



FORUM

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

NEWSLETTER

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13th Edition of the AIC Forum

Međugorje - Bosnia and Herzegovina, 14-16 May 2013



PRIVREDNA/GOSPODARSKA KOMORA
FEDERACIJE BOSNE I HERCEGOVINE
CHAMBER OF ECONOMY OF THE FEDERATION OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce
of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina



Međugorje - Bosnia and Herzegovina

The 13th Edition of the Forum of the Adriatic and Ionian Chambers of Commerce will take place from the 14th to the 16th of May in Bosnia and Herzegovina in Međugorje, in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The meetings and sessions will take place over the course of three days during which will be held the plenary session of the Forum, the 'Workgroups' meetings (environment, agriculture, women entrepreneurship, fisheries and aquaculture, transports and tourism), the meetings of the Association's governing bodies and the Workgroup on EU Project Management that recently intensified its activities due to the assignment of new projects. This

thirteenth edition will focus on the current topic of the Adriatic-Ionian Macroregion, which is a strategy of special interest for all of the countries in the region, both European states and potential member states. Particular attention will also be given to the exchange of views between institutional networks and entrepreneurial sphere and to their collaboration. Representatives of European institutions, Italian and foreign partner networks, the Permanent Secretariat of the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative, regional, provincial and local institutions will be invited to participate at the initiative as well as representatives of companies, societies and consultants specialising in the topics covered by the Forum Workgroups.



Macroregion: further steps ahead

(Ancona - Italy, 18 February 2013)

On February 18, a delegation of the AIC Forum, comprised of the Vice President Rodolfo Giampieri and the Secretary General, Mr. Michele De Vita, met with the Minister Plenipotentiary Luigi Mattiolo, the Director General for the European Union at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in Ancona, at the headquarters of the Secretariat of the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative (AII). The meeting was integrated within the framework of the Adriatic Ionian Macroregion, with particular reference to the tangible contributions to the Action Plan that various network entities, recognised by the Commission as essential and privileged speakers, are now invited to present for the establishment of the Macroregion, with a view towards integration and in line with mutual political and institutional objectives. The initiative, coordinated by Amb. Fabio Pigliapoco, Secretary General of the Secretariat of the AII, included two other Adriatic Ionian networks based in Ancona: Uniadriion, with the participation of the Chancellor, Mr. Marco Pacetti, and Prof. Fausto Pugnalone; and the Forum of Cities, with the participation of Mr. Claudio Grassini of the Municipality of Ancona and Mr. Cesare Di Martino, head of the European Office at the Municipality of Pescara. Also in attendance were Mr. Marco Bellardi, representative of the Marche Region, and Mr. Andrea Vitolo, Councilor at the Unit for Balkan countries, the Central European Initiative (CEI) and the AII at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The aim of the meeting was to establish a tangible approach to the Action Plan of the "EU Strategy for (continues pag.2)

the Adriatic Ionian Macroregion” in order to combine, in line with the mandate for the development of the Strategy issued by the European Council to the Commission on 14 December 2012, the political and diplomatic aspects with the operative ones (the latter also pertaining to the financial sustainability of the Plan itself), in view of the first meeting in Brussels on February 22, presided by the DG for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries at the European Commission, concerning the implementation of the Strategy. With this meeting the European Commission has formalised the internal coordination on the basis of which the DG for Regional Policy will be the one to coordinate the Action Plan, harmonising it with the work already performed by the DG for Maritime Affairs, analogous to the developments relative to the already approved Macroregional Strategies for the Baltic and Danube Regions, in view of its final approval by December 2014. Each country is now invited to adopt a mechanism of national coordination between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the competent national authorities for the implementation of territorial cohesion policies, and the stakeholders of the territories involved in the Strategy. During the meeting with the Minister Plenipotentiary Luigi Mattiolo it was strongly emphasised that it is necessary to continue to support the establishment of the Adriatic Ionian Macroregion and to recognise the cross-border cooperation efforts expanded with dedication and determination throughout many years by the Marche Region, in synergy with three existent networks coordinated by the All. A testament to the latter efforts is the recent (31 January 2013) appointment to Brussels of the President of the Marche Region, Mr. Gian Mario Spacca, as President of the Adriatic Ionian Macroregional Intergroup at the Committee of the Regions. Evaluating the specificity of the three networks and the main project directions realised by each of them individually, and all of them jointly in recent years, the meeting also strengthened the role of the Ancona Chamber of Commerce which, having held the Presidency of Workgroup on tourism at the Forum of the Adriatic and Ionian Chambers of Commerce since its inception, has now been invited to become an even more active key player in order to strengthen and implement projects and initiatives on behalf of the area as a single and integrated tourist destination. Michele De Vita emphasised those duties, highlighting the potentials of Adrion, which has been officially recognised as a common trademark identifiable with the area by the European Commission in its 30 November 2012 Communication: “A

