



## International Conference on the Role of Regions in Proposing Priority Projects for EU Strategy for Adriatic Ionian Region”

*DUBROVNIK, 27 March 2017*

### CONCLUSIONS

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1. EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian region (EUSAIR) is a very good opportunity for better cooperation and optimal development for all countries, all regions, cities and municipalities in the macro-region.
2. We cannot be satisfied with the implementation of the Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian region, because we don't see the results and we don't see the concrete projects.
3. We believe that the implementation of EUSAIR lacks in coordination within the stakeholders and among stakeholders and the European Commission. We consider, as well, that regional and local level is not sufficiently involved.

Therefore, we should find solutions for better coordination in the EUSAIR implementation and more significant involvement of regional and local level, chambers of commerce and universities.

4. All the four pillars for implementation of EUSAIR are important. However, issues regarding the quality connections in the Adriatic and Ionian region, by our opinion, are preconditions for the development and should have absolute priority in the implementation of the Strategy.
5. Projects that we consider of highest priority for connecting the macro-region are:
  - Adriatic-Ionian highway from southern Greece to Trieste, which will connect the east coast of macro-region;
  - Fast railway Ravenna - Brindisi which will assure better connection on the west coast of macro-region;
  - Modern road, maritime and air connections in the direction west - east will bring together and connect the mainland across the Adriatic and the Ionian Seas;
  - The energy connection with the Adriatic - Ionic pipeline will ensure better energy situation and minimize energy dependence in macro region;

- Connecting with fibre optic network will provide high speed communication.
6. The accomplishment of the mentioned projects demands the involvement of European Commission, in particularly the DG Regio.
  7. The realization of the projects should include EU investment funds and European fund for strategic investments – “Juncker investment plan for Europe”. We cannot see the way to develop these projects without including the mentioned funds.
  8. Cooperation and coordination within the members of Adriatic and Ionian Initiative is also necessary in the field of security, which became very actual topic, having in mind the threatening terrorism and migrations. This cooperation should be expanded on the countries which are not included in the Initiative: Kosovo and Macedonia.

*Dubrovnik, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017.*