



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

*May 12, 2015*  
*Agreed Minutes*

The last meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) of the Adriatic Ionian Initiative under the Chairmanship Bosnia and Herzegovina was held in Brussels on 12 May 2015.

The meeting was chaired by Amb. Branimir Jukić, Senior Official and Chairman in Office, with the assistance of the AII Permanent Secretariat.

### **1. Adoption of Agenda**

The **Chairman** introduced the agenda that was adopted with no objection. After adopting the agenda, he reminded the events organized by the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina during its year of Chairmanship, particularly mentioning the XIII Conference of Speakers of the Parliaments held in Neum on April 23 with a very high level of participation.

### **2. Finalization of the XVIII AIC Declaration**

The **Chairman** reminded Senior Officials that the draft declaration had already been circulated to Senior Officials in due time and that was already broadly agreed. Nonetheless, a few issues needed to be clarified since some comments had been presented few days before the CSO. Therefore, he gave the floor to colleagues to explain their remarks.

**Slovenia** took the floor affirming that the declaration was very good and that its comments were minimal and concerning the Brdo Process and a specification on the fact that EUSAIR Thematic Steering Groups took place during the first part of the year and had to be taken into account in the declaration.

**Greece** suggested to focus on the AII activities without mentioning other regional initiatives aimed at fostering the enlargement process (par.3). **Italy** affirmed that Regional Cooperation Initiatives such as the Brdo and Berlin process deserved to be mentioned in order to give a political message, but agreed to put them into the declaration only in general terms.

Also par 16 was discussed since **Greece** maintained that such wording could only be agreed during the AIC.

After a short discussion, delegates found a wording that was acceptable to everybody.

The **Chairman** declared the Declaration finalized and ready to be endorsed by the Adriatic and Ionian Council .

### **3. Formal Approval of the “Rules of Procedure of the Round Tables of the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative”**

The **Secretary General** reminded that the AII-PS had worked on the overhaul of the “Rules of Procedure of the Round Tables of the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative” since January, when Senior Officials mandated the AII-PS to start working on it in order to make Round Tables an auxiliary tool of the EUSAIR Thematic Steering Groups. Since then Senior Officials had the occasion to work on a revised document, and to agree on an updated text later to be approved by the Adriatic and Ionia Council.

### **4. Adoption of the “Permanent Secretariat Annual Report”**

The **Secretary General** reminded that the Annual Report of the AII-PS had already been circulated previously. He said he was grateful to the Chairmanship of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the excellent cooperation during the past year, marked by significant successes .

The “AII-PS Annual Report” describes the activities carried out by the AII-PS during the year, ranging from secretarial activities, to assisting the Presidency in the organization of meetings and Round Tables, to managing the “Regional Cooperation Programme”, to assisting the Presidency in the EUSAIR activities such as the Governing Board meeting, to implementing cooperation with regional Fora, etc.

### **5. Short presentation of the future Croatian Presidency**

The **Croatian delegate** took the floor to inform colleagues that the Croatian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is preparing the program of the AII Presidency (June 2015 – May 2016).

The program will be developed around three priorities:

- Accessibility and Attractiveness;
- Transport and Energy Networks;
- Entrepreneurial Learning

Some of the Round Tables have already been planned. Croatia – he added - will devote particular attention to cooperation in the field of Small and Medium Enterprises organizing a RT on “Human Capital Development for Competitive SMEs through entrepreneurial learning”. Furthermore, Croatia plans to hold RTs on Agriculture, Environment and Tourism.

### **6. Any Other business**

**All Senior Officials** praised Bosnia and Herzegovina for carrying out a successful Presidency in a very crucial year encompassing the passage from the propagating phase to the implementation phase of the EUSAIR and co-holding the Chairmanship at the first EUSAIR Governing Board.