Maritime Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Seas”. As an official outcome of the Round Table on Blue Growth presided by the Secretary General, who was also a speaker, during the consulting workshop for stakeholders organised by the DG for Maritime Affairs in Trieste on 12 June 2012, the aforementioned recognition honours the efforts and perseverance of the Forum as well as the presence of the Ancona Chamber of Commerce which aims to reach the ambitious goal of including the area in the Council of Europe programme on European Cultural Routes. During the meeting with the Minister Plenipotentiary Luigi Mattiolo, the Uniadriion network referenced the importance of “Blue Economy”, in particular the study presented by the Marche Polytechnic University in Ancona on 16 July 2012 and at the workshop organised by the DG for Maritime Affairs in Zagreb on 6 December 2012, the development of which is based on a possible new alliance between the preservation of the marine and coastal environment and the development of innovative techniques, with high technological content and low environmental impact. Regarding the Forum of Cities, Mr. Grassini reported on the network’s efforts towards the development of cooperation dedicated to schools and young people, as outlined in the project “A Sea to Grow in Peace”, promoted by the Regional School Office for Marche and the Municipality of Ancona, with the aim of creating a network between schools along the Adriatic and Ionian coasts that would form an enduring virtual community on the website “adriTwinning” for the purposes of cultural exchange between the young and the educators, dedicated to scientific research, projects and student ambitions. Furthermore, the method of participation of the three Fora at the following appointments set in Brussels by the European Commission was agreed upon during the meeting, and the Ambassador Fabio Pigliapoco, was chosen as the official spokesperson of the three networks to propose their unanimous response to the necessity of realising a joint operative strategy and successful multi-governance for the Adriatic Ionian area. This is also the year when two very important legislative processes coincide: the launch of the Strategy Action Plan, and the start of the negotiations regarding community funds and programs that will, starting from next year, contribute to the implementation of the Strategy in the 2014/2020 period. The prospect of future recognition should allow us to continue to operate in synergy on projects and initiatives important for the entire area today.



Collaboration AIC Forum and ASCAME

(Ancona - Italy, 26 February, 2013)

The third meeting of the Innovation Commission and the ICT of the ASCAME network took place on February 26 at the Ancona Chamber of Commerce, organised within the scope of the IKTIMED project, a European project of territorial cooperation financed from the MED programme and coordinated by the Marche Region. The Ancona Chamber of Commerce hosted the event in its role as a partner in the IKTIMED project and a member of the ASCAME network. The aim of the meeting was twofold: to debate and analyse topics relative to Innovation and ICT in the Mediterranean area, of interest for both the Commission appointed on behalf of the ASCAME network and for the IKTIMED project; and to discuss a possible future collaboration between the project partners and the members of the ASCAME network, many of whom are also chambers of commerce members of the AIC Forum. This initiative is integrated within the scope of cooperation stipulated in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Forum and the ASCAME Network, signed in 2008, that aims at fostering bilateral collaboration between the two entities and their members in order to stimulate activities benefiting the social-economic development of the Adriatic-Ionian and Mediterranean areas, in line with mutual statutory objectives, in preparation for the joint promotion of initiatives through the use of transnational and cross-border cooperation instruments made available by EU institutions. For this reason the Forum, and in particular the European planning team, has always directed its activities towards the collaboration with and between the partners within the Association, but also with other entities from other networks with whom there exist collaboration agreements or arrangements regarding specific projects of mutual interest. In this regard, the IKTIMED project has served as a stimulus to promote such collaboration and, in that sense, it can constitute a reference model for future and similar initiatives.



