

THE CHARTER OF ANCONA

The Forum of the Adriatic towns and cities, convened by NATIONAL ANCI initiative, and Ancona Town Council on 29th –30th April 1999, fixed the criteria, values and means to develop a coordinated and lasting commitment of Local Autonomies and their Associations in order to encourage the Adriatic Community growth, Community which has ancient origins and traditions.

1. Peace is the essential condition for any kind of development, economic and social program in the Adriatic, Ionian and Mediterranean area.
2. Deep roots have always joined the two coasts. The Adriatic culture has always represented the mean through which the Adriatic community has dialogued, mixed and grown. It stays so even today at the beginning of the third millennium: a mean through which towns and cities can enrich themselves.
3. Democracy and freedom, banning every ethnic and religious prejudice, any form of nationalism and xenophobia and letting information and ideas flowing freely, are the values that grant the same opportunities and dignity for everybody.
4. Europe and its political and economic integration, is the target for which we are working, having on our mind the Deed of Partnership and the principles of the European Convention of human Rights and the European Charter of Local Self Governments of the European Council. A complete European citizenship is the target to which everybody is aiming to and working for!
5. The Forum of the Adriatic cities Mayors, under the coordination of their District Associations, is the lasting instrument to arrange, having respect of their autonomies and traditions, a unitary policy of local bodies for the economic, social, cultural and tourist development and to safeguard human life at sea and navigation safety.

The Adriatic cities Mayors Forum, intends to collaborate with the Region Committee, the District and European Region Council, Local and Sea Regions and European Institutes because:

- a. The Mediterranean can be the principal, development area of the European Union and not only the farthest end. In this context, the Adriatic is the ideal political, economic and cultural junction between East and West, North and South of the world;

- b. The North- South- West- East collaboration and exchange has to be seen as the essential condition not only for the economic progress of the European Union but also for a real peace condition;
- c. The role of towns and cities and local set ups, recognized by the European Union as important for the integration among peoples, become a development instrument to overcome any ethnic and religious prejudice;
- d. Twinning forms among citizens of cities on the same sea, the reciprocal knowledge allow to overcome each extreme measure of nationalism and support the relationship among peoples in order to share any kind of project or opportunity not only from an economic point of view but also from an artistic and cultural one;
- e. The preservation of any form of common cultural heritage handed sown through centuries,
- f. The environment conservation of the Adriatic sea, as “ecological lung” for the mankind.

With this intent, the Forum decides to fulfil a yearly meeting to happen by turns on the two coasts. This will be guaranteed by the District Associations and a coordination staff, that will be elected very year and held in Ancona.

IN THE END

The Adriatic cities Mayors Forum appeals to its national Administrations, Regions, European Union, in order to create coordinated Research Centres for the Adriatic development, and “windows” for a real cooperation among Local Institutes, mixed Chambers of Commerce, Company Associations of services, culture, sports and tourism.

Passed unanimously 30th April 1999