



ASSONAUTICA
ASSOCIAZIONE NAZIONALE PER LA NAUTICA DA DIPORTO

FORUM of the Chambers of Commerce in the Adriatic-Ionian Sea area – 7th Edition -
Round table - TOURISM.

I am participating in this meeting in my capacity as the National Chairman of **Assonautica**, the national Unioncamere agency for the promotion of yachting and nautical tourism.

Assonautica is composed of 41 Chambers of Commerce, 37 provincial associations and 4 Regional Associations. Other members include UCINA (Union of boatyards, nautical businesses and related organisations), Istituto G. Tagliacarne, Unioncamere's Study and Research Institution and private companies Mare Nostrum Srl and Nautital Srl an ad hoc organisation specifically established to manage the European nautical website (www.nautinet.it and www.nautiweb.it).

It is with great satisfaction that we see the tangible realisation of the proposal – examined and debated in last year's Forum in Durazzo – **namely the drafting of a common tourism leaflet for countries in the Adriatic-Ionian area.**

We make a great leap in quality by presenting ourselves with **a strong image on the European and international markets** precisely at the time in which the Mediterranean reclaims its status as the barycentre of a renewed tourism interest on a worldwide-scale of which the Adriatic, steeped in history, culture, landscapes and extraordinary environments becomes the standard-bearer.

Nautical tourism is an essential component of the Adriatic's economy and is a flow in constant expansion that must be monitored through a **dedicated study centre**, an essential tool for the constitution of an Adriatic nautical district.

This is the **second objective** that we must aim for immediately.

We said the same thing two years ago in Budva, we repeated it last year in Durazzo "*Just think of the possibility of building an **Adriatic Nautical District** aimed at promoting this project by pooling all our public and private resources, in order to bring about a revolution involving the governments of our individual countries, urging them to adopt uniform approaches to yachting in the Adriatic in order to harmonise legislation on this subject, which is not currently homogeneous with significant negative repercussions for yachter-clients who are always good clients for all of us*".



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This process must therefore be launched by bringing together businesses and firms at all levels of the nautical supply chain, on the one hand, and on the other, institutions and local authorities in the countries bordering the Adriatic, either directly or through their national trade organisations.

The Director of this operation should be the Form of Adriatic Chambers of Commerce.

The **third target we set in Durazzo** was to bring together around the same table representatives of the governments of Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Montenegro, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Albania and Greece, together with all the institutions of our Local, Regional, Municipal and Provincial authorities, districts and counties to harmonise the rules governing nautical tourism, which is still restricted by the differences in the individual legislations of the various countries.

In the meantime, Assonautica, having become the centre of competence for two important Italian Ministries, the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of the Environment and Protection of the Territory and Sea, is preparing an Intergovernmental Conference to guarantee common rules to nautical tourism and safety in the Adriatic with the Ministry of Transport and the Foreign Ministry. The conference will take place in June in Venice and the programme will be handed out at the Ancona Forum.

Lastly, Assonautica suggests that “**Appointment in the Adriatic**”- which reaches its 19th edition in 2007 and for which we attach the full itinerary – becomes the annual event for the Forum of Chambers of Commerce in the Adriatic and Ionian area.

Thank you.

GIANFRANCO PONTEL – Assonautica National Chairman

Ancona, 28-29-30 May 2007