

RESOLUTION SESSION IGOUMENITSA
14th- 15th September

Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Sea which took place from the 14th to the 15th of September 2002, while confirming the principles of “Carta di Ancona” approved in April 1999 and supporting the main objectives as regards the development of the infrastructures discussed in Split (September 2000), has focused its attention on the sustainable development discussed during the session of Bari in 2001; furthermore the choice made in Brindisi last December, that is operating as an element of cooperation beyond borders, has been particularly emphasised.

The Meeting expressed great satisfaction as Forum has been chosen by ONU as one of the organisations accredited to the Summit of Johannesburg; the project of Forum providing a sustainable development of the Adriatic and Ionian area is also one of the objectives supported by ONU in order to make the principles of Agenda 21 and Millennium Declaration fully effective.

Each member of the Assembly has been aware of the strong need for better quality; that’s why the Assembly has asked the mayor involved to sign a letter of objectives in order to give the project Agenda 21 adriatico-jonico more bargaining power.

The Assembly has stressed the willingness to operate coherently by projects and has decided to create a standing technical committee to complete the work of Agenda 21 and the Cultural Adriatic System, to consider the various projects carefully and to submit the results to the managing committee which will take the opportune decisions.

Two main topics have been discussed in Igoumenitsa:

- 1) Two speakers have emphasised the importance of promoting the common cultural and environmental heritage for the development of a Ionian Adriatic Community within the European Union. The matters concerning culture, the protected areas and the possibility to start activities in these fields have been discussed so thoroughly that a team led by Mara Silvestrini and Lidja Mirai will be working in order to arrange a meeting within the first half of 2003 in a town in Albania.
- 2) The strategic role that marinas may have in the development of the Adriatic and Ionian area has been underlined by the Chairmen and the directors of Port Authority and the Minister of Hellenic Merchant Navy during their highly qualified speech.

The Assembly has assigned the managing committee to arrange a meeting yearly , to be held between the ordinary assembly and the following, discussing the role of the ports involved in Forum.

The purpose is to increase the links among ports and to establish a system of calling-ports of the Adriatic and Ionian Sea which will rely on new means of communication and information, new levels of security, respect for the environment, quality and efficiency of the fleet and of port services and facilities, connection with the intermodal structures.

The development and the modernization of the systems of transport has been considered as one of the major topics of Forum; particularly appreciated has been the Memorandum for Corridoio Adriatico, approved in Bari on Sep 9th , signed by the Ministers of Transport of Italy, Albania, Bulgaria, Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Turkey and countersigned by the representative of the European Committee.

The members of the assembly have been eager to operate so as to make Corridoio Adriatico work effectively, by involving the local government; together with Via Egnatia, Corridoio X, Corridoio IV and Corridoio IX, Corridoio VIII strengthens the links between the towns of the area and the Black Sea. Worth mentioning is Corridoio Adriatico , encouraging the communication between the north and the south.

Further to the declaration signed by the Ministers of Transport involved in Pan Europeo Corridoio ,The Forum will ask to participate in the next Fair of Levante to discuss the activities for the development of Corridoio.

This matter has already been discussed and wished in Split 2000.

As traffic among citizens from countries on the Adriatic and Ionian seas has been increasingly rising, Europe is asked to emulate Italy and Slovenia as an example of relationship beyond borders, by encouraging free circulation.

Finally the Assembly , despite the growing but still unsatisfactory attention shown towards the Forum, has decided to arrange a conference to nominate the new Managing Committee which will occur in Bruxelles within the end of the year; it will be a good opportunity to meet the representatives of the European Committee and Parliament and apply for a loan for the Forum's activities.

Encouraged by the proposal of the Union of reporters from Puglia, the Assembly has also approved the request sent by the town council of Brindisi, aiming at creating the International Union of reporters of the towns of the Adriatic and Ionian Sea.

Next September the meeting for the annual plenary session will take place in Rijeka (Croatia).