Forum participates at Place2Go

Last stage of the project “Tourism chain: cooperation of Emilia-Romagna and Marche regions with Albania, Croatia and Montenegro” (Italian Law 84/2001) (Zagreb – Croatia, 14-17 March 2013)



Press conference of the project

From 15 to 17 March, the Special Agency of the Modena Chamber of Commerce, the Serramazzone Hospitality School and the Forum of the Adriatic and Ionian Chambers of Commerce represented the Emilia-Romagna and Marche regions at the international tourism fair Place2Go in Zagreb, which was held for the second time. The event was the last stage of the project “Tourism chain: cooperation of Emilia-Romagna and Marche regions with Albania, Croatia and Montenegro”, supported by the Ministry of Economic Development, promoted by Unioncamere Nazionale and coordinated by PROMEC - the Special Agency of the Modena Chamber of Commerce, with the aim of strengthening the cooperation between Italy and the Western Balkans in the tourism sector. The project was presented at a press conference with the participation of the fair Director, Mrs. Damjana Domanovac, Mrs. Roberta Ferri of the Italian Ministry of Economic

Development, Mrs. Maily Anna Maria Nguyen of the Association of the Emilia-Romagna Chambers of Commerce, Mr. Andrea Xhavara of the Durazzo Chamber of Commerce, and Mrs. Sanda Filipović of the Croatian Chamber of Economy - Rijeka County Chamber. After the press conference, the media representatives and the participants had the opportunity to taste autochthonous gastronomy products of the Emilia-Romagna and Marche Regions, prepared by the excellent chefs of the Serramazzone Hospitality School. In addition to the exchange of professional experiences, the start of new collaborations and the implementation of territorial promotion, the event was also an excellent opportunity for bilateral meetings to take place between companies, tourism operators, cultural organisations and local entities, both Italian and of all the other countries participating at the event.

“Fruit and vegetable sector development” Italian law 84/2001



“INSTITUTIONAL BUILDING” IN THE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SECTOR

(Split - Dubrovnik - Osijek
- Croatia, 21-25 January
2013)

Institutional Building dedicated to the legislative regulation of the fruit and vegetables sector; in accordance with the organisational model most suitable for the type of manufacturers and traceability at the European level, was held in Croatia. Several Croatian public and private organisations competent in the fruit and vegetables sector were involved in a training activity that took place in three different areas of Croatia, more specifically in the cities of Split, Dubrovnik and Osijek. The AIC Forum was involved in the overall initiative as a project partner and coordinator of the activities to be performed in Croatia in collaboration with the Split Chamber of Economy, the latter also being an official partner in the project, and the Dubrovnik Chamber of Economy (in the role of implementing body). The event was an important exchange of good administrative practices and organisational models, and it featured the participation of Italian experts from the sector due to the involvement of the Abruzzo Foreign Trade Centre (also a project partner). Presiding over the training event, in their role as lecturers, were two Italian representatives from the entrepreneurial (Mr. Piero Galasso, President of the SMA (Abruzzo Merchants' Association) - Agricultural and Food Centre “La Valle della Pescara”) and academic (Mr. Michele Dall'Olio, expert in fruit and vegetables production and supply chain) aspect of the sector. (continues at pag. 4)



WORKGROUP ON EUROPEAN PROJECT MANAGEMENT

“STUDY TOUR”

(Pescara - Italy,
18 - 19 February 2013)



A Study Tour for Croatian representatives of wholesale markets and entrepreneurs/traders operating in the fruit and vegetables marketing sector was held in Pescara. The Study Tour was organised in accordance with a methodology that enables the participants to take full advantage of the opportunities of the instrument, allowing it to become a good source of revenue. By visiting various types of retail outlets (no-frills, mid-range, high-end) and the Agricultural and Food Centre “La Valle della Pescara”, the Croatian delegation was given a first-hand look into the Italian commercial and distributional enterprise. Furthermore, a series of meetings with representatives from the production and distribution sector of the Abruzzo and Emilia-Romagna Regions were held (the latter being present owing to the collaboration of the project partners - the Forlì-Cesena Chamber of Commerce and Unioncamere Emilia-Romagna), prompting numerous opportunities for possible future collaborations between the operators from the two Adriatic seaboards. The event was also made possible due to the organisational efforts of the AIC Forum, in its role as project partner, which had requested and obtained the collaboration of the Split and Dubrovnik Chambers of Economy.



