



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
AND IONIAN INITIATIVE
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



ADRIATIC

CHAIRMANSHIP OF BiH

Bosnian and Herzegovinian priorities as Chairman of Adriatic and Ionian Initiative June 2014 - May2015

In accordance to Bosnian and Herzegovinian foreign policy priorities, Chairmanship of the Bosnia and Herzegovina of the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative from June 1, 2014 until May 31, 2015, will contribute to the further strengthening of the good-neighbouring relations, stability and prosperity of the AII countries members of the Initiative, as well as, of the West Balkan region coming closer to the EU, among others, through EUSAIR what should secure adequate frame for the solution all other challenges that we are facing.

The round tables will address topics related to environmental protection, tourism, transport, blue growth, protection and cooperation in events of natural disasters, aftermath of catastrophic floods of this year and issues coming from realisation of EUSAIR aims and recommendations.

The AII Chairmanship of Bosnia and Herzegovina will be exercised during the period, of the process for the approval of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic Ionian Macro-region (EUSAIR) which will be finalized from the European Council final endorsement by the end of 2014.

Focus of B&H Chairmanship will be further strengthen of Parliamentary cooperation and, as underlined, rise awareness of the Adriatic and Ionian macro-region to parliamentary dialog. In this regard, Bosnia and Hercegovina will promote the ongoing activities concerning the EUSAIR.

Following activities up to now, member countries should exhort necessary efforts to carry on and strengthen cooperation in the areas as protection of the environment, transport, tourism, culture and interuniversity cooperation. In this context meetings of the following round tables will be held:

1. Small and Medium Enterprises; economic growth generally
2. Transport and Maritime Cooperation; accordance to one of pillars of EUSAIR
3. Environment based of EUSAIR priorities, and
4. Tourism, Culture and Interuniversity Cooperation, according to EUSAIR recommendations.

Bosnia and Herzegovina will work on the promotion of cooperation based on concrete projects between countries of the AII, what is one of the common aims of the AII members. Common efforts for the strengthening of the economic cooperation, trade and attraction of the

investments, should be directed toward finding the common and separate way for the overcoming of the economic crisis and its consequences.

B&H will try to maintaining these roundtables improving the current situation and give a new impetus necessary cooperation and mutual understanding in these matters. If it is necessary we will come out with new documents and cooperation in these issues.

In addition, we shall try to be constructive factor in the rehabilitation, restoration and reconstruction after the devastating floods that have affected Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia of May of 2014. Consequences of flooding will be repaired for years in advance , since the damages , so far, as is known catastrophic .

Floods are , however , united with the people of the area where they occurred , regardless over of national borders .

Bosnia and Herzegovina will be especially dedicated to the need for the EU to understand how important it is that all the countries affected by this natural carastrophe , regardless whether they are members of the Union or not , receive appropriate aid , not only to redress the damage, which is in progress , but primarily development.

B&H will , judging high contribution of the previous Chairman of Albania , hold and try to improve the standard of visibility roundtables , particularly engaging the public promotion of its activities .

B&H will rely on the valuable contribution and professional service of the Permanent Secretariat based in Ancona..

We expect the contribution of the relevant bodies and institutions of the Member States , anticipating the full synergy of joint activities .

B&H will be open for stimulating ideas and proposals , whether coming from the government , NGOs or civil society organizations .

Bosnia and Herzegovina, as a Chairman of AII 2014/2015 want to give a new impetus to cooperation in the region and will participate constructively and visibly in concrete projects of EUSAIR in the region and each Member States.