

**ENZO GIANCARLI**  
**President of the Ancona Province**

Like President Bucciarelli before me, I would like to give my warmest regards to President Radovanić, Vice President Giampaolo Giampaoli, all authorities and all participants.

We can build our future also by looking at our past. Above all, we can strengthen the economic growth of our territory by optimising its vocations and natural qualities.

The economic relations between the Marche Region and the East Adriatic region, for instance, are a good example of this. Our relations are strong and improving rapidly. However, given the proximity of the areas, these relations are still based on shared traditions and history.

We welcome the renewed attention and sensitivity from all economic players – industries, manufacturers. For instance, our Polytechnic University of the Marche Region, under the auspice of Marco Pacetti, has worked on a number of cultural and diplomatic initiatives aimed at improving the interchange and dialogue between this part of Italy and Croatia, Montenegro, Bosnia, Slovenia and other countries of the Balkan and Ionian area.

From our point of view, we institutions are doing our best to facilitate, help and expand these relations with our neighbours. I can honestly say that, at the end of two administrative mandates, a lot has been already done to reduce the distance and establish relations of various natures. However, there is still a lot to do.

The city of Ancona is without a doubt more open, active and prepared when it comes to creating and investing in its role of “bridge towards East”. Ancona, as the capital of our province and our region, has all the characteristics and qualities to be the “shop window” of Italy and of the Marche Region. It can also represent a landing place for the Balkans.

As President Bucciarelli reminded us earlier on, a number of projects that have been done so far. He also reminded us not only of our strong will to create a Euroadriatic region but also of our presence in terms of projects started at European level – I am thinking of the Interreg, the creation of Adriatic ports network and also the project on agriculture carried out under the auspice of the Ancona Chamber of Commerce and the Ancona Province Council. Only two months ago, experts from the Balkans were here to have a more detailed update on the situation. A positive exchange of information took place.

I agree on the need to be part of a broader European scheme. In this land, we know that local policies cannot be detached from European policies. This land represents an important area in Europe and knows how important is to be part of a worldwide economy. We want to carry on in this direction: strong relations amongst Adriatic countries are the first step towards a worldwide economy.

Thus, even if some projects will be aborted or rejected, this region must move forward and claim its important position within a strong European Union. History tells us that Ancona and Le Marche have known prosperity and fame when they were able to open themselves to the outside world and become important partners in the Adriatic economy.

Let me tell you this: in the last few years, I have discovered how important the Loreto Cathedral is for the Catholic people in the Balkans. This is an aspect that regards people’s feelings and people’s feelings are important.

Anyway, in general a lot has to be done. And this is also because day by day public relations in industry, transport, agriculture, fishery and tourism have been neglected for years.

There is a real opportunity here to create a stronger coalition and an intelligent strategy, able to satisfy and integrate needs and objectives of the whole Adriatic-Ionian basin and the Balkan peninsula.

I would like to think that the Ancona Province Council, the Ancona Chamber of Commerce, the Ancona City Council and the Marche Region Council together with members of the manufactory, agricultural and financial world were able to give a great contribute in terms of promoting this process of cooperation during these years. History and geography keep us together and interdependent. A good cooperation is the only way to achieve a long lasting sustainable growth as a base for a continuous social and cultural dialogue and for a peaceful living - regardless all the differences.