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SAGOV

ADRIATIC CONNECTIVITY FORUM

PROMOTING CONNECTIVITY
IN SOUTH ADRIATIC AREA

17-18 February 2021

RESULTS



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ADRIATIC CONNECTIVITY FORUM

PROMOTING CONNECTIVITY IN SOUTH ADRIATIC AREA

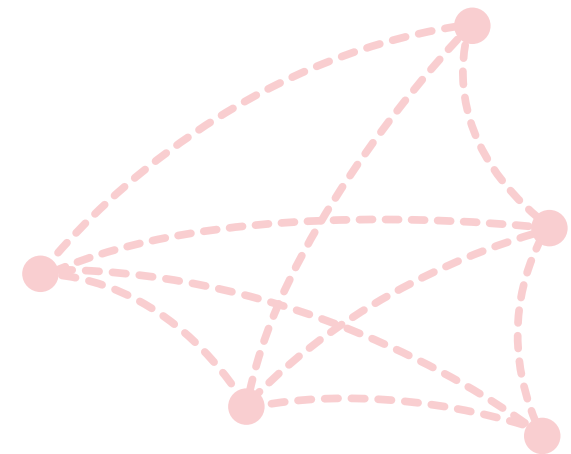
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RESULTS

The “Adriatic Connectivity Forum. Promoting connectivity in South Adriatic area” was organized by Puglia Region (SAGOV project partner), in partnership with the Cooperation and Development Institute (SAGOV Lead Partner), bringing together a high-level cast of speakers from local, regional and EU institutions, active and vocal in connectivity dynamics.

During these two intense days, the forum brought into focus the transport connectivity and the opportunities that may arise from the development of the Connectivity Agenda in the Adriatic and Ionian Macro-regional area, to boost the movement of goods and people from the East towards the heart of Europe and vice-versa.

In addition, the event aimed to promote and support the institutional dialogue between different actors and key stakeholders towards an integrated approach between the EUSAIR Strategy, the Trans-European Corridors and the Connectivity Agenda in the Western Balkans, in the attempt to place this area in the global map of transport networks.



DAY 1
17 February 2021

“Adriatic Connectivity Forum” was the first event that opened this Forum, built up on the template of the “Tirana Connectivity Forum” and organized in the framework of the Berlin process.

The event kicked off with the Welcome Notes from **Mr. Alessandro Delli Noci - Apulian Regional Minister for Economic Development and International Policies.**



Alessandro Delli Noci was born in Lecce, where he currently lives. Deputy Mayor of the city since June 2019, he has held the offices of the Department of Public Works, Strategic Planning, Personnel, Digital Agenda, Technological Innovation, Europe and Cooperation.

Mr. Delli Noci confirmed that SAGOV is an important occasion to re-establish the priority of creating connections for the development of our territories. Corridor VIII is a unique opportunity for Italy, and in particular for Puglia Region, to connect one of the Special Economic Zones (ZES) to the theme of internationalization. This theme is certainly an issue of interest for the connection of Albania with Montenegro, creating strategic opportunities for the development of the Region. In this context, Cooperation is needed to support innovation, to address policy fragmentation across borders and to support local institutions throughout the implementation of big regional infrastructure projects. SAGOV has provided the framework conditions that can help coordinate connectivity activities in the region: the triangle Puglia - Albania - Montenegro constitute a strategic hub that serves as an entry gate for both EU and the Balkans.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

The Forum continued with the Keynote Addresses from **Mr. Mladen Bojanic, Montenegrin Minister of Capital Investments.**



Mladen Bojanic is an economist, politician and former MP. He ran for President of Montenegro at the 2018 elections. Bojanic is currently the Minister of Capital Investments in the Government of Montenegro, since November 2020.

