

Meeting with EU institutions

Brussels (29th February - 2nd March 2012), in view of the AIC Forum 12th Edition (Brindisi, 6th-8th June 2012)



European Parliament's seat in Brussels

From 29th February to 2nd March 2012 a delegation from the Ancona Chamber of Commerce and the AIC Forum organised an institutional visit to Brussels and took part in important bilateral meetings with European institutions in collaboration with the Brussels office of the Italian Union of Chambers of Commerce Unioncamere. The aim of the visit was to obtain relevant anticipations on the EU strategy for the next 2014/2020 programming period. In particular, the delegation met European Parliament representatives (the European Parliament Vice-President Gianni Pittella, MEP, François Alfonsi, MEP, and the MEP assistants De Angelis, Paolo De Castro and Silvia Costa), Eurochambres Secretary-

General Arnaldo Abruzzini, as well as representatives of the various General-Directorates of the European Commission, including the DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (Beate Gminder and Daniela Gritti), the DG Regional Policies (Fausta Corda), the DG Enterprises – Tourism Unit (Francesca Tudini) and the DG Mobility and Transport (Lia Potec). The institutional visit made it possible to reinforce relations with Necstour, i.e. the European network of regions for the development of sustainable and competitive tourism that has had the AIC among its members since 2010, and to start a new collaboration with Insuleur, i.e. the Network of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry

of the European Union, which has an institutional representation in Brussels. The meeting with the Committee of the Regions representative Gianluca Spinaci was of central importance. He provided relevant indications on the ways and procedures to contribute to the current debate on the Adriatic-Ionian Macroregion, whose official rapporteurs in Brussels is the Marche Region President Gian Mario Spacca. The various meetings held enabled the AIC Forum to show its potential for the sustainable development of the entire Adriatic-Ionian basin because of its very mission, i.e. to support SMEs in the fields of innovation, research, credit and sustainability especially during the current stage of serious economic downturn. During the visit the delegation managed to receive important anticipations on the future European policy for the 2014/2020 period, which is currently being defined in Brussels, as well as to seize the opportunity to provide tangible contributions to the numerous calls published by the EU on the hand and follow dossiers on the evolution of European macro-regional strategies on the other hand. This will enable the AIC Forum to participate in the European decision-making process to the extent made possible by its area of competence. As regards the considerations on the Adriatic-Ionian Macroregion, which is still in its preliminary stage, action is needed and statements and opinions on the evolution of the ongoing debate on the Macroregion should be brought to the attention of MEPs in order to promote the quick and legitimate recognition of this area. The institutional meetings held were the occasion to state once again the willingness to play an active and propositional role in supporting the creation of partnerships for the networking of the experiences and potential of the economic and productive systems as fundamental strategic resources, aware that building a wide and shared territorial governance at a European level is absolutely necessary.

The Forum participates in the meeting on tourist cultural routes: "Venice commercial routes"

On 27th March 2012 a delegation of the Workgroup for Tourism of the Forum of the Chambers of Commerce of the Adriatic and Ionian Area took part in the first meeting of the promoting committee entrusted with the creation of the "Venice commercial routes" cultural itinerary.

This was the occasion for the Council of Europe to illustrate the programme of European Cultural Routes, which is a perfect reference framework for guidelines and good practices for the future Venice route.

The Marco Polo System g.e.i.e. was set up in 2000 by the Municipality of Venice and the Union of Municipalities of Greece for the promotion of the historical and cultural heritage of the Mediterranean ideally based on the routes of ancient Venice traders. During the meeting, Marco Polo System g.e.i.e. illustrated the social, architectural, historical and cultural value of the future route.

The annual edition of the Forum of the Chambers of Commerce of the Adriatic and Ionian Area will be the next meeting. Within this framework, the AIC Forum Workgroup for Tourism meeting in Brindisi on 7th June next will represent and institutional setting for the planning of the future branding policy of the Venice tourist route with the aim of identifying it with the Adrion label.