The AIC Forum at “Tipicità Marche”

2013 Edition of “Tipicità: Made in Marche Festival”
and international award “L’Oro dei due mari®”

(Fermo - Italy, 16-18 March 2013)

The booth of the Ancona Chamber of Commerce and the Forum, set up within the exposition area of the 2013 edition of the “Tipicità: Made in Marche Festival”, held at Fermo from 16 to 18 of March, achieved resounding success with the public. The Adrion logo was promoted on this occasion, having been recognised by the European Commission (Communication COM (2012) 713, 30 November 2012) as a common trademark for the promotion of the Adriatic-Ionian area. An award ceremony was also among the activities on the programme. It was the second edition of the International Award “L’Oro dei Due Mari”, a competition of extra virgin olive oil from the Adriatic and Ionian area, promoted and organised by the International School of Sensory Analysis and Food Culture - OLEA (“Organizzazione Laboratorio Esperti e Assaggiatori”), under the patronage and with the collaboration of the AIC Forum and the Ancona Chamber of Commerce.

This initiative is included in the activities of the Forum’s Workgroup on Agriculture and aims at promoting the culture, tradition, connoisseurship, commercial exchanges and quality development of extra virgin olive oil produced in the olive-growing areas of the Adriatic and Ionian seaboards, both Italian and foreign.

An impressive 140 extra virgin olive oils originating from all the areas of the basin participated at this edition of the Awards. There were oils with “designation of origin”, “single-varietal” oils and “biological” oils. The 115 oils produced in the Italian Adriatic and Ionian Regions competed against the 25 produced in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece and Slovenia.

The awards were presented by Ettore Franca (President of OLEA) and Giorgio Sorcinelli (Secretary of OLEA), with Antonio Ricci (Scientific Director of Olivo&Olivo at Sole 24 Ore) in the role of the moderator. Also participating were Evasio Sebastianelli of the Ancona Chamber of Commerce, and Goran Radovanic, representing the Forum and the Split Chamber of Economy. The award show was followed by an olive oil tasting, with the participation of Renzo Ceccacci, OLEA’s expert taster and physician, who demonstrated the organoleptic properties and health benefits of the extra virgin olive oils that were awarded top marks, paying particular attention to the various types and production areas. The winning producers who were present at the hall took the opportunity to acquaint the interested public with their companies, while the numerous visitors appreciatively enjoyed the tasting event.



Forum AIC booth at “Tipicità Marche” (Fermo)

Adriatic Sea Forum: nautical sector

The AIC Forum participates in the international event on sea tourism in the Adriatic

(Trieste - Italy, 21st-22nd March 2013)



On 21st and 22nd March 2013 Trieste was the venue of the first edition of the Adriatic Sea Forum. This international event in the Adriatic area was organized by Risposte Turismo Ltd and was conceived with the aim of supporting the nautical sector for its renewed placement on the market, thereby thinking of the Adriatic as a single area for cruise tourism, and specifically focus on all activities linked to the economy of the sea (i.e. shipyards, nautical activities, tourism, port-related services, taxation, etc.) carried out by all the countries of the basin. The ASF provided a two-day event featuring meetings, discussions and business networking activities on tourism and passenger traffic within a basin, which is increasingly understood as a single area of growth and international competition in view of the official recognition of the Adriatic-Ionian Macroregion within 2014. Authoritative speakers were able to exchange views on the subject and provided interest-

ing insights for the joint promotion of the Adriatic Sea, which is intended as "several and yet one destination", i.e. a "Adriatic Maritime Region" that represents a single reference tourist destination on an equal footing with other international ones, e.g. the Caribbean and the Red Sea, which are understood as single destinations irrespective of the single resort chosen. In his contribution, Mr Alberto D'Alessandro from the Council of Europe focussed on the high potential of cross-border tourist products and the following need for joint actions of promotion and communication, which would bring about enormous advantages to both potential tourists and business players in the area. In particular, the Programme of European Cultural Routes provides a tangible opportunity for the identification of the Area and identifies in the VeroTour project on Venetian trade routes, which was presented by the Veneto Region, a first concrete proposal already been