Mr. Bojanic revealed concrete and successful collaboration examples, such as the Adriatic-Ionian Corridor and the joint operation of the doozy rail platform. In his opinion, the regional cooperation is working in practice and not only in theory. Montenegro has always been open to cooperation with Italy and Albania, when it comes to capital projects that could lead to economic, political and social benefits for all parties, especially at a time, when each Country struggles to preserve the economic well-being of its citizens. This successful pioneering project underlined the importance of the collaboration among partners, by providing useful and usable deliverables for all of us. The cooperation between Italy and Montenegro provides a great reputation for our Countries to the European Union. As a result of an intergovernmental agreement between the two Countries, the project was included by the European Commission in the List of the Projects of Common Interest.



Mr. Etjen Xhafaj
Albanian Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Energy

Etjen Xhafaj has been actively involved in politics in Albania and regionally from 2008 and onwards, working with left wing parties. From 2006 until 2013, he was a columnist with Albanian Daily News, as well as contributor to other publications. From 2013 and onwards, Etjen worked with the Albanian Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Entrepreneurship, first as advisor and then as Chief of Staff. While pursuing his Master's he worked as a research fellow at the Center for International Development, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. Upon completion of the program, Etjen Xhafaj returned to Albania, to work as the Chief of Staff to the Minister of Finance, until June 2017.

Mr. Xhafaj pointed out the need to connect and to be integrated with each other to carry out projects in infrastructure, such as the Corridor VIII and the implementation of rail links with North Macedonia. The great efforts of the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative for a sustainable, smart and inclusive growth, throughout the development of tourism and connectivity are really appreciated by Albanian Authorities. Albania enjoys a strategic position, acting as one of the gateways between East and West, but the connectivity deficiency, also during the Communist regime, is still present. Furthermore, Albania was one of the countries included in the Corridor VIII, a participation still inadequate for the needs of the region and for the needs of people, also due to the scarce funding from the European Institutions. Therefore, to face the crises of the new century, trade and tourism are concepts that must be the basis of our economy.



Mr. Alberto Petrangeli
Deputy Head of Mission at the Italian Embassy in Tirana (Albania)

Alberto Petrangeli, a career diplomat, is the Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Italy in Tirana (Albania) since September 2020. In the recent past, he was Deputy Head of Mission in Kabul (Afghanistan) from 2018 to 2020 and Head of Division for the External Relations of the European Union and for Trade Policy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in Rome from 2015 to 2018. He was Political Counsellor at the Italian Embassy in Tehran (Islamic Republic of Iran) from 2011 to 2015 and previously served at the Permanent Representation of Italy to the European Union in Brussels.

Mr. Petrangeli highlighted the importance of soft measures. In his opinion, we cannot have successful infrastructure projects and we cannot have flawless mobility if we do not have the normative framework that functions on the entire Region. The triangle Puglia - Albania - Montenegro constitute a strategic hub, which serves as an entry gate for both the EU and the Balkans. Italy is the biggest partner in trade, but also the biggest partner in foreign direct investment. Therefore, Italy is aware that increasing the connection between national economies requires the creation of a new world and nodal infrastructures to make the logistics chain efficient on a global scale.

THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE INTERREG IPA
ITALY - ALBANIA - MONTENEGRO
PROGRAMME 2014-2020



Mr. Crescenzo Antonio Marino
Managing Authority of the Interreg IPA
Italy - Albania - Montenegro
Programme 2014-2020

Crescenzo Antonio Marino was previously a professor in economics and business and Executive Director of the University of Foggia from 2001 to 2006. Starting from 2007 to 2009, he served at Apulia Region as the Director of the Department of the Right to Education. From 2009 to 2016, as the General Director of ADISU Puglia (Regional Agency delegated to carry out functions in the fields of the Right to Higher Education). From December 2016 to November 2018, he was the General Director of PolYTECHNIC of Bari. Currently, he is appointed as responsible for the Managing Authority of the Programme Interreg IPA Italy - Albania - Montenegro 2014-2020, and is also the Head of the Research, Innovation and Institutional Capacity Unit of Apulia Region.

Mr. Marino discussed the valuable contribution that this Program is providing to the infrastructure normative context for the development and the cooperation in this Region. He mentioned the role of the innovation, the of the Program in the capacity building of the institutions, the need to address fragmentation in policymaking, and also the impact and the importance of the cross border maritime transport, as in the overall learning and implementation of the Program. Innovation is a powerful instrument of survival in the 21st century, to be accomplished through stronger institutional cooperation and development.