A view of Venice



The Workgroup of Tourism at the BIT

A delegation of AIC Forum participates in BIT exhibition in Milan, international fair of tourism



Promotional material - Workgroup of Tourism of AIC Forum (Adrion trademark)

On 15th and 16th February 2012 a delegation of the Ancona Chamber of Commerce, composed of President Rodolfo Giampieri and Secretary-General Michele De Vita, participating in representation of the Workgroup for Tourism of the Forum of the Chambers of Commerce of the Adriatic and Ionian Area too, took part in the International Tourism Exchange (BIT) taking place every year in Milan, Italy. This is the biggest event devoted to the exhibition of Italian tourist products and the best offers from the international market. The delegation participated in the press conference organised by the Marche Region and promoted the Marchio Ospitalità Italiana label together with the Marche Region Tourism Councilor Serenella Moroder and had the chance to promote the Adrion logo, i.e. the umbrella trademark that favours the creation of integrated tourist packages in the Adriatic-Ionian area also through a desk made available within the Croatian stand. Participation in the BIT furthermore enabled to attend the interview/meeting with the Vice-President of the European Commission Antonio Tajani, who visited the stand of the European Commission Representa-

tion in Italy on Thursday, 16th February at 3 pm and gave useful indications on the European tourism policy on that occasion, thereby confirming that the EU will strengthen its interest towards this sector and foresee additional resources for tourism in its future 2014/2020 programming period. The priorities of the European policy for tourism include the creation of European Cultural Routes, i.e. a programme established in 1987 and promoted by the Council of Europe with the aim of designing crossborder cultural routes as an engine for the cultural and tourist development of the territories concerned. Through its Workgroup for Tourism the AIC Forum will favour the spreading of already designed integrated tourist packages, as well as the potential of the entire Adriatic-Ionian basin with a view for the area to candidate to become a European Cultural Route, thereby promoting the identification of the same basin with the Adrion logo. This objective is perfectly in line with the strategy concerning the Adriatic-Ionian Macroregion, which is about to be set up, and is a clear example of integration and enhancement of the territories and communities concerned.

Meeting of the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative (AII)

6th March 2012: Committee of Senior Officials (CSO)



The Adriatic-Ionian macro-region

The meeting was chaired by Ambassador Duško Lopandić from the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Republic of Serbia. He stressed the importance of regional cooperation in such difficult times for Europe and expressed his satisfaction for the important steps forward made by All countries participating in the European integration process, which is one of the All main objectives. Subsequently, the President listed all the activities carried out so far under the Serb Presidency, starting from the Ministerial meeting held in New York on 23rd September 2011 in the margin of the United Nations General Assembly, which saw the participation of Foreign Affairs Ministers and the Secretary-Generals of All, CEI, RCC and SEECF. After the event, two other Ministerial Conferences were organized in Belgrade (on "Prevention of Natural Disasters", on 8th November 2011, and "Fighting Organized Crime", on 29th and 30th November 2011) and two Round Tables on SMEs related issues (Belgrade, 3rd October 2011) and Maritime Cooperation (Ancona, 13th December 2011) were held. As regards future activities, the Presidency has already scheduled a Round Table on the environment in collaboration with the UNDP and OSCE,

also in view of the Rio Earth Conference, a Ministerial meeting on rural development, a Round Table on culture and tourism and the meeting of the Presidents of the Parliaments of All countries. All delegates expressed their satisfaction for the progress made by Serbia and the other Western Balkan countries in their process of joining the EU and stressed the fundamental role played by regional cooperation in this process. The representative of Slovenia confirmed the country's readiness to take over, starting from next June, the All Presidency. The representative of Italy informed that the Italian Senate approved a decision on the All parliamentary dimension, which will be implemented through the definition of permanent parliamentary delegations (as already happens with CEI). The Secretary-General reminded the activities of the "All-Oriented" project and the All-PS Foundation procedures for the co-financing of cooperation projects. Specifically, he pointed out that the next call for proposal is about to be published, thereby offering a tangible opportunity thanks to the budget allocated for this programme by the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Procedures have been defined for the co-financing of projects and

the publication of the first call for proposals. The financing programme (Regional Cooperation Programme) draws inspiration from All funding documents and aims at implementing the All Protocols already signed (on SMEs, tourism and rural development). It will thus be possible to co-finance only project proposals aimed at fostering cooperation in the fields covered by protocols or project proposals supporting the process of establishment of the Adriatic-Ionian Macroregion.

