi Sad, *tbd*), in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia;
- **4 EUSAIR Thematic Steering Groups meetings** (March/April);
- **All Round Table on Youth Connectivity** (Belgrade, 15-16/04/2020), in cooperation with the Serbian Ministry of Youth and Sport, in conjunction with the **Exhibition – Traditional ornaments of the Adriatic-Ionian Region** (conducted by the Museum of Applied Arts and Ethnographic Museum in Belgrade together with the Serbian Ministry of Culture and Information);

- **All Roundtable on “Trans-national tourist products as a way of connecting the coastline with the hinterland”** (on the topic of the Roman Emperors’ Route and Danube Wine Route”) (Belgrade, *exact date tbd*);
- **Movies on the Cultural landscape**, either separate All event or within the framework of the EUSAIR Forum in Belgrade;
- **All 20th Anniversary of the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative** (Ancona, 22-24/04/2020);
- **64th International Fair of Technics and Technical Achievements** (Belgrade, *exact date tbd*), in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia;
- **87th International Agricultural Fair** (Novi Sad, *exact date tbd*), in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia;
- **5th EUSAIR Annual Forum** (Belgrade, *exact date to be decided*).

The **Chair** further informed participants that, due to parliamentary elections in Serbia which will be held most likely in April or at the beginning of May (official date to be decided), the **XVII Conference of Presidents/Speakers of All Parliaments** it is highly unlikely to take place.

4. Adriatic and Ionian Council (Belgrade)

The **Chair** informed Senior Officials that as far as the organizational aspects of the All Council/EUSAIR Ministerial Meeting will differ this information until the second session of the 11th EUSAIR Governing Board that will be held the following day (February 19th, 2020).

The All Permanent Secretariat will share this information with those Senior Officials who do not have a double hat All/EUSAIR.

5. Preparation of Belgrade Declaration

The **Chair** informed Senior Officials that the preparation of the content of the Belgrade Declaration will start in the coming days. The Declaration will be structured, as usual, into two parts: the first traditional part of all Ministerial Declaration and the second one, which will summarize and underline the main achievements and goals of the Serbian Presidency. The first draft of the document will be circulated in the coming weeks in order to save time at the final meeting (negotiation process) held before the Ministerial meeting.

Amb. Pigliapoco took the floor to underline that as far as the role of All Permanent Secretariat is concerned, the PS will draft the first part of the Declaration related to All topics along with the Chairmanship. The first All draft will be submitted to the Commission (DG REGIO and other relevant DGs) in order to have the part relevant for EUSAIR topics inserted in it. Once a final consolidated text is realized, it will be circulated to Senior Officials and National Coordinators.

Amb. Pigliapoco further highlighted that for the Trio meeting (March 13th, 2020) the All part should be sketched or completed.

6) Statute and Rules of Procedures changes regarding the new Participating Country (Republic of San Marino)

All Senior Advisor welcomed Amb. Benedettini and informed Senior Officials the meeting the All Permanent Secretariat had with the San Marino delegation headed by Mrs. Bigi, held in Ancona on November 12th 2019 at the All-PS premises.

During the meeting Amb. Pigliapoco had the chance to brief San Marino on the genesis of the All/EUSAIR, on our structure and working mechanisms (Adriatic and Ionian Council, Committee of Senior Officials, Trio and Secretariat), as well as on the functioning and organization of All Round Tables and on the role of the Civil Society Fora (Cities, Chambers of Commerce and universities).

The meeting was also attended by Lodovico Gherardi of the ADRION Management Authority who reported on the opportunities offered by the Program and on the benefits of the EUSAIR Strategy.

Amb. Pigliapoco stressed that, following the adoption of the Budva Declaration, which accepted San Marino as the tenth All Participating Country, and as was done last year in the case of North Macedonia, the Rules of Procedures of the Adriatic and Ionian Council need to be updated to reflect the current situation.

The updated Rules of Procedures of the Adriatic and Ionian Council have already been circulated on January 23rd, in which the name of the Republic of San Marino has been added.

Considering that no objection was received, the updated Rules of Procedures were approved.

San Marino took the floor thanking All Participating Countries for accepting San Marino.

Amb. Benedettini further underlined that as the Ancona Declaration states, San Marino wants to strengthen regional cooperation in order to promote political and economic stability thus creating a solid base for the process of European integration.

6. Twenty years All Celebrations

The **Chair** gave the floor to Amb. Pigliapoco to elaborate on the state of the art of the All twenty years celebrations.

Amb. Pigliapoco informed participants that, in close cooperation with the All Serbian Chairmanship, it has been decided to organize a main conference in Ancona on the 23rd of April 2020 (taking into account Easter holidays and other political events).

The conference will be divided into parts. The first part devoted to the presentation of All results and the second one on the EUSAIR. Pillar Coordinators will make a photograph of the situation, a state of the art of the 4 Pillars of the Strategy.

The opening by two political-level figures, ideally the Deputy Foreign Minister of Italy, as the country that took the initiative in 2000, and the Serbian one as current Chairmain-in-office, would be highly desirable.

The presence of all All Participating Countries with their Ambassadors appointed to Italy will also add to the event.

Along side the main event other collateral events have been planned (22-24 April 2020): a **meeting of the ombudsmen of the Adriatic and Ionian region; Photography Exhibition; two musical performances** involving the organizers of the "Adriatic-Mediterranean Festival" and a Youth Orchestra comprising young musicians from all the Adriatic and Ionian area.

7. Any Other Business

Under any other business, the **Chair** brought to the attention of Senior Officials that the Chairmanship had a meeting with the Permanent Secretariat and the three Civil Society Fora (Chambers of Commerce, Cities and Universities) on February 11th in Ancona, before the CSO and the EUSAIR GB.

The Adriatic and Ionian Fora informed the Presidency that they have the skills, expertise and experience which might be placed at the service of EUSAIR bodies in the organization of and during the upcoming EUSAIR Forum. They are looking for more coordination with the EUSAIR TSG Coordinators in the definition of the Agenda and in the involvement of particular experts that would contribute to the development of the topics in each of the panels.

He further announced that the same piece of information will be shared during the EUSAIR Governing Board with its standing members.

The **Chair** also brought to the attention of Senior Officials that there will be elections in Serbia at the end of April or beginning of May and this is the reason why he cannot inform the CSO on the exact date of the Adriatic and Ionian Council. The **Chair** asked the Permanent Secretariat to circulate this information with Senior Officials once an exact date will be decided.

Montenegro took the floor in order to welcome San Marino, reminding that San Marino joined the Initiative during Montenegrin Presidency with the adoption of the Budva Declaration.

He further informed Senior Officials that Montenegro took over the Presidency of the Central European Initiative from January 1st 2020, calling for more cooperation between CEI and All in light of the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the two Secretary Generals last year in Budva.