PANEL 1
IMPROVING THE CONNECTIVITY AGENDA
IN THE WESTERN BALKANS AND THE COOPERATION WITH EU:
POLICIES AND INVESTMENT PROJECTS

The first panel “Improving the Connectivity Agenda in the Western Balkans and the cooperation with EU: policies and investment projects” started under the moderation of **Mr. Ardian Hackaj, Director of Research at Cooperation and Development Institute (Albania).**



Ardian Hackaj is the Director of Research at the Cooperation and Development Institute of Albania. He is the coordinator of Tirana Conference on Berlin Process, and has authored many research works on connectivity, youth and migration. Mr. Hackaj has held management positions at the College of Europe-Bruges, the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations, and with the EU Commission. He holds an MA from College of Europe, a Maîtrise in International Economics from the Université Lumière, Lyon II, and a Diplôme Universitaire from the Institut d’Etudes Politiques, Lyon.

SAGOV means supporting the cooperation and the coordination among the countries around the Adriatic Sea, in the planning phase of policy-making, with regard to fighting the effect of pandemic, including the planning of the Recovery Fund, to which Italy will have access from the Council of European Union. Other measures, such as digitalization, innovation and environmentally friendly equipment can increase their impact if they can be coordinated also with partner countries of the Eastern Shores of Adriatic. Transport infrastructure without coordination, transport services without networking, transport without all the parties working together is not efficient.

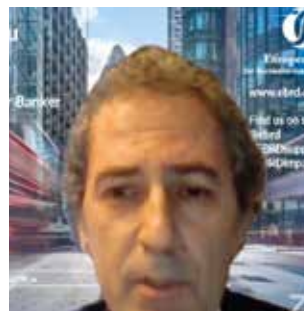
PANEL MEMBERS



Mr. Matej Zakonjšek
Director of the Transport Community Secretariat - Republic of Serbia

Matej Zakonjšek is an experienced government and private-sector leader dedicated to supporting integration of Western Balkans' transport markets into the European Union. Mr Zakonjšek started his career by joining the Slovenian government as a diplomatic attaché at the permanent representation of Slovenia to the European Union, working on the enlargement process of the EU. In 2015, he was appointed as the Head of Cabinet of the EU Commissioner for Transport. After joining the European Commission's Directorate for Mobility and Transport in December 2019, Mr Zakonjšek focused on the EU's transport relations with countries of the Western Balkans. Mr Zakonjšek was appointed as the first Director of Transport Community on 6 July 2020.

Mr. Zakonjšek mentioned the need to move beyond the overmanaged projects and under lead policies but to focus also on policy reform. Improving the connectivity with policies and investment projects means to strengthen the connection between policy reforms and specific investment projects in the Region, and the key to success is when both of those will be really two sides of the same coin.



Mr. Donald Mishaxhiu
Director - Senior banker at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

Donald Mishaxhiu has over 20 years of experience in financing infrastructure projects in both the public and private sectors. He has worked on many infrastructure operations from project origination to structuring and implementation including rehabilitation and new construction of urban, regional and national roads, airports, seaports, railways etc. Currently works as Senior Banker in the Infrastructure Europe team, at the EBRD Headquarters in London with responsibility for business development and portfolio in Western Balkans and Baltic countries.

Mr. Mishaxhiu underlined the need to have strong institutional capacity in the Western world and countries, and to take better into account the need for regional dimension. He declared that, EBRD is actively supporting connectivity projects, but there are issues that we have been trying to tackle and challenges, as there is the overall limited borrowing capacity, compared to the huge infrastructure that countries in the Western Balkans get. The Bank is very keen to promote sustainable transport development but there are very strict requirements in terms of maintaining high standards of environments and social requirements, as there will be applied our procurement policies and rules to ensure that the processes of procurement follow a fair, transparent, and open process. In his opinion, we should put the emphasis on regional dimensions, by promoting regional connectivity and corridors and with the support of conductivity reformations.



