



ASSOCIATION DES CHAMBRES DE COMMERCE ET D'INDUSTRIE DE LA MEDITERRANEE
ASSOCIATION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
جمعية غرف التجارة والصناعة للبحر الأبيض المتوسط



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

the FORUM OF ADRIATIC AND IONIAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE (AIC FORUM)

and

**the ASSOCIATION OF MEDITERRANEAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(ASCAME)**

COOPERATION AGREEMENT FOR THE IDENTIFICATION, IMPLEMENTATION AND COORDINATION OF ACTIONS AIMED AT THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE ADRIATIC-IONIAN AND MEDITERRANEAN AREA

Between:

*AIC FORUM – FORUM OF ADRIATIC AND IONIAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE
Registered office at the Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Crafts and Agriculture of Ancona
Piazza XXIV Maggio, 1 60124 – Ancona (Italy)
Represented by Ms. Jadranka Radovanić, President of the AIC FORUM*

And

*ASCAME – ASSOCIATION OF MEDITERRANEAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
Registered office at the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Navigation of Barcelona
Casa Llotja del Mar – Paseo Isabel II, 1 08003 – Barcelona (Spain)
Represented by Dr. Murat Yalçintas, President of ASCAME*

HAVING SAID THAT

- the Association *Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Chambers of Commerce* (hereinafter referred to as AIC FORUM) is a voluntary and transnational non-profit association of Chambers of Commerce and Economy, which was set up under Italian law with the aim of starting and developing the economic, environmental and cultural integration between the Chambers of Commerce and of the Economy of the countries facing the Adriatic and Ionian Seas, of making a concrete contribution towards the fulfilment of European integration and enlargement and of favouring

the best safety and legality conditions and the promotion of equality between women and men;

- *ASCAME, i.e. the Association of Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry* (hereinafter referred to as *ASCAME*) is an international and voluntary non-profit association, which was set up under Spanish law with the aim of encouraging economic cooperation through the creation of a network between Chambers of Commerce and similar institutions in the countries of the Mediterranean basin, the promotion of and the search for complementary factors between the economies of the countries in the reference area, with the final purpose of contributing to the creation of an area of peace, tolerance, security and prosperity;
- through the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), which has been developed since 2003, the European Union aims at promoting privileged relations with the countries on the southern shore of the Mediterranean, the Southern Caucasus area and Eastern Europe that do not have any membership prospects, through the promotion of democracy, freedom, prosperity, security and stability;
- the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EMP), established on the occasion of the 1995 Barcelona Conference, foresees the setting up of a Free Trade Area (FTA) by 2010, which represents a unique occasion for the economic and strategic growth of the Mediterranean Area and is bound to increase trade and investment flows between member states;
- within the framework of the European Cohesion Policy, the European Union has provided for the 2007-2013 programming period several tools of transnational and crossborder cooperation. These can help both Associations in the joint promotion of initiatives aimed at supporting the economic, social and environmental sustainable development of the Adriatic-Ionian and Mediterranean area, and specifically:
 - o IPA '*Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance*' – EC Regulation no. 1085/2006, adopted by the European Commission on 17th July 2006, http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/financial_assistance/ipa/index_en.htm;
 - o ENPI '*European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument*' – EC Regulation no. 1638/2006 of the European Parliament and Council, http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/index_en.htm;
 - o MED *Operational Programme* – Decision no. C (2007) 6578 by the European Commission, <http://www.programmemed.eu>;

- o SEE 'South East Europe'– Decision no. C (2007) 6590 by the European Commission, <http://www.congress.hu/see>;
- the networking system represented by the Chambers of Commerce of the two Associations can surely favour crossborder and transnational planning activities that are able to develop the territorial potential and excellencies of the entire Adriatic-Ionian and Mediterranean area, thereby being in line with the aims of good partnership required by the European Union;
- the bilateral collaboration between the AIC Forum and ASCAME for the implementation of actions in favour of the socio-economic development of the Adriatic-Ionian and Mediterranean area seems to be particularly fruitful and suitable in order to best fulfil the associations' statutory purposes, also in view of enhancing access to the community and international economic resources specifically devoted to the joint promotion of investment projects in developing countries and transition economies;
- having into consideration that both Institution strongly support EU accession process for full membership for countries member of our Associations whom candidate status is approved by EU;
- for the implementation of this protocol, the two associations can profit by the contribution of the organizational secretariat of the AIC Forum, which has its registered office at the Chamber of Commerce of Ancona that has been an ASCAME member since 1982.

Having stated all the above,

the AIC FORUM and ASCAME agree upon the following:

1) PURPOSE OF THE PROTOCOL OF INTENTION

This protocol rules the general operational framework of the future cooperation between the AIC FORUM and the ASCAME Association through a series of joint initiatives for the sustainable development of the Adriatic-Ionian and Mediterranean area.

2) WORKING PLAN OF THE ACTIVITIES

The collaboration will be developed following the terms explained below:

- stimulation and consolidation of a joint planning activity between local institutions (chambers of commerce, regions, provinces, municipalities and universities) for better crossborder and transnational cooperation in the Adriatic-Ionian and Mediterranean area in sectors that are strategic for the economic and social development and of reciprocal and priority interest;
- during the entire 2007/2013 programming period, promotion of a rational use of community funds available to promote crossborder and transnational cooperation of the Adriatic-Ionian and Mediterranean area through the setting up of partnerships targeted to specific project initiatives;
- collaboration for the reciprocal exchange of information and updates as for events, financial opportunities, community programmes and/or national and regional initiatives that might be useful to promote and support projects of common interest, which are strategic for the Adriatic-Ionian and Mediterranean area;
- collaboration in activities of promotion and assistance to firms that are willing to invest in the countries of the area concerned, with special focus on local norms, tax systems, tax relief, international contracts, agreements between businesses, marketing activities;
- coordination of reciprocal institutional missions abroad to reinforce reciprocal relations of cooperation and develop a constant information flow that can be shared and updated also through the respective reference website of each member association.

3) CONDITIONS FOR COOPERATION

The above premise represents an integral part of this protocol of intention and is essential for its implementation. For this reason, each page of this protocol will have to be duly signed.

The AIC FORUM and ASCAME commit themselves to draw up a final and detailed report of all the activities carried out and of the institutions/organizations involved during the implementation of the same agreement.

4) VALIDITY

This document will become operational on the date of its notification. Both Parties have the right to terminate the agreement at any time, after giving their counterpart notice of 30 (thirty) days. In this respect, ASCAME and the AIC FORUM commit themselves not to jeopardize in any way the activities or initiatives started within the framework of this agreement.

5) DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

Any dispute deriving from or related to this agreement, including disputes concerning the interpretation or application of any of the clauses contained in the same agreement, will be settled by the Parties out of court.

6) AMENDMENTS

This agreement can be amended at any time by means of a written agreement stipulated by the Parties. This agreement will be implemented on the basis of the regulations and internal administrative norms ruling the internal administration of the Parties.

In witness of this, the signatories to this protocol have signed this agreement in two original copies in English version on the date indicated below.

Ms. Jadranka Radovanić

President
AIC FORUM

Dr. Murat Yalçintas

President
ASCAME

Barcelona, Spain, 12 November 2008