



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



ADRIATIC AND IONIAN INITIATIVE
CHAIRMANSHIP OF SLOVENIA

***MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF SENIOR OFFICIALS
OF THE ADRIATIC AND IONIAN INITIATIVE
Sunday, May 26, 2013***

Agreed Minutes

The third meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) of the Adriatic Ionian Initiative (All) under the Slovenian Chairmanship, was held on May 26th 2013 in Brussels. The meeting was chaired by the Slovenian Senior Official Mr. Mitja Močnik, with the assistance of the All Permanent Secretariat.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The **Chairman** introduced the agenda that was adopted with no objection.

2. Report of the Slovenian All Chairmanship

The **Chairman** expressed satisfaction for the work done during the year of All Slovenian Presidency, particularly focused on maritime issues and praised the close and efficient cooperation with the All Permanent Secretariat.

He affirmed that during last year, the macroregional Strategy became a very significant issue for the Presidency. Therefore, most of the round tables organized were aimed at contributing to the process of approval of the “EU Strategy for the Adriatic Ionian Region” (EUSAIR).

The Chairman went on briefly describing the events organized during the year aimed at supporting the macroregional Strategy process, fighting forest fires and inter-university cooperation.

The annual Conference of the Speakers of the All Parliaments was held in Brdo Pri Kranju and expressed, *inter alia*, the wish of all Parliaments to be more involved in the EUSAIR process and in the activities of the All, also through parliamentary delegations.

3. Annual Report of the All Permanent Secretariat

The Secretary General presented the Annual Report of the All Permanent Secretariat that was already circulated to Senior Officials one month earlier for consideration.

The **Secretary General** explained that the activities of the All PS during the year have been conducted along three lines:

- Intergovernmental Cooperation. The All PS provided the Chairmanship with support in all its activities of preparation, organization, management and follow up of the Round Tables and All events foreseen in the Presidency's calendar.
- Project Oriented Activities. After the launch of the "Regional Cooperation Programme" that allowed, for the first time All to co-fund transnational projects, the All-PS is now managing their implementation phase. Projects will come to a conclusion next year;
- Cooperation with civil societies. A Declaration of Intent signed at the beginning of May in Medjugorje gave birth to an "Integrated Secretariat" that will enable the Adriatic Ionian Fora to better communicate their needs and proposals to the eight All Governments and the EU Commission.

Italy praised the coherence between All activities and the priorities of the future EUSAIR and appreciated the effort by both, the Presidency and the Permanent Secretariat, to keep such a coherence.

After the achievement of the mandate by the EU Council, it is now time for a concrete involvement of civil societies in the process. The Adriatic Ionian Fora will have to contribute with their own proposals and indications to the preparation of the EUSAIR in synergy with Governments and in line with the EU procedure.

Concluding, the **Chairman** asked to Senior Officials to approve the Annual Report of the All Permanent Secretariat. The report was approved by consensus.

4. Presentation and final drafting of the Brussels Declaration

The draft Brussels Declaration 2013 was thoroughly analysed by the Committee of Senior Officials, who approved the text with the exception of a single point which was clarified between Ministers before the beginning of the XV AI Council.