Mr. Michael Voegele
EU Neighbourhood & Enlargement
(European Commission)

Michael Voegele is the Head of sector of DG NEAR-Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations - Dir D-Western Balkans Investment Framework.

Mr. Voegele presented the economy and an investment plan, focusing on the projects that directly affect Albania and Montenegro underlying this triangle between the role of the European Commission as a policymaker, an implementer, but also as a facilitator. "When we talk about the Western Balkans, we talk about them as neighbors that are intended for the same policy, so it is quite normal that the goals that we have for the EU 27 are also extended in the Western Balkans" he declared.



Amb. Traian Chebelev
Deputy Secretary General, Permanent
International Secretariat of the Organization
of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation,
BSEC PERMIS

Ambassador Traian Chebelev is Deputy Secretary General of the Permanent International Secretariat of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation. He is a career diplomat and has served in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania, mainly dealing with international organizations. He also held the positions of State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1992), Diplomatic Adviser and Spokesman for the President of Romania (1993-1996). He was the Ambassador of Romania to Austria (2001-2005) and Special Representative of the Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Black Sea Issues (2008-2009). Subsequently, he joined the Permanent International Secretariat Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (2009).

Amb. Chebelev discussed about the model of the European Union as a normative power, that must do his best efforts to see how it can apply its excellent standards and norms in different industries, not only in the Western Balkans, but also beyond the Black Sea Cooperation. Over the years, the organization has developed several important original projects, targeting the facilitation of transport and trade in the basic region.

The panel concluded that the project implementation needs to be accompanied by reform measures, by strengthening the domestic institutions and by regional coordination on joint projects. According to the panelists, cooperation is needed to support innovation, address policy fragmentation across borders, and support local institutions during implementation of big regional infrastructure projects. SAGOV project has provided a framework that can help coordinate connectivity activities in the Region.

PANEL 2

THE MULTIMODAL CORRIDORS SYSTEM WITHIN THE EU STRATEGY FOR THE ADRIATIC - IONIAN REGION (EUSAIR)

The forum continued with the second panel entitled “The multimodal Corridors system within the EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian region (EUSAIR)” under the moderation of **Mr. Giorgio Fruscione - ISPI - Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale.**



Giorgio Fruscione is Research Fellow and publications editor at ISPI. Before joining ISPI, Giorgio has been living for years in the Balkans, working as freelance journalist for several Italian and international media outlets, like East-West, Venerdì di Repubblica and Balkan Insight. Since 2010, he has also been deputy director and news correspondent from the Balkans for East Journal.

This panel addressed issues related to the multimodal corridor system within the EU strategy for the Adriatic Ionian region, which is part of the Adriatic Connectivity Forum, that aims to promote connectivity in the South Adriatic Area. Other important issues were the levels of cooperation among the institutions and stakeholders that are involved and how the two sides could benefit from the current transport infrastructures.

PANEL MEMBERS



Mr. Mauro Novello
Coordinator of Joint Secretariat
of the Programme Interreg IPA CBC
Italy - Albania - Montenegro
Apulia Region

Mauro Novello is the coordinator of the Joint Secretariat of the Programme Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro since January 2017. He was the Coordinator of INTERACT Point Vienna for 11 years and consultant for the management of INTERREG and other cooperation projects in the previous years.

Mr. Novello underlined the need to attach policy reforms, and accentuated the crucial role of the territorial programs. He mentioned that, on 17 June 2014, the European Commission launched a new EU strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian region. The strategy mainly concerns were the opportunities of the maritime economy: blue growth, land-sea transport, energy connectivity, protection of the marine environment and sustainable tourism. Therefore, the framework of the strategic programmes, regional and national cooperation programmes, and the initiatives in the Regions that are supporting these objectives are contributing to achieve; the policy goals of the strategy.



Ms. Danijela Kapa
*designated Head of the Department
for International Cooperation
at the Ministry of Capital Investments
Republic of Montenegro*

According to Ms. Kapa, cross-border cooperation is an excellent way to promote common values and to improve all the fields in the Region. Cooperation is the key to improve connectivity and our partnership and overall increase, and to provide the quality of services to the citizens such as our transport networks and corridors.



