



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



ADRIATIC AND IONIAN INITIATIVE
CHAIRMANSHIP OF BiH

MEETING OF THE **COMMITTEE OF SENIOR OFFICIALS**
OF THE **ADRIATIC AND IONIAN INITIATIVE**

June 17, 2014

SARAJEVO

Agreed Minutes

The first meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) of the Adriatic Ionian Initiative under the Chairmanship of Bosnia and Herzegovina was held in Sarajevo on June 17th 2014.

The meeting was chaired by **Amb. Ivan Orlić**, Senior Official and Chairman in Office for BiH, with the assistance of the AII Permanent Secretariat.

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

1. Priorities of the AII Chairmanship of Bosnia and Herzegovina

After adopting the agenda, and welcoming the Senior Officials and their representatives in Sarajevo, the **Chair** went on by describing the priorities of the newly established Chairmanship that will be in charge until the end of May 2015 in a very crucial period for regional cooperation since the EUSAIR will be adopted in autumn and will enter in its implementation phase by the beginning of next year. During this period, among other classical AII activities, it will be important to stay focused on the consequences of the catastrophic floods that hit BiH, Serbia and Croatia and strengthen cooperation and share experiences also in this field. Solidarity among countries has been great during the most difficult days of the flood. Both volunteers and governments helped a lot in supporting the population.

All Participating Countries have united to face such a disaster.

The Chair praised Albania for its excellent Chairmanship last year and affirmed to rely on the professionalism of the Permanent Secretariat to support presidency activities during next year of cooperation. (*The Priorities of the BiH Chairmanship are enclosed*)

The **Secretary General, Amb. Pigliapoco**, informed the participants about the previous day meeting with the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of BiH, Mr. Bevanda, who confirmed the commitment of his Countries for the year of Presidency, being aware of the crucial period in which it will be exercised when EUSAIR will enter in its implementation phase after the approval of its Action Plan in autumn. The Secretary General praised the fact that the Round Tables will be organized in line

with the EUSAIR pillars and that the Parliamentary Dimension will continue to be developed in line with the decision to establish ad hoc delegations to the Permanent Secretariat in order to follow EUSAIR activities, taken during the previous Albanian Chairmanship.

2. Program and Calendar of the Chairmanship

The **Chair** presented the draft Calendar of Activities of the year underlying that, in case of interest raised by Participant Countries on a particular issue not included in the list of Round Tables, the Chairmanship will organize a meeting accordingly.

Priorities and the Calendar of the Chairmanship were adopted by silent procedure.

3. Information about Humanitarian and other fields of aid to BiH, CRO and SRB regions of flood victims

The Chair gave the floor to **Ms. Softic from the Ministry of Security** of BiH to illustrate the damages of the floods of last months and the activities of the Government with the support of international aid.

After giving an overlook on the emergency structure of the Ministry and how it acted during the disastrous flood, she informed and thanked all representatives of the AII Governments for the help they provided. BiH requested and received support by the EU through its Civil Protection Mechanism and by more than 40 Countries all over the world. BiH has been grateful to people and governments from the former Yugoslavia and outside for the incredible solidarity demonstrated to its people.

After her introduction Ms. Softic played a video showing the terrible dimension of the catastrophe and as well the praiseworthy work of volunteers and organizations involved in the rescue operations.

Amb. Vukicevic - representing Serbia - informed about the very difficult situation in his Country. As a consequence of the flood, 33.000 people were evacuated and 33 lost their lives. Also Serbia received solidarity from the international community and particularly from the EU, Russia and neighboring countries.

Ms. Gordana Vranicki-Kralj also informed briefly about the situation in Croatia and underlined that her Country hit to a lesser extent than the other two, also engaged in giving aid to BiH and SRB.

4. Program and Activities of the AII Permanent Secretariat

The **Secretary General** informed that after the beginning of every presidency the document on "Program and activities of the AIIPS", strictly connected to the Program of the Presidency, is presented to and must be approved by the Senior Officials. The Secretary General reminded that document was circulated well in advance and asked for approval.

The document was approved by silent procedure by all delegates.

5. EUSAIR during the Italian Presidency of the EU Council

After presenting himself as the new Italian diplomat in charge of the AII and EUSAIR, **Mr. Jacopo Albergoni** informed that Enlargement is on the top of the Italian Agenda for the period of the Presidency of the EU Council. It is not a case that

the first visit of the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs during the Italian EU Presidency will be in Sarajevo and in other countries of the Region.

The Italian delegate also recalled that next General Affairs Council in Brussels will present the Action Plan of the EUSAIR and that Italy will work for its endorsement in autumn.

In order to mark such a fundamental achievement, on November 18 a kick-off event will be organized in Brussels with the participation of representatives of the Governments, local Administrations, civil society, public and private bodies and of all stakeholders.

6. Report of the Secretary General on the XIV Forum of the Adriatic and Ionian Chambers of Commerce (Corfù - 10/12 June 2014)

The Secretary General underlined the close cooperation undergoing with the Fora of civil society, particularly in the framework of the "Integrated Secretariat" formally established last year in the AIC Forum of Medjugorije.

Amb. Pigliapoco informed that the XIV Forum of the Adriatic and Ionian Chambers of Commerce was successfully held on June 10/12 in Corfu with the participation of the Deputy Ministry of Culture of Greece. The Forum was an occasion for the Chambers of Commerce of the area to deepen their cooperation in different fields (Blue Growth, Environment, Transport, Tourism, etc.) in line with the EUSAIR pillars and in view of the presentation of the Plan of Action. The Chambers of Commerce have strongly reaffirmed their commitment in the future implementation phase of the EUSAIR.

The final document of the AIC Forum will soon be ready and circulated to Senior Officials.

7. Presentation of the Project "Adriatic Model of Sustainable Mobility in the Health & Care Sector".

The Chair, Amb. Ivan Orlic, gave the floor to the representative of the Federation Ministry of Health of Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to present the Project "Adriatic Model of Sustainable Mobility in the Health & Care Sector" (AdriHealthMob). The field of Health is not in AII priorities, but it could be a new important occasion of cooperation envisaging a new "ad hoc" Round Table for the future.

Mr. **Goran Cerkez** from the Ministry of Health thanked the AII for having agreed to the presentation of the project within the Committee of Senior Officials and informed that the project was co-financed by the EU funding program IPA-CBC with the aim of approaching the system of mobility within the health sector to EU Standards, to increase cooperation among AII countries, to exchange experiences and to reduce the problems of patients transports among countries.

Mr. Cerkez proposed the inclusion of the health sector among the fields of interest of the AII by establishing a new table of cooperation in the future to be managed by the partners involved in the project. The AII would provide the high level political support and the project partners the technical know-how.

The proposal will be evaluated by AII Senior Officials.

Mr. **Ilir Qose**, from the Association COOSS Marche presented the AdriHealthMob more in detail .

The funding idea of the project (worth about 6.3 million € with 15 partners from 8 AII Countries) has been plan to a better mobility for the Health & Care sector in the Adriatic and Ionian Region.

AdriHealthMob aims at developing a cross border model of sustainable and efficient transport service for the health and care sector, in order to improve the mobility of passengers (residents, tourists, users, patients) and to improve the accessibility to health and care services using a more efficient and effective transport system (Please see the enclosed presentation for more information.