



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



ADRIATIC AND IONIAN INITIATIVE
CHAIRMANSHIP OF ALBANIA

XVII Meeting of the Adriatic Ionian Council

Brussels Declaration

13 May 2014

Brussels

We, the Members of the Adriatic Ionian Council (AIC), representatives of the Governments of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia,

GUIDED BY the Ancona Declaration of May 20, 2000 and its basic principles, as well as by the principles expressed by the consecutive AIC declarations from 2001 to 2013;

AWARE that the challenges affecting the region can only be tackled through cooperation among our Countries;

RECALLING that the European Union values are the basic principles of cooperation within the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative;

CONFIRMING that the goal of regional cooperation in the Adriatic Ionian basin is fostering stability and growth and paving the way to the EU integration of the candidate and potential candidate Countries in the region;

CONVINCED that the “EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region “ (EUSAIR) will give new impetus for cooperation and investment to the benefit of all involved and to the peace and security of the entire area;

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- **RECALL** their renewed commitment of All Governments – solemnly expressed at the Special AIC Meeting of Athens of 6 February 2014, under Albanian Chairmanship – to continue playing the role of “intergovernmental anchorage” of the EUSAIR;

- **REITERATE** their will to fully cooperate with the Commission in the final stages preceding the adoption of the Communication and the Action Plan and its presentation to the last General Affairs Council under the Hellenic Presidency of the EU Council;
- **CONFIRM** the same engagement during the second semester of the year when the final documents will be submitted to the European Council's approval under the Italian Presidency of the EU Council;
- **RECOGNIZE** as crucial their future continued cooperation with the EU Commission also during the subsequent implementation phase;
- **EXPRESS** their will to face, with full commitment, the challenges that will arise after the adoption of the EUSAIR with the aim of facilitating the successful implementation of the Action Plan;
- **THANK** the European Commission for its convinced support in the development of the EUSAIR through comprehensive consultations with stakeholders and Governments of the region;
- **INVITE** the Participating States to continue raising awareness among internal stakeholders and the representatives of the Adriatic Ionian civil society to continue giving their contribution to the activities within the AII and the EUSAIR;
- **EMPHASIZE** the importance of intergovernmental cooperation to strengthening regional cooperation supporting stability, growth and sustainable development;
- **COMMEND** the Albanian Government for its efforts in enhancing cooperation among AII Participating States during the period of its Chairmanship, through the organization of meetings and Round Tables on different fields of cooperation (SMEs, Tourism, Transport and Maritime Cooperation, Fighting Forest Fires) while ensuring coherence between AII's activities and the preparation of the EUSAIR;
- **WELCOME** the Meeting of the Speakers of Parliaments of the AII chaired by H.E. Ilir Meta , Speaker of the Parliament of Albania , which took place in Tirana on 27-28 April last , and **TAKE NOTE** of the Joint Statement adopted at the end of the Meeting
- **PRAISE** the implementation of the projects approved and co-financed in the framework of the "Regional Cooperation Programme 2012";
- **KNOWLEDGE** the importance of contacts among the Secretariats of Regional Organizations and Initiatives active in our region in order to exchange information on activities and best practices and explore possible ground of cooperation also in relation with other Macro-Regional Strategies;

- **REGISTER** with satisfaction the approval by the CSO of the annual report of activities of the Permanent Secretariat of the AII;
- **THANK** Albania for its valuable contribution to the Initiative throughout the period of its Chairmanship and for the organization of the Special AIC Meeting of Athens and of the XVII Adriatic Ionian Council in Brussels;
- **ENTRUST** and **ENCOURAGE** Bosnia and Herzegovina for the incoming AII Chairmanship from June 1, 2014 to May 31, 2015, wishing her success in a period of crucial importance for the AII and for EUSAIR.