Mr. Thimjo Plaku
*Director for Development of Transport
and Infrastructure Policies and Strategies
at the Ministry of Infrastructure
of the Republic of Albania*

Thimjo Plaku is a transport engineer with MSc in transport system planning and modelling, having about 30 years of experience in the transport sector in Albania and other neighboring countries, mostly in transport research, international studies & projects, and transport management.

Mr. Plaku highlighted the ways in which Albania could be improved in terms of foreign trade and foreign direct investments and partnerships in the connectivity infrastructure. Italy and Albania have strong relations, also thanks to a recent contract signed for the rehabilitation of Tirana. Albania is adopting the sustainable and smart mobility strategy of the European Commission. The Corridor VIII is a perfect example of how Albania, Italy and Montenegro can work-closely together, by preparing projects in the connectivity agenda. Mr.Plaku pointed out that there is a big need in the region to cooperate and to invest in connectivity and transport networks. Moreover, he mentioned that this Forum was a very interesting and lively debate on what can be good examples of institutional cooperation and how those best examples can be better explained and promoted.

DAY 2
18 February 2021

The second day of “Adriatic Connectivity Forum” began with a keynote address from Mr. Bujar Osmani, Minister of Foreign Affairs of North Macedonia, who focused on the Initiative 8, as a regional initiative that brings together infrastructure, economies, p2p and institutional cooperation into one Corridor from Adriatic to the Black Sea.



Mr. Bujar Osmani
Minister of Foreign Affairs
of North Macedonia

Bujar Osmani is Minister of Foreign Affairs of North Macedonia and former Minister of Health. In June 2017, he was appointed Deputy Prime Minister in charge of European affairs. He was previously a doctor at the Public Hospital in Skopje.

Mr. Osmani underlined the topic of enhancing connectivity in the whole Adriatic union, in the Mediterranean region and the importance of connecting and building in the field of transport, energy and digital infrastructure, in order to bring people and economies closer together with the region and with the EU. Enhancing connectivity is the right recipe for growth, by improving competitiveness, creating jobs and attracting investments. It is in the interest of not only the three Balkan countries, but to the EU as well, to have an alternative and shorter corridor that will provide a faster flow of people and goods from the Black Sea to the Union and further to Adriatic Sea.

PANEL 1
TALK WITH EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS - TEN T
“THE ADRIATIC- IONIAN CORRIDOR AND THE ORIENT- EAST /
MED CORE NETWORK (CORRIDOR VIII) IN THE FRAMEWORK
OF TEN-T REVISION PROCESS”

The first panel of the second day, entitled “Talk with European Institutions - TEN T”, kicked off under the moderation of Ms. Angela Stefania Bergantino, University of Bari and Italian Association of Transport Economics.

This session was dedicated to the Adriatic-Ionian Corridor and the Orient-East / Med Core Network (Corridor VIII), in the framework of TEN-T revision process, emphasizing that the Corridor VIII 8 is one of very rare horizontal axes that connects Europe. The EU supported the Economic and Investment Plan and has offered concrete opportunities, that support growth and development on Eastern shores of Adriatic, which makes Puglia the closest access hub for Albania, MNE and North Macedonia to TEN-T and TEN-E corridors. The speakers added that to succeed it requires political will, prioritization of main intervention during its route, modernization, coordinated planning and substantial research on the form of such a multi-modal corridor. “Initiative 8” completes the transport connectivity with business, p2p, digital and institutional cooperation from Adriatic to Black Sea. Rail and Green Agenda are an integral part of this innovative endeavor.



Ms. Angela Stefania Bergantino
University of Bari and Italian Association
of Transport Economics

Member of the Steering Committee of the Italian Society of Transport Economics since 2006 and Secretary General of the Company since June 2012. Expert in the Nucleus for the Regulation of public utility services. She is an expert in infrastructural policies and public services for various local authorities, for the Ministry of Economy and Finance and for the Ministry of Transport in Italy and the Netherlands.

