



DRAFT PROGRAMME

Version: March 2016

EUSAIR FORUM	
12 MAY 2016, THURSDAY	
12:15 – 12:45	Press Conference
12:30-14:00	Networking lunch
14:00-16:00	<p>Welcome and Opening Session</p> <p>Welcome speeches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andro Vlahušić, Mayor of Dubrovnik, Croatia • Nikola Dobroslavić, Governor of the Dubrovnik-Neretva County Council, Croatia <p>Keynote speeches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corina Crețu, EU Commissioner for Regional Policy • Karmenu Vella, EU Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries • Miro Kovač, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia and Chair of the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative (AII) <p>Panel discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministers of the eight participating countries • EU Commissioners
16:00-16:30	Coffee break
16:30-18:30	<p>Plenary session I: "For a resilient and innovative Adriatic and Ionian Region – tackling social and economic challenges"</p> <p><i>Today's challenges strongly test the capacity of countries to grow more resilient to shocks and sustained stress. Faced with concomitant and often interconnected security, resource, climate, migration and technology issues, individual countries can no longer hope to address such complex issues in isolation. Choices need to be made, based on close cooperation and coordination with other countries exposed to similar challenges. The Plenary session will discuss how jointly tackling the challenges at stake, developing our knowledge base accordingly, exchanging experiences, pooling resources and coordinating efforts at the EU and macro-regional levels can help building a more resilient Adriatic and Ionian Region. This is key to job creation, economic growth and environmental sustainability as common challenges for the EU and participating countries, the business community, universities and research bodies, NGOs and more generally the citizens living in the macro-region.</i></p> <p>Chair: European Commission</p> <p>Keynote speech Panel discussion Q&A session</p>
19:30	Evening reception and cultural programme



13 MAY 2016, FRIDAY			
8:30 – 9:00	Welcome Coffee		
9:00 – 10:45	Parallel sessions		
	<p>1. Reconciling conflicting interests in a shared maritime space</p>	<p>2. Seeking enhanced cooperation in the transport and energy sectors</p>	<p>3. Smart approach for a sustainable and attractive region</p>
	<p>1. Reconciling conflicting interests in a shared maritime space</p> <p><i>This session will focus on Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Adriatic and Ionian sea basin. The aim is threefold: a) to take stock of evidence-based knowledge regarding interactions between anthropogenic activities, as well as the impacts of such activities on the Adriatic and Ionian sea basins and on their coasts; b) to highlight best practices (including with respect to capacity building) and possible actions for transcending sector-based, jurisdictional/institutional and administrative compartmentalisation, by means of Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management; c) to identify one or two strategic projects in support of such practices, to be funded under relevant ESIF/IPA and/or by national and sub-national resources.</i></p>		
	<p>2. Seeking enhanced cooperation in the transport and energy sectors</p> <p><i>The cooperation in the transport and energy sectors in the Adriatic – Ionian region is not always effective. Often the priorities (eg. infrastructure – management of operations) differ from one country to the other. Furthermore, there is still a gap in the cooperation between EU Member States and their neighbours in the Western Balkans. This session aims at identifying the potential for improvement in order to achieve an efficient functioning of the energy and transport networks and the respective regulatory frameworks in the region. For both sectors, the panellists will be asked to propose potential operational solutions which could be implemented through cooperation in the framework of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region.</i></p>		
	<p>3. Smart approach for a sustainable and attractive region</p> <p><i>This session aims at facilitating cooperation among tourism SMEs and public or private entities in the Adriatic-Ionian region for the development of viable projects eligible for EU funding. It focuses on the better use of EU funding opportunities for tourism, culture and creative industries. Representatives from other macro-regional strategies could be invited to share their experiences. The participants will discuss how EU instruments can finance sustainable tourism initiatives and projects, as well as how to foster cooperation and exchange of experiences through concrete "best practices" presentation.</i></p>		
10:45 – 11:30	Networking Coffee break		



11:30– 13:00	<p>Plenary session II: "Unlocking the potential of the Adriatic and Ionian Region – the added value of multi-level governance"</p> <p><i>A high degree of ownership, commitment and leadership by participating countries - as well as close cooperation and coordination among them - is a precondition for the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region to be successful. This implies recognising the Strategy as cutting across sector policies and involving every level of government. It also implies allocating sufficient and competent administrative and financial resources to carry-out the Strategy. Furthermore, an effective multi-level governance system is essential for a sound implementation and achievement of the EUSAIR goals. This Plenary session aims at highlighting available options for securing active involvement of the different actors and tiers of government, including national, regional and local authorities, member of parliaments – regional, national and European – regional organisations, economic and social actors, private sector, civil society, academia and NGOs.</i></p> <p>Chair: European Commission Keynote speech Panel discussion Q&A session</p>
13:00-13:30	<p>Closing session</p> <p>Reports from the parallel sessions</p> <p>Concluding remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walter Deffaa, Director General, DG REGIO, European Commission • João Aguiar Machado, Director General, DG MARE, European Commission • Representative of the Government of Croatia • Representative of the Government of Greece
13:45	<p>Networking lunch</p>
<p>SIDE EVENT (open to all participants)</p>	
15:00-17:00	<p>The EUSAIR and the BlueMED Initiative: complementarity and mutual benefits</p> <p><i>The BlueMED Initiative (and its related Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda – SRIA) aims at developing a strategic research and innovation framework for a healthy, productive and resilient Mediterranean sea. It is the result of a joint effort of a group of EU Member States with the support of the European Commission. Building on the existing complementarities with the EUSAIR, the case will be made for strengthening coordination in the field of Research& Innovation across the different pillars of the Strategy. Discussion will focus on fostering integration of knowledge and efforts to develop the blue economy in the region, exploring with industries, clusters, research centres and training institutes how to jointly implement priority actions in view of maximising the leverage effects of the research investments. It will also provide the opportunity to bring in the perspective of candidate countries with a view of a possible enlargement of the BlueMED Initiative's geographical scope.</i></p>