



The Mayor of Chioggia New President of the Forum



After the Croatian Presidency, the leadership of the Forum of the Adriatic and Ionian Cities and Towns – whose works took place in Rijeka the 24-25 October – has passed to new hands for the coming year. Fortunato Guarnieri, Mayor of Chioggia, was elected new President of the Forum of the Adriatic and Ionian Cities and Towns. The new Vice President is Ms. Anka Vojvodic, Mayor of Bar (Montenegro). The Mayor of the Veneto town will be assisted by an Executive that is

made up of the Vice President and the Administrator, Mr Alberto Scheriani, himself Vice Mayor of Koper (Slovenia), and the Mayor of Rijeka, Mr. Vojko Obersnel; The reappointed Secretary of the Forum, Mr. Bruno Bravetti, will attend the Executive meetings.

The newly elected Forum Board is made up of fifteen towns: Koper (Slovenia), Split and Rijeka (Croatia), Neum (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Bar (Montenegro), Durres and Lezhe (Albania), Patrasso e Parga (Greece) and Ancona, Chioggia, Manfredonia, Bari, Pescara and Chioggia (Italy).

With a change of the Forum Charter, delegations from the Forum of The Chambers of Commerce of the Adriatic Area, and from the local authorities, such as the Provinces in Italy and similar bodies in the east coast, will be allowed to participate as observers to our plenary sessions and other specific initiatives.

Foreword: Forum News

Communication is essential to our Organisation of Municipalities. In this regard, while confirming the role of “Adriatic Bridge”, we have decided to issue this monthly newsletter and to e-mail it to all Member Cities and to our European interlocutors.

In the meantime, we are working at the implementation of our website, as decided in our plenary session in Rijeka.

Once our website will be implemented, it will obviously contain our newsletter. In order to make the most of our means of communication, we invite the member cities to e-mail us any information of interest for the Forum at the following address:

bruno.bravetti@comune.ancona.it

Meeting with the Turkish Ambassador

On Monday 24th November the Forum Secretary, Mr. Bruno Bravetti, together with Mr. Alessandro Vitelli Casella, President of the International Institute for the Adriatic relations and the Eastern Mediterranean Sea, and Prof. Gilberto Piccinini, Lecturer of Modern History at Urbino University, have been received by Mr Necati Utkan, the Turkish Ambassador in Rome. The aim of this meeting was to prepare the “Italy-Turkey and Europe” Conference scheduled in Ancona, for next spring.

Il Ponte Adriatico

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The President of Eritrea in the Marche Region

The President of the Republic of Eritrea Isaias Afewerki came on an official visit to the Marche region on the 25th of November.

The Marche, the Municipality, the Province and the Chamber of Commerce of Ancona have financed a project of cooperation with the city of Massawa lead by the Marche branch of the Trade Unions Institute for Development Co-operation - ISCOS-CISL.



IDEALI

IDEALI, ‘european identity for the Italian Local Autonomies’ aims at bringing together the Italian autonomies and the European Institutions in a crucial time for the construction of the future set-up of the EU.

The partners of this project are Ages, Anci, Anciform, Ancitel, Anciservizi, Città metropolitana, Comuni Urban, Confservizi, Consorzio Anci-Cnc, Cresme, Formez, Epf, Forum delle città adriatiche e ioniche, Uncem. Together they want to reaffirm the need and the ‘ideals’ of Municipalities, mountain communities, cities, companies and bodies involved in the modernization and qualification of the public administration through a renewed trust in Europe.

<http://www.ideali.be/en/>

Meeting Ancona-Cesme



On Saturday 22nd November in the City Hall of Ancona, our Mayor Sturani met with the Mayor of the Turkish seaport of Cesme, Mr. Faik Tutuncoglu, whose administration would like to work together with Ancona. The two coastal towns are in fact weekly connected by a Turkish ferryboat.

By strengthening our links and our means of transport we will be able to intensify our human and cultural exchanges. To that end the Marche branch of the Association of Turkish People Living in Italy organised this meeting between the two mayors. Representatives of the Turkish shipping company and of its Agency in Ancona attended this meeting too. At the end of the meeting Mayor Sturani and the Turkish delegation visited the ferryboat that connects the two seaports.