The All-PS contribution will be at a co-financing rate not exceeding 50% of the project total budget and will amount to a minimum of 10,000.00 € and a maximum of 25,000.00 €. The total budget funded by the Italian Government for the 2012 call for proposals 2012 is 200,000.00 €. Senior Officials will have the task to spread information in their countries as much as possible in order to enable national institutions, associations, public and private bodies and research centres to participate in the call. Once the deadline for the presentation of proposals is closed (mid-May 2012) the All-PS will carry out a first formal assessment, including a project admissibility and eligibility check. The quality assessment will be carried out by the All Senior Officials through an Evaluation Committee. As regards the EU strategy for the future Adriatic-Ionian Macroregion, the President and all participants confirmed the All commitment to work together for the establishment of the new Macroregion. The following step should consist in a decision by the June 2012 European Council giving instructions to the European Commission on how to start the preparation of an Action plan for the implementation of the strategy. The contributions on the activities carried out by Uniadriion, the Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Cities and Towns and the Forum of the Chambers of Commerce of the Adriatic and Ionian Area were then given by Chancellor Marco Pacetti, a representative of the Cities and Towns Forum and AIC Forum Vice-President Rodolfo Giampieri respectively.



Macro-regions and the Mediterranean

MEP François Alfonsi meets the institutions in Ancona

The MEP of the REGI Committee François Alfonsi was the main guest in a meeting-debate on the Adriatic-Ionian macro-regional strategy held at the premises of the Marche Region on 2nd March 2012 and whose starting point was his working document on the "Evolution of EU macro-regional strategies: present practice and future prospects, especially in the Mediterranean". The meeting, which concerns the South-Eastern part of the Mediterranean, is the follow-up to a previous meeting held in Barcelona focussing on the problems faced by the South-Western part of Europe.

Participants included the President of the Marche Regional Board Gian Mario Spacca, some MEPs from the Marche Region, as well as the Vice-President of the AIC Forum and President of the Ancona Chamber of Commerce Rodolfo Giampieri. The latter expressed full support to the strategy for the setting up of the Adriatic-Ionian Macroregion, which is an objective that several institutions from regions bordering both seas as well as the partnership networks active in the area have for a long time been working for to achieve. Partnership networks include the Forum of the Adriatic and Ionian Chambers of Commerce, the Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Cities and Towns and the Forum of Universities UNIADRION. The representatives of the institutions participating in the meeting unanimously asked MEP François Alfonsi to give impetus and concreteness to the EU general strategy for macro-regions and support the institutional recognition of the strategy for the setting up of the Adriatic-Ionian Macro-region before EU institutions, so that this can pave the way for the definition of a future Mediterranean macro-region.

The Adriatic-Ionian Macro-region aims primarily at promoting territorial co-operation to favour the political and economic stability of the area and create a solid base for the European integration process of Adriatic and Ionian countries. The future Adriatic-Ionian Macro-region is the tangible synergic framework for the projects and the many initiatives implemented in this area.



The Forum's Vice president Rodolfo Giampieri meets MEP François Alfonsi

How to join the Association Forum AIC

Bodies and Organizations can join the Association as fixed in art.2, par.3 of the Charter by forwarding the Application Form through post, fax or email, accompanied by the relevant decision of the competent body.

CONTACTS

Secretariat of the Forum of the Adriatic and Ionian Chambers of Commerce
c/o Chamber of Commerce of Ancona
Piazza XXIV Maggio, 1 - 60124 Ancona
ph. +39 071 5898249 / +39 071 5898266 - Fax +39 071 5898255
segreteria.forum@an.camcom.it - www.forumaic.org

Brussels Office - Avenue Marnix, 30 - 1040 Bruxelles



FORUM

delle Camere di Commercio dell'Adriatico e dello Ionio
of the Adriatic and Ionian Chambers of Commerce
Gospodarskih Komora Jadransko-jonskog područja