



REPUBLIC of CROATIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS



ADRIATIC AND IONIAN INITIATIVE
CHAIRMANSHIP OF CROATIA

Meeting of the COMMITTEE OF SENIOR OFFICIALS of the ADRIATIC AND IONIAN INITIATIVE

Dubrovnik 11 May 2016

Agreed Minutes

The last Committee of Senior Official under the AII Chairmanship of Croatia took place in Dubrovnik on May 11. The meeting was chaired by Amb. Tonci Stanicic with the assistance of the AII Secretary General, Amb. Fabio Pigliapoco.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Senior Officials adopted the Agenda with no modification.

2. Report of the Croatian AII Chairmanship;

Amb. Stanicic took the floor in order to give an outlook of the presidency activities and priorities during last year. He stressed how Croatia tried to encourage synergies between the AII and the EUSAIR as a new form of regional cooperation. He reminded how, under the Croatian Chairmanship, the overhaul of Rules of Procedures of the Round Tables was agreed transforming them into a tool for EUSAIR Thematic Steering Groups and how it was decided to synchronize the EUSAIR and AII Political level, so that a “double hat” EUSAIR/AII Ministerial meeting could take place in Dubrovnik.

He continued by listing the Round Tables that were organized by the Presidency and reminding about the organization of the XIV Conference of the Speakers of the AII (Split 15-16 April) aimed at strengthening the role of Parliaments within the AII.

3. Annual Report of the AII Permanent Secretariat;

The **Secretary General** took the floor by stressing how the AII Permanent Secretariat has been, for the whole year, on the side of the Chairmanship assisting it in all its activities. The Report, that was previously circulated to Senior Officials, resumes the AII-PS activities during 12 months. The Secretariat has been supporting also Presidency activities related to the EUSAIR, including assistance in the organization of macroregional events.

After highlighting the main points of the Annual Report, the Secretary General asked for the approval of Senior Officials. The document was approved with no objection.

4. Final Drafting Session of the Dubrovnik Declaration;

The **Chairman** reminded that a fruitful and challenging work on the Declaration had already been performed by all Countries, the Commission and the Permanent Secretariat and that the current meeting was the occasion to fine-tune the document with possible minor interventions.

The **representative of the EU Commission, Mr Balleste**, praised the work of participating countries and stressed that Commissioner Cretu, would have referred largely to the Declaration on the following day, during the Ministerial meeting.

Upon the request of **Montenegro** to include a paragraph in the Declaration asking for increasing and rebalancing ERDF and IPA funds within the ADRION program, Mr. Balleste made it clear that while such increase would not be possible for ERDF funds (which have undergone a long negotiation process between member States and the EU Commission which is now impossible to modify) IPA funds could be increased only by means of an official request by the Governments of 4 non EU Countries. The final decision would be up to the Council.

After a short discussion, the declaration was approved with some minor modifications.

5. Presentation by the incoming Greek AII Chairmanship;

Greece gave a short overview of its priorities and activities foreseen for its upcoming year of Chairmanship starting from June 2016. A more detailed program will be circulated later

6. Any Other Business

Under any other business being no other items raised by participants the Chair declared the meeting closed.