



MONTENEGRO
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
EUROPEAN INTEGRATION



ADRIATIC AND IONIAN INITIATIVE
CHAIRMANSHIP OF MONTENEGRO
JUNE 2010 – MAY 2011

Meeting of the Senior Officials 22 May 2011, Brussels

AGREED MINUTES

The third meeting of the Adriatic Ionian Initiative (AII) Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) under the Montenegrin Chairmanship was held on May 22nd 2011 in Brussels. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Igor Gradjević of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Montenegro with the support of the Secretary General of the AII Permanent Secretariat Amb. Alessandro Grafini.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

After welcoming the delegates Mr. Gradjević introduced the meeting by proposing the Agenda that was approved.

2. Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia application for All membership

The Chairman reminded that the Minister of Foreign Affairs of FYROM expressed the interest of his Country to become member of the AII by means of a letter sent to the Presidency. This letter was later circulated by the AII-PS to the MFA of the AII Participating States, equipped by a technical note related to the membership and nature of the AII. On that basis a discussion among Senior Officials began.

Croatia and Slovenia expressed their support to the membership of FYROM and underlined the fact that in the AII official documents there is no specific mention to enlargement.

The position of Greece has been to give full support to FYROM EU process of integration also by including this Country in the macroregional process. However, concerning the AII, for the sake of efficiency and easier decision making process, the membership of the AII should not be modified for the moment, especially concerning non coastal States. Greece

pointed out the negative example of BSEC which is now curbed by its heterogeneous membership.

The All-PS Secretary General draw the attention on the fact that the All is a maritime organisation, therefore, there is no right for a non coastal State to be member. The only exception is Serbia as successor State of the Federation of Serbia&Montenegro.

Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia also expressed their support to the membership of FYROM, but since there has not been consensus the accession cannot be accepted for the moment. This was the occasion to remind that the “decisions of the AIC and its subsidiary bodies will be taken by consensus” (Art. 8 AIC Rules of Procedure).

Albania affirmed that since there is no general legal framework for enlargement in All documents, a basic legal document defining All membership and procedures for accession should be prepared by the All Permanent Secretariat.

Italy also underlined its good relation with FYROM saying that has nothing against accession of this State. Since there is no consensus, the best would be to tell FYROM that the All is not against but we need time to evaluate the proposal and to define a legal framework for accession.

Considering the opinions of the Senior Officials, the Chairman proposed to take time and reflect once again about enlargement in general. A procedural framework is needed to fix rules and limits for accession. In the Ancona Declaration of 2000 and other documents there is no mention for accession of new members, the CSO could consider also the figure of observer that after a period of time could become full member (At present, art. 9 of the Rules of Procedure foresees the possibility to invite special guests to participate to All meetings). Therefore, the Chairman asked the All-PS to elaborate a document/proposal for the legal aspects for enlargement in the All framework. In the meantime, an interlocutory letter should be addressed to Skopje before May 31st by the Montenegrin Chairmanship (The letter was sent on the 26th of May).

The Secretary General accepted the assignment by the Chairman and CSO and committed to prepare a proposal for the CSO inaugurating the Serbian Chairmanship in Belgrade (21st June 2011). Probably it would be appropriate to add some paragraphs to the Rules of Procedures of the AIC.

3. Report of the Activities of the All-PS

Amb. Grafini presented the “Annual Report of the Results of the Activities of the All Permanent Secretariat” under the joint responsibility of the Chairman and the Secretary

General. The report was presented also as a synthesis of the first stage of 3 years of the All-PS. Already during the CSO in Ancona (16-2-11) all Senior Officials considered the unavailability of the existence of the All-PS and gave mandate to continue in its works.

Amb. Grafini reminded about the All-PS role as initiator of the works on the EU Strategy for the Adriatic Ionian Macro-Region and the assignment of an Italian legal capacity to the All-PS with the consent of the AIC of the 5th May 2010. The Foundation that was created (14th December 2010) to this scope foresees that the All-PS Secretary General is also President of the Foundation. This latter position could be covered also by a person of any nationality of the All.

Finally Secretary General open to the possibility to second international staff to the All-PS in Ancona.

All Senior Officials took the floor thanking Amb. Grafini for all his effort during his three years mandate particularly for his crucial role in the phase of creation and establishment of the All Permanent Secretariat and underlining the successful and profitable cooperation established during the mandate with all All Participating States.

The Annual Report was approved unanimously by the CSO.

4. Recommendation to the AIC on the modification to the Rules of Procedure of the AIC

The CSO approved the recommendation to the Ministers concerning the modifications to the Rules of Procedure of the AIC approved by the Ancona CSO (16 February 2011).

5. Recommendation to the AIC on the appointment of the new Secretary General

The Chairman introduced the item by saying that there was a positive reaction of the All Participating States on the Italian proposal for the position of new All-PS Secretary General, Amb. Fabio Pigliapoco, current Italian Ambassador in Prague. Italy took the floor thanking all delegates for the support given to the Italian candidate who takes pride in a long experience of regional cooperation and knowledge of the Western Balkans. The recommendation to the AIC to appoint Amb. Pigliapoco All-PS Secretary General was approved by consensus.

6. Presentation and Final Drafting of the Brussels Declaration 2011

The Brussels Declaration was analyzed point by point by the Senior Officials and finally approved for the endorsement of the Adriatic Ionian Council. The final part of the draft regarding the political situation in the South of the Mediterranean was cut for reasons of time and reservations by some Senior Officials.

7. Any Other Business

Under any other business Mr. Makrynicolas presented a Reflection Paper drafted in cooperation among the three All members of the EU as requested by Mr. Colin Wolfe (DG Regional Policies of the Commission) who is in charge of macro-regional policies. All the text, that was delivered to the participants, takes always into consideration the 8 All Countries, the cooperation among them and the cooperation among different Fora and networks working in the region and is compatible with the Europe 2020 Strategy for Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth. The paper was built-up following the suggestion of the EU Commission in order to be more focus-oriented for a successful follow-up in the elaboration of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic Ionian Macro-Region.

Finally, Amb. Gajić took the floor by inviting all Senior Officials to Belgrade for the inauguration of the Serbian Chairmanship (21 June 2011) and informed that the priority of the incoming presidency will be Transports and Communication. Such topic will unify all priority areas of the All. Also inter-university cooperation will be a priority for Serbia that is thinking to promote the initiative among students and organize a call for paper with All cooperation as topic. In that occasion will have place the passage of functions between the current All-PS Secretary General, Amb. Alessandro Grafini (who is in charge until 18th of June) and the newly appointed Amb. Fabio Pigliapoco.