Ms. Bergantino highlighted that the status of Corridor VIII, still in a developing phase because of the missing links and due to the inclusion of the parts of the Italian territory. In particular, the Port of Bari and the Port of Brindisi, within the network and the importance of what Apulian Region represents for the Western Balkans, to create a connection between the Black Sea and the Adriatic Sea.

There is the need to make the transport infrastructure a complete, interactive, and intraoperative network, in order to save quite a lot of costs per truck and traveling time and to be more economic. Therefore, transport policies are also very important, because transport is both Intracountry and Inter-country and we need to improve the capacity to coordinate the regulation, the policies and the investments to a lower environmental impact.

PANEL MEMBERS



Mr. Alain Baron
EU Commission, DG Mobility and Transport
(DG MOVE)

Mr. Baron presented the Corridor VIII from a political point of view, where there must be not only infrastructure projects, but a real corridor, where infrastructure, transport, people mobility can work together in a modern governance system. The expectation is that the stakeholders of this corridor get closer to the EU policy making, in order to make our corridor and our needs more visible, so that the project can be more mature and easily clarified.



Mr. Giuseppe Ferrandino
Member of the European Parliament

Giuseppe Ferrandino began his political career in 1993 as a municipal councilor of Casamiccio-la Terme on the Christian Democracy lists. In 2014 he ran for the European elections with the Democratic Party in the Southern Italy constituency. On 17 April 2018 he took office in the European Parliament. He is a member of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs. In addition to his commission posts, he is a member of Parliament's delegation to the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly. In the European elections of 26 May 2019 he was re-nominated and elected MEP on the list of the Democratic Party.

Mr. Ferrandino discussed the opinion of the European lawmakers, dimension that not always is present in the development of projects, and how important it is to carry out reforms at a European level, to exploit resources and invest them as early as 2026. He also highlighted the fact in investing in ports and railways, for a faster recovery, so that Italy can become one of the European ports also through a sustainable transport program.

PANEL 2 **RELEVANCE OF SAGOV MAIN RESULTS**

The second panel, reserved to project partners, focused on the SAGOV main results and the strategic role of cross-border cooperation for the transport sector. The project partners presented some of the key outputs of SAGOV project, such as the Connectivity Platform, a web based and interactive e-platform with Semaphore system that aims to increase the visibility and coordination of connectivity initiatives linking Italy / Puglia Region, Albania and Montenegro. In addition, the speakers highlighted that Albania and Montenegro have an excellent cross-border cooperation in infrastructure, while acknowledging that SAGOV has provided a framework that can help coordinate connectivity activities in the region and has promoted the participation of Puglia in this scheme.



Mr. Djordje Otasevic
Advisor, Implementation manager
for EU funds, Ministry Capital Investments
Republic of Montenegro

Mr. Otasevic underlined the main results of Sagov project and discussed specific issues of how Montenegro and Albania can work together to set up a system from which they can both profit from VTMISS (Vessel Traffic Management and Information Services).



Ms. Majlinda Lila
Head of IPA management fund
Unit Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure
of the Republic of Albania

Ms. Lila pointed out how SAGOV has helped in designing the work of Albanian institutions for better project planning and how it has directly supported the institutional cooperation for a transport connectivity project, as a vessel traffic monitoring information system in Albania. In her opinion, the most relevant matters of the project were the feasibility study of the Adriatic-Ionian Highway and a joint application with Montenegro. She also mentioned one of the main outputs of the SAGOV project, the establishment of the web-based connectivity platform with the data obtained from Albania, Montenegro and Italy.



Claudio Polignano
Apulia Region, Delegation for Balkans area

Responsible for the operational link between the regional and foreign institutions, with particular reference to the Balkan and Mediterranean area. He is Manager of the Antenna of Tirana, an integral part of the Coordination of International Policies of Apulia Region and National Contact Point for the Program ENI CBC MED.

The geographic position of Apulia Region is also an European gateway for the other Mediterranean countries and Balkans. The Apulia Region, with its transport infrastructure, remains the main node that connects Italy and Europe with the southeast Balkans and Black Sea Region. Our Cooperation has a good basis; a good example is the Memorandