



international positioning, but are sharing the same objectives of joining the European integration.

During the Croatian Chairmanship we shall strive to develop and structure the AII co-operation in order to create an effective mechanism which will enable in realising common political, economic and development interest.

The structuring of AII by defining the form of organisation will maintain the principle of flexibility.

The basic form of co-operation within the AII, as we see it, is a process of specific project oriented approach. The AII will find its place within the institutional framework that is complementary to the existing regional co-operation (Stability Pact, Central European Initiative, Alps-Adria Working Community, SEECP, etc.).

As stated in Ancona Declaration, the importance of co-operation within the broader Mediterranean context is of special interest for the participating countries of the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative.

To realise the general common goals, it is necessary to harmonise the proposals of all member states, related to the institutional framework of the AII (secretariats, setting up working groups, project managers, guidelines for their activities, action plans, etc.). At the same time, we should establish the ways for insuring systematic financial support to the AII projects (member states budgets, EU funds, other international organisation funds, interested private sector financing).

### **FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP**

(The Programme of Activities of the Chairmanship will contain a detailed schedule of the activities for the first half of the year 2001 that will be discussed with other participating states of the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative.)

- As the presiding country, the Republic of Croatia will co-ordinate the work of the members of the Committee of Senior Officials of the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative, and will host its meetings.
- Following the conclusions of the four round tables, held in Ancona on May 19, 2000, preparatory events will be arranged, as well as topical meetings of the regional experts in the Croatian towns at the Adriatic, and in the towns of other interested participating states of the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative.
- Results of the activities of the meeting of experts will be presented at the meetings of topical round tables that will be held within the framework of the Conference in Split, in May 2001. Their conclusions and proposals, especially concerning the organisation of the working groups of the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative, will be submitted for adoption to the Committee of Senior Officials and the members of the Adriatic-Ionian Council in Split, in May 2001.
- The Republic of Croatia will organise an Economic Forum (small and medium enterprises, maritime affairs, transport and tourism). The number of events within the Economic Forum will be agreed with the other members of the AII.

- It is our intention to highlight the richness of the Adriatic and Ionian cultural heritage and therefore we plan to organise the Cultural and Scientific Forum of the AII.
- Croatian Government will involve in the AII activities all the relevant ministries and institutions. Also, we shall open our co-operation and relay on the inputs of our littoral counties and cities that have already expressed clear interest to be a part of the AII activities.
- The Croatia's Chairmanship of the AII will be completed at the Conference in Split, in May 2001, which will entail the meeting of the AIC as well as the round tables.
- Republic of Croatia remains open to proposals of AII participating states.