

Rules of Procedures of the Adriatic and Ionian Council (AIC)

Zagreb, 24 November, 2000

- 1.** The rules of procedures of the AIC are established in accordance with the Ancona Declaration, which launched the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative (AII). The Ancona Conference is to be considered the founding Conference as well as the first session of the AIC.
- 2.** Members of the AIC are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Greece, Italy and Slovenia with the full participation of the European Commission. Each country will be represented by its Minister of Foreign Affairs, the European Commission by one of its members.
- 3.** The AIC will convene at least once a year in regular session in one of the participating States, on a rotational basis in alphabetical order (in English). Whenever deemed necessary, extraordinary meetings may be convened.
- 4.** The Chairmanship of both regular and extraordinary sessions shall be assumed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the country hosting the regular session.
- 5.** Responsibility for co-ordination matters relating to the AIC between two sessions, will be assumed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs hosting the subsequent session. A Committee of Senior Officials shall meet between two sessions of the Council in order to discuss and implement ideas and matters relating to co-operation within the framework of the AIC, and to prepare the sessions of the AIC. Unless otherwise decided, such meetings shall normally be held in the country holding the Chairmanship.
- 6.** The host country of each session will bear all costs in connection with holding the meeting, while the other participating States will cover the expenses relating to travel and stay of their respective delegations.

- 7.** The working language of the AIC meetings is English.
- 8.** Decisions of the AIC and its subsidiary bodies will be taken by consensus.
- 9.** The AIC and its working bodies may decide to invite special guests and experts to participate in its sessions.
- 10.** The Agenda of the AIC's sessions will be set upon the proposal of the Chairman and the Committee of Senior Officials.
- 11.** The AIC may decide to set up working groups with a specific mandate in relation to co-operation among the Adriatic and Ionian countries, in accordance with the objectives of the Ancona Declaration. Such working groups may be charged with the elaboration of recommendations for approval by the AIC.
- 12.** On the basis of the Ancona Declaration, with the co-ordination of the AIC, the meetings of Ministers with responsibility for specific areas may be held within the framework of the AII.
- 13.** The Chairman or his representative will represent the AII in the meetings of other international or regional organizations upon invitation. The AIC may also authorize special representatives for particular matters dealt by the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative to represent the Council in the framework of the International Conferences. These special representatives shall report to the Council on the results of such meetings.
- 14.** Participation in the AIC will in no way infringe on any international obligation, be it of a legal or a political nature, of any of the member States, nor of the European Community.