



## Brussels -14th October 2008



### *1st edition of the European Parliament of Enterprises: The voice of the SME's in Europe*

#### NEXT EDITION

- Barcelona - 12th November 2008\_  
AIC Forum and ASCAME sign the Memorandum of Understanding
- The Adriatic and Ionian Arbitration Chambers' meeting in Zagreb (December 2008)

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Chamber of Commerce of Ancona  
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The first edition of the "European Parliament of Enterprises" was held in Brussels on 14th October 2008. This event was organized by the Eurochambres - European Association of Chambers of Commerce on the occasion of its 50th anniversary and saw the participation of 775 entrepreneurs from 45 European countries, specifically from 27 EU member states and 18 countries outside the EU, which were allowed to participate as observers and included Albania, Croatia and Montenegro, among others. On this occasion, a delegation from the Chamber of Commerce of Ancona led by the AIC Forum Vice-President and President of the Chamber of Commerce of Ancona Giampaolo Giampaoli represented the local system of enterprises. The European Parliament paid great attention to the initiative, as confirmed by the participation of the President of the Euro-

pean Parliament Hans-Gert Pöettinger and the President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso in the opening session. Both stressed the importance of the event, because SMEs are the engine for the development of the European economy, as indicated in the Small Business Act for Europe (Communication by the European Commission of 25th June 2008). The event saw the participation of outstanding European speakers, who contributed to a lively discussion prepared by reference European Commissioners and the presidents of specific committees with proxy by the European Parliament on the issues dealt with. The event was also a valuable occasion to continue the accreditation process of the Forum of Chambers of Commerce in Brussels through bilateral meetings with Euro-MPs, officials of the European Parliament and the European Commission. The meeting between

the delegation of the Italian chambers of commerce with the Vice-President of the European Commission in charge of transports Antonio Tajani was particularly important. Mr Tajani participated in the official presentation of the Forum of Chambers of Commerce of the Adriatic and Ionian Area in Brussels, which took place on 19th September 2007. European Commissioner Tajani particularly urged the relaunch of infrastructures through trans-European networks, which can be established with national and community funds.

As the 9th edition of the Forum of the Chambers

of Commerce of the Adriatic and Ionian Area will be held in April 2009 in Greece, bilateral meetings between the Chamber of Commerce of Ancona and the President of the Women Entrepreneurship session of Eurochambres Ms. Sophia Economacos, the Vice-President of the Union of Greek Chambers of Commerce and President of the Chamber of Commerce of Corfu Mr. Gorge Hondrogiannis and the President of the Chamber of Commerce of Athens Mr. Elias Chatzivasiloglou were held.

This made it possible to reinforce relations with Greece, which currently has the presidency

of the Permanent Secretariat of the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative, which has had its seat in the Marche Region since June 2008 following the decision of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Greece is considered a strategic partner in the light of a Euro-Mediterranean policy that aims of turning the Mediterranean Sea into a free trade area by 2010, i.e. the year in which the Eurochambres President will convene the delegates present in Brussels for the second edition of the European Parliament of Enterprises.

## 3rd Congress of the Adriatic and Ionian Women Entrepreneurship

The usual appointment for exchanging of ideas, proposals and projects, promoted by the Forums' Workgroup on Women Entrepreneurship, that will further strengthen the entrepreneur role of women from Adriatic and Ionian Area, was held this year in Pržno (Montenegro) from 9th to 10th October.

The meeting dealt with resources and credit instruments for support of women enterprises in different Adriatic and Ionian countries.

At the Congress participated the representatives of banking system and authorities that are promoters of regulations in support of women entrepreneurship. The event was also an occasion for business contacts between female entrepreneurs from two coasts of the trans-border area offering the opportunities for qualitative and quantitative growth of the enterprises' network.

This annual appointment is in line with the EU guidance and it aims the adoption of actions and strategies for strengthening of women representation and increasing of their participation in decisional process as well as the creation of business' opportunities in view of mainstreaming.



## To promote the diffusion of ADR instruments in the Adriatic and Ionian Area

The Ancona Chamber of Commerce and the AIC Forum participated to an institutional meeting held in Zagreb on 16th July by the Croatian Chamber of Commerce.

The purpose of the meeting was arrangement of the future highly specialized informative and formative actions, in accordance with European standards, aiming the development of arbitration and mediation culture in the Adriatic – Ionian area, favouring

moreover, disputes' solution and development of economic-commercial relationships among the entrepreneurs of the area.

Such actions support creation of networks among organisations, institutions and entrepreneurs, in perfect harmony with the trans-border cooperation as a base of all Forum's activities.

The institutional meeting was also an occasion for enforcement of the relations with the Croatian Chamber of Commerce in view of

future projects arising from the Croatia access to the EU, the Country already candidate on the base of the European political strategy comprised in the Stabilisation and Association Agreement.