One Sea to Grow in Peace

The project "One Sea to grow in Peace" of exchanges and twinning amongst schools and young people from the two shores of the Adriatic Sea was presented within the initiative "Inforscuola", held in Pesaro from the 25th to the 27th November. Inforscuola is both an exhibition and a conference about teaching methodology and educational technology.

"One Sea to grow in Peace" was promoted in the stand of the Municipality of Ancona together with other ongoing municipal projects, and other projects that have been proposed to the Councillor responsible of Education.

"One Sea to grow in Peace" led to an agreement between the Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Cities and the Marche Regional School Authority, as well as to the setting up of a permanent working table for the coordination of its exchanges and the monitoring of its actions.

We are also proceeding with the organisation of the 2004 project, called "The World of the School meets the World of Fishing" planned within the next International Fishing Fair of Ancona.

Albania

A Project by the Teatro Stabile delle Marche

Five experts from the Teatro Stabile delle Marche left to Valona, in order to work at a more consolidated project of collaboration than the one started by the two partner corporations last year. Together with the staging of a new performance, the Stabile has, in fact, proposed a moment of training and production. The project includes, in fact, the staging of a performance with a team of Albanian actors and technicians, a workshop for some members of the Albanian Company in Italy, and a study for the definition of a business plan related to Theatre. The first organisational phase of the project, will include some meetings with the Albanian partners and the selection of 12 actors. The play chosen for the project is *Il Campiello*, by Goldoni, a text that will be translated by Gjergj Vlashi.

Recommended Book

"*Conosci il mondo e lo spirito che lo abita...note di viaggio*", is the title of the new book written by Mr. Bruno Bravetti, Secretary of the Forum. The book is published by Humana Editrice.

It is a travel book of 15 short stories set in different parts of the world from 1963 to 2003. The book preface is by Mr. Antonio Luccarini - Councillor responsible for Education (Municipality of Ancona) and its afterword by Mr. Enzo Pesciarelli - Head of the Faculty of Economic studies of the Marche Institute of Technology. These are gripping stories that cast light on the ex-Soviet Union, Chile, Nicaragua, Crete, Cyprus, Eritrea, Norway, Algeria and on almost all coastal countries that once belonged to the ex Socialist Federation of Yugoslavia. In the appendix we find a short story written by Ricardo Madrid about his visit to the house of the poet Neruda in Isla Negra, many decades after his first visit with his father, when he was still a kid. A text written by Mr. Costantin Calfelis, Editor of "Adriatic Bridge" and dedicated to the author ended the book.

Ancona: Croatian Day

The 3rd December the Forum President Fortunato Guarnieri took part to the "Country-Day", organised in Ancona by the Chamber of Commerce together with the Italo-Croatian Association for Economical Exchanges and Trade. The matter under discussion was: "Croatia: a neighbouring market to be discovered, opportunities, restrictions and benefits for companies." Amongst the many guests there were the Croatian Ambassador Mr. Drago Kraljevic, a delegate for the Croatian Ministry for small and medium-sized enterprises, Mr. Zeljko Peceke, and Mrs. Dunja Konjevod, for the Croatian Chamber of Economy. The President of the Italo-Croatian Association for Economical Exchanges and Trade Mr. Rodolfo Giampieri closed the meeting. The Mayor Fabio Sturani welcomed the participants to Ancona in the name of the City.

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The Adriatic Bridge
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Reapbalk

Reapbalk is the acronym of an ongoing European research project entitled "Rural Employment and Agriculture Perspective in the Balkan Applicant countries" and focused on development perspectives of rural areas of five Balkan countries: Bulgaria, Romania, Slovenia, Croatia and Greece.

Reapbalk also identifies an Italian research group working at the Polytechnic University of Marche - Ancona (Italy). Our main objectives are to deal with matters related to local development in the Balkan area and, in general, to give visibility to all economic research activities, projects, news, workshops and conferences related to issues of Balkan countries and relationships between Balkan and Adriatic areas.

<http://www.reapbalk.unian.it/>