



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



ADRIATIC AND IONIAN INITIATIVE
CHAIRMANSHIP OF BiH

Joint Statement

XIII Conference of Speakers of the Parliaments of the Adriatic Ionian Initiative AII Chairmanship of Bosnia and Herzegovina

NEUM, 22 - 23 April 2015

The Speakers of the Parliaments of the Participating Countries to the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative (AII),

- GUIDED by the principles of the Ancona Declaration of May 20, 2000, as the founding political document of the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative;
- TAKING STOCK of the commitments made during the last meeting of the Speakers of AII Parliaments in Tirana (7 April 2014) as well as previous AII parliamentary Conferences;
- CONVINCED that EU values, common to all Adriatic and Ionian Countries, constitute the basic principles for cooperation, stability and prosperity in the Region;
- AWARE that an ever growing cooperation among AII Parliaments, as institutions closest to citizens, will boost the already excellent neighborly relations among our people and help a smooth implementation of the “EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region” (EUSAIR);



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- EMPHASIZING that the principle of subsidiarity, backbone of the macro-regional philosophy, calls for a central role of Parliaments in a Strategy which builds, Inter alia, in the irreplaceable contribution offered by civil society;
- APPRECIATING the efforts made by the eight Governments, with the support of the European Commission, in order to attain the aim of the endorsement of the Strategy by the European Council on 23-24 October 2014, and to establish a sound and effective multilevel governance, instrumental to an effective and productive implementation of the EUSAIR;
- CONVINCED that EUSAIR will boost growth through the realization of strategic projects in the fields defined by the four pillars of the Strategy, bringing benefits to the whole Adriatic Ionian area and improving its attractiveness, competitiveness and connectivity;
- AWARE that the AII, as the “intergovernmental anchorage” of the EUSAIR can play a role that might be even stronger in the future, in order to support stakeholders and the Governments, thus contributing in the successful implementation of the Strategy;
- PERSUADED that a stronger commitment of AII Parliaments will be more and more necessary in the future, in order to face the challenges of the new phase of cooperation in the region represented by the EUSAIR

1. WELCOME the establishment of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Macro-Region, launched on November the 18th during the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, as an innovative form of cooperation in line with EUROPE 2020, Europe’s growth strategy aimed at generating smart, sustainable and inclusive growth;



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2. PRAISE AII Governments and the Commission for a timely establishment of a multilevel governance system and effective procedures for the implementation of the Strategy by the end of 2014, and for the swift beginning of the implementation phase with the first meeting of the Governing Board on January 2015;
3. LOOK FORWARD to an efficient alignment of policies and funds at EU, national and regional level that will allow the Strategy to function and actions and projects to be properly financed;
4. CONFIRM their full support to Governments, the Commission and all Stakeholders committed in the establishment of the EUSAIR as a mean to achieve a sustainable economic and social prosperity in the Region;
5. EXPRESS the firm belief that the EUSAIR has the capacity to foster cooperation between EU and non-EU countries, and while maintaining the EU feature of the Strategy to assist participating candidate and potential candidate countries on their path towards the EU and countries that are in the process of accession to the EU, thus contributing to the speeding up of their accession process;
6. AWARE of Unity of Adriatic and Ionian and Mediterranean Basin we are deeply saddened by yet another terrible migrant tragedey occurred in Mediterranean Sea and call for urgent addressing of this humanitarian issue
7. COMMIT, as representative of the people of AII countries, to support, as much as possible, the implementation of the EUSAIR through the legislative instruments at disposal of each AII Parliament, so contributing to the alignment of national policies to the EUSAIR with respect to the principle of no new EU legislation.
8. APPRECIATES that the Strategy, while concentrating on four pillars and focusing on the topics with the highest macro-regional relevance will be able to address major challenges of the Adriatic and Ionian Region, such as socio-economic disparities, significant transport infrastructure deficits, a fragmented energy market, intense pressure on water, land and biodiversity, natural and



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man-made hazards and risks entailed notably by climate change, administrative and Institutional inadequacies;

9. OFFER their support to all actors involved in the multilevel governance system and particularly in the EUSAIR Governing Board and ASK, as National Parliaments, to be informed and updated on the activities during the EUSAIR implementation phase;
10. DECIDE to establish a constant and more efficient flow of communication with the AII Chairmanship in Office, by appointing in the coming months a High Official from each National Parliament, in charge of liaising with the national Senior Official and the AII Permanent Secretariat on intergovernmental and EUSAIR issues;
11. THANK Bosnia and Herzegovina for a constructive and productive AII Chairmanship and WISH success to Croatia for the incoming year of Parliamentary Cooperation under its AII Presidency.