approved by the European Commission. The AIC Forum is partner to the project and will provide its know-how with the aim of implementing a single branding policy, also following the official recognition of Adria in the European Commission Communication "A Maritime Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Seas". The speaker highlighted the 2011 edition of the AIC Forum, specifically the activities of the Workgroup on Tourism, as the very moment in which the idea was generated and specifically thanked the AIC Forum and the Ancona Chamber of Commerce, which were rightly indicated as the most active players for the promotion of this subject and the future itinerary. The contribution by Cinzia De Marzo from the Tourism Unit of the European Commission enabled to receive valuable anticipations on EU calls for calls for projects and the communication on coastal and maritime tourism, which is about to be published, as well as on the European system of indicators for the measurement of tourist destinations. The side meeting with Cinzia De Marzo also enabled to start a fruitful discussion on the contribution that the AIC Forum can give to the European Commission Action Plan for the Adriatic Ionian Macroregion and identified some key sectors in the field of tourism, which should be translated in corresponding specific measures in the same action plan. Worth mentioning is also the contribution in the plenary session by Alfredo Malacarne, i.e. the President of the Italian Nautical Association Assonautica. Mr Malacarne highlighted the need to strengthen collaboration with professional associations to participate in consultation settings and focus on internationalization policies, interventions specifically devoted to training and measures for the certification and standardization of marinas' services in the discussion. In this context, the Macroregion is the right institutional setting for the drafting of joint solutions and cross-border exchange. The event ended with an invitation for participants to attend the 6th edition of the Yacht Med Festival, which is taking place in Gaeta from 20th to 28th April 2013, during which a new and nationally relevant event will take place, i.e. the first States General of Chambers of Commerce on the Sea Economy scheduled for 22nd April 2013. On said occasion, Assomarina and Assonautica will sign a convention and illustrate their overall strategy, which is conceived as a model of cooperation for the development of complementary and integrated services in view of the Adriatic-Ionian Macroregion.

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.

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19.02.2013

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: €50 MILLION OF MACRO-FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

On 19th of February, Bosnia-Herzegovina received the first €50 million tranche of macro-financial assistance from the EU in the form of a loan to support the country's economic growth. The Commission stated in a press release that the decision was taken to alleviate the impact of the economic crisis on Bosnia and Herzegovina's budgetary and external position. The huge amount of grants demonstrates the confidence from the Member States to the potential candidate Country and its process of integration. It needs to devote more efforts in the public sector, in reducing cost and size of government, and in the promotion of investment and business competitiveness. A second tranche of €50 million is planned and should be disbursed as soon as certain criteria on structural reforms have been fulfilled - at the earliest in three months' time.

15.02.2013

CROATIA/BOSNIA: AGREEMENT ON TRANSFER OF ANIMAL ORIGIN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

The last 15th of February the Croatian and Bosnian ministers of foreign affairs, Vesna Pusic and Zlatko Lagumdžija, together with the Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy Stefan Füle, agreed on the transfer of Bosnian animal origin agricultural products via the Croatian port of Ploče. Thanks to this special regime, the vast majority of exports and imports of animal origin agricultural products will continue in the same way as before the entry of Croatia to the EU, from 1 July 2013 until Sarajevo responds to EU standards. Regarding the use of documents of identity cards for travel between Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia, the decision belongs to the EU Member States. The Commissioner Füle has encouraged the two countries to finalise as soon as possible the work on border crossings points and to sign within the end of May the traffic arrangements and the joint statement on the agreement of Ploče Neum.

18.03.2013

CROATIA: €655 MILLION IN THE EU'S BUDGET FOR CROATIA

On 18 March, the European Commission proposed to amend

the EU's budget for 2013 in order to take into account the impact of Croatia's accession. The additional amounts required are €655.1 million in commitments (0.4% of the 2013 budget) and €374 million (0.3%) in payments.

The European Commissioner for Financial Programming and Budget, Janusz Lewandowski stated that the Croatia's contribution to the EU budget for 2013 will amount to €211.9 million. The draft amending budget will have to be adopted by the budgetary authority - in other words by the European Council and the European Parliament.

26.03.2013

CROATIA: COMMISSION SAYS ZAGREB WILL BE READY FOR ACCESSION ON 1 JULY

According to the latest monitoring report of the last 26 March, Croatia will be ready to join the European Union on 1 July 2013.

Five member states must still ratify Croatia's accession - Germany (which was awaiting the conclusions of the report), Slovenia (which has just settled its bank conflict with Zagreb), Belgium, the Netherlands and Denmark.

Croatia has thus fulfilled the ten priority actions identified in the Commission's monitoring report of October 2012 and has demonstrated its ability to fulfil all other commitments in good time before accession.

The alignment with the *acquis* in terms of migration, asylum, and visa policy is almost complete, as is the legislative alignment in terms of external borders and Schengen. A report on Croatia and Schengen will be published before 1 July, according to a European source.

The Commission also highlights the need to continue efforts in the area of human rights, especially the fight against corruption. Croatia must furthermore continue its structural reforms, both because it wants to join the eurozone and also to improve the competitiveness of its economy. Croatia, which obtained EU candidate status in June 2004, will not need post accession monitoring as is the case for Romania and Bulgaria. Croats will elect their 12 MEPs on 14 April.