

RESOLUTION OF THE SESSION IN BARI 29th- 30th September 2001

ADRIATIC AND IONIAN TOWNS AND CITIES FORUM

The 29th and 30th September the Adriatic and Ionian Towns and Cities Forum, showed its solidarity with Mayor of New York Rudolph Giuliani and with the Mayor of Washington and the whole American people. The Forum declared its commitment against terrorism and any kind of violence and wished no civilian involvement, the removal of all endemic causes, considered a fertile ground for terrorism and any kind of violence.

The critical time we are living, highlights "la Carta di Ancona" (Charter of Ancona) as ground of principles for the growth and development of a peaceful Adriatic and Ionian community, opened to Europe.

The time we are living is marked out by technological innovations, capital and companies movements, mass emigration and different cultures, great opportunities of progress and civilisation, and the same time, big and tragic difference of conditions are revealed through the process of globalisation.

The Forum stressed the importance to control the process of globalisation in order to encourage tolerance, equity and freedom.

The Adriatic and Ionian Community wants to be the area in which, political intermediation, cohabitation and communication are represented; a model of democracy based on a communion among the local Communities; a growing community that has to stimulate the right synergies to gain common targets.

Competition today occurs among homogeneous territorial systems; The Adriatic and Ionian community can compete on the same level of other territorial systems across the border, giving a new contribution to European citizens.

The Forum target is to identify common priorities and strategies to become, more and more, a point of reference for its States, and for the European Community.

The Forum, not only marked out the principles in the "Carta di Ancona" (Charter of Ancona), but it reintroduced the common infrastructural priorities, summarised in the Split resolution, such as the need of an Adriatic-Ionian motorway to link up Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania and Greece; and also the Adriatic passage inside the trans-European systems, the cross Ploce-Sarajevo-Budapest, the passage linking Bari-Durazzo and Varna; the fulfilment of modern road and railway links towards East- West to the north Adriatic area. This is very important for the development and increase of cooperation among the harbours of Trieste, Koper and Rijeka.

The session in Bari, thanks to President Skanic's report and a large number of administrators' contributions and experts, pointed out the development as priority to which all towns and cities should aim.

The Forum decided to promote "Agenda 21 Adriatica" (Adriatic Agenda 21) whose target is to present, in the year 2002, all the above mentioned enterprises to coincide with the next "Earth Summit" in Johannesburg.

The Forum commits itself to press for measures to make navigation safer and oppose and prevent illegality.

The Forum supports the proposal coming from the Mayor of Bari who proposes his city as an international observation centre for illegal phenomena.

The control and prevention actions will be effective only involving governments and cities on the East Coast.

The new Statute approved by the Assembly in Bari, places at the Forum disposal, new juridical, financial and organisational instruments to fulfil common actions.

In order to make real the guidelines coming from Bari, Split and Ancona sessions, the Forum decided to involve towns and cities as follow:

1. Organisation of the Planning Assembly, with the cooperation of the Town Council of Brindisi within the first half of December.
2. At the beginning of the year 2002, a specific workshop in order to study in detail the development problems, starting a group of experts to make the program "Agenda 21 Adriatic" come true.
3. A table, that considering the results of last years, identifies programs, and allows to one or more Forum cities to use resources from INTER CARDS and other European programs. Increase the resources allotted to achieve common actions through the commitment of Italian and Greek cities and allot to these actions, a part of the resources of its own budget that can be used in development cooperation activities abroad.
4. A meeting among all the Forum town and city harbours in order to create gradual and real logistic, infrastuctural and commercial synergies.

Finally the Forum accepted the candidature of the Greek city Igoumenitsa for the IV plenary session in September 2002. The new managing organisation will identify the new theme to put on the new agenda and will choose the new cultural, artistic, and sports programs aimed to integration among all cities.

The new managing organisation will also inform and connect the Forum to the General Management (General Directions) about the European Union "External Reports" and "Research and Development" and ask that a Forum observe, will be invited to attend the "Adriatic Enterprise". This last one, originated from the International Conference of the Foreign Ministers which took place in Ancona.

Finally the Forum, accepted Costantin Calfelis's exhortation, to make powerful the magazine "Adriatic Enterprise" sending to the editorial office in Luxemburg, all the literature that will be used to write the magazine and will also respread through a mailing list.