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President of the Marche Regional Committee

On behalf of the whole Regional Committee, I would like to welcome all participants, the Mayor, the President of the Forum, the Vice President, the Ambassador of Croatia and all military and public authorities, which I will not list.

I believe that the VII event of the Forum represents a different starting point for activities of the Association and for the cooperation which started four years ago. These gatherings have allowed countries on both sides of the Adriatic and Ionian Sea to bond and to acknowledge the number of possibilities of cooperation regarding projects of common interest. In this way, achieving important economic objectives will be easier. Moreover, we can consolidate our common vision and improve the work on political projects which regard the role of this area in Europe. The project proposals are shared by all countries around the Adriatic and Ionian Sea. It is not a coincidence that the topic of the relationship between the Adriatic and Ionian areas within the Mediterranean region is nowadays more and more discussed, researched upon and flagged by politicians.

We are joined by the sea and therefore, we must work together on the proposal, elaboration and research of our common necessities: the need of have our say on future policies regarding this region; the need of reviving the EU attention to this part of Europe. We need to reconsolidate an historical relationship between this area and other countries of the European Union.

We are doing this today with greater determination, and let me say, with greater credibility – thanks to the work of the Chambers of Commerce supported by the scientific world, the universities, the entire institutional world, the military forces, the European MPs and all enterprises. We have a number of people operating together in these territories, relying on established operations and on social and economic relations. It is not a coincidence that we have has received greater attention with regards to the proposal of a number of projects in the region, which have forced us to a continuous exchange of knowledge. Here, today, I see a number of familiar faces from both sides of the sea, faces with whom I have worked before and whom I welcome warmly.

We are broadening this discussion in a moment when the Adriatic Euroregion has been finally recognised at European level. Thus, there are some institutional news that will surely bring greater opportunities and possibilities for everyone. At the same time, we need to be able spot and evaluate different characteristics of different countries. We know that our voices can be heard only by sticking together because together we can force Europe to look towards us, in a moment when Europe seems more and more attracted by territories in the East and the Baltic Sea. For this reason we need to share our views and strengthen our will to cooperate. We need to strengthen our economy and, above all, we need to train new people who one day may be called to govern our countries and Europe. We also need to make our voices heard wherever and whenever it is possible. We need to train our politicians, our citizens and all countries – including countries like Croatia that will soon be part of Europe. These people will have to start looking not only at our economic needs but also at the needs of all men and women - not only of this area. They will have to look at their sea and think that every time they do something on this side of the world, this something will inevitably have an impact on other parts of the world too. Thus, we need people who use the economy as a means of peace, a meeting point of different cultures. Peace can only be based upon an exchange of ideas, even in the Euroadriatic region.

With this hope I wish you well in your work.