The next appointment is in Zagreb (December 2008), in occasion of the 16th Session of the "Croatian Arbitration and Conciliation Days", an annual international meeting of professionals in the field of arbitration and mediation.



## *Mr. Giampaolo Giampaoli, President of the Ancona Chamber of Commerce, awarded in Split*

The relation that unites Ancona and the Marche Region to Croatia seems to grow stronger and closer, so close in fact, that for the celebration of the 200 year centenary of the Split Chamber of Commerce and Economy, the President Ms. Jadranka Radovanić, has invited an institutional delegation from the Ancona Chamber of Commerce to join in the celebration.

The celebration took place at the Split National Theatre the 27th June. Chamber representatives from the different Counties in Croatia were present so as the ones from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Czech Republic and Ukraine. The President of the Croatian National Chamber of Commerce Mr. Nadan Vidošević, the Minister for Regional Development to Croatia Mr. Petar Čobanković, the Prefect of the Split-Dalmatian County Mr. Ante Sanader, the Mayor of Split Mr. Ivan Kuret, the Secretary of State Mr. Ivica Mladineo and the Rector of the University of Split Mr. Ivan Pavić were also present at the celebration.

During the event, awards were given to those companies that discerned themselves for the quality of their services to clients, those that have been operating for more than 60 years and the more innovative ones.

An international acknowledgment went to the President of the Ancona Chamber of Commerce Mr. Giampaolo Giampaoli, for his commitment towards the strengthening of international cooperation. A further award was also assigned to Mr. Vladimir Vukmirović, former President of the Podgorica Chamber of Economy, Montenegro.

Mr. Giampaoli stated that "This reward is the result of a close cooperation with Split which led us to the letter of intent, undersigned by both Chambers, for the establishment of the Forum of the Adriatic and Ionian Chambers of Commerce. Together with Ms. Jadranka Radovanić, President of the Forum, we have in fact, anticipated the tendency of the European Neighbourhood Policy, bonding the Chambers of Commerce of the Countries that look onto the two seas.



Thanks to the strong commitment of our organization, the Forum is an establishment which is today recognized and appreciated also by the European Institutions. When I was given the award, as I had previously done during the last edition of the Forum held in Croatia last April, I renewed my commitment to work together in promoting the European Neighbourhood Policy, thus supporting the integration of the Balkans towards the European Union."

The Ancona Chamber of Commerce will celebrate its 200 years in 2011, for this occasion all the National and International partners, that have contributed in the activities and projects that sustain the economy of the Province and the promotion of our territory in the Adriatic-Ionian area will be invited to join in the celebration.



The award-winning guests of the ceremony in Split, 27th June 2008

# The Adriatic and Ionian networks: operative support for the AI Permanent Secretariat

## City of Ancona - Official seat of the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative's Permanent Secretariat

The official opening of the new offices of the Permanent Secretariat of the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative was held in Ancona from 19th to 20th June. The Secretariat, comprising eight Countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia) constitutes a prestigious political frame in order to realize future support measures to the social economic development of the whole referring basin. Within such organiza-

tion, the Forum, in cooperation with the Marche Regional Government, will be able to cover an important operational role for the economical topics linked to the business growth by proposing specific initiatives at the theme Workgroups (Environment, Agriculture, Women Entrepreneurship, Fishing/Aquiculture, Transport and Tourism).



## Country Day dedicated to Greece

A Country Day dedicated to Greece was held in Ancona on 20th June. The event, organized by the Forum in cooperation with the Ancona Chamber of Commerce and its Special Unit "Ancona Promuove", celebrates the official opening ceremony

of the new head office of the Permanent Secretariat of the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative, this being a permanent body which will promote the connection between the Countries adhering to the Adriatic Ionian Initiative and will give a new boost to the Adriatic Euro Region. The programme promotes the development of economic and commercial relations between the Greek busi-

ness establishments and those in our territory, all within a highly established institutional frame. Mr Petros Doukas, Greek Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, the representatives from the diplomatic world, national and local authorities attended the event as well as the Chambers of Commerce associated with the Forum, paying a particular interest to the Greek ones as well as business men and traders interested in the internationalization processes. The event will consolidate the Forum's activity, the image and the role of the Ancona Chamber of Commerce and of its Special Unit "Ancona Promuove", in an international frame which will promote opportunities between enterprises of the two Adriatic and Ionian banks, thus creating the premises for the start up of the European Union projects dedicated to the Euro Mediterranean area in the planning period that goes from 2007 to 2013. The initiative looks to intensify relations with an important and significant partner such as Greece, which will host the next edition of the Adriatic and Ionian Chamber of Commerce Forum during spring 2009.

## The AIC Forum in Durrës

A delegation of the Forum of the Adriatic and Ionian Chambers of Commerce participated in the 10th Plenary Session of the Forum of the Adriatic and Ionian Cities held in Durrës on the 26th and 27th September 2008. In this way continues the collaboration with the network of municipal institutions that took part in the 8th Forum's event held in Makarska last April, when the General Secretary Mr D'Alessio gave a presentation on the challenges and opportunities of the policy of proximity. The Forum contributed to the debate on tourism with the results achieved on its Workgroup on Tourism, that promotes for several years the Adriatic and Ionian area through the adoption of the unifying brand "ADRION". The Forum's participation in the event in Durrës represents a further important step towards the strengthening of cooperation among the three associations operating in the area – Forum of Chambers of Commerce, Forum of the Cities and Uniadriion, aiming the common promotion of growth of the Adriatic Euroregion.



## Permanent Secretariat of the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative meets the three Adriatic-Ionian networks

The meeting of the Permanent Secretariat of the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative and the three Adriatic and Ionian Forums (Forum of the Adriatic and Ionian Chambers of Commerce, Forum of the Adriatic and Ionian cities and Uniadriion) was held the 1st of October 2008 in Ancona. The IAI Permanent Secretariat, with the intention to carry out its institutional tasks – the promotion and socio economic development of the regional territory and the Balkan area, highlighted a need to gather the three networks since the system of Adriatic and Ionian operative networks supports the modalities of cross-border project management harmonizing territorial potentialities and specificities of two shores, in line with the finalities of the fruitful partnership requested by the EU guidelines. The projects shared jointly will offer the occasions for strengthening of collaboration networks, for activating of international relationships and for using of the new resources for support of territorial development based on priority topics as tourism, technological innovation, environment, agriculture, transports, women entrepreneurship and fishing. In order to improve to the best this new EU opportunities, it is necessary to create and to acquire the system actions. It is the territory as a whole and in its complexity of networks, relationships and abilities that will have to act in coordinated way as preferred interlocutor towards the EU institutions.



### The brand "ADRION - Adriatic and Ionian Lands" presented in Split

Thursday the 10th of July the Forum's Workgroup on Tourism presented in Split the brand "ADRION - Adriatic and Ionian Lands" within the meeting *"Towards a quality tourism on the Adriatic sea: synergies to increase the value of the natural, historical and cultural patrimony of the maritime cities"* organized by the Forum of the Adriatic and Ionian Cities for the "Adriatic Seaways" project.

The Workgroup on Tourism intends to spread the logo to invite institutions and private operators to use it within their Adriatic-Ionian integrated (or "multi-countries") promotional actions and projects and to take advantage of the brand's promotional activities realized by the Forum.

The following institutions participated to the meeting: Split Municipality, Zadar Municipality, Split-Dalmatian County, Rimini, Pescara, Monfalcone Municipalities, ANCI Marche and SVIM.

### The ADRION logo promotes the "multi-countries" holidays

The Forum's Workgroup on Tourism organized in Ancona the 16th July a meeting with tourist operators to present the ADRION trademark. During the initiative the Workgroup on Tourism presented to tourist agencies and tour operators the promotional tools for the integrated tourist promotion of the area (website, brochure, posters and gadgets) and the various communication activities implemented for the logo launch.

The Workgroup on Tourism also described the concepts on which ADRION logo's identity and mission are based with the purpose of sharing them with stakeholders interested to use the trademark and of creating of the Adriatic-Ionian tourist brand within the international tourist-consumer's mind.

### Project AdrionTour gains funds from the Region Marche

The Project AdrionTour (Adriatic Ionian Tourist Routes), presented in March 2008 by the Ancona Chamber of Commerce (Regional Law n° 9/2002), gains funds.

This initiative involves the AIC Forum as a project partner and schedules to carry-out the educational paths and promotional initiatives in various Adriatic – Ionian counties aiming the creation of new skills. For this purpose the numerous Chambers of Commerce from Italy, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania and Greece that are already members of the Forum, have been involved.

The Project is in line with Forums' interventions carried out in this field through the activities of its Workgroup on tourism and the Project Re.T.A.J., the initiative presented by the Association in July 2007, finished in June 2008 and co-financed by the Region Marche. The Project Re.T.A.J. aimed the monitoring of the tourist offer and request in the Adriatic and Ionian Area and the promotion of the brand ADRION (Adriatic and Ionian Lands) within projects of integrated promotion.

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## HOW TO JOIN THE ASSOCIATION



**JOINED BY THE SEA**  
Adriatic and Ionian Chambers Forum

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 e-mail, accompanied by the relevant decision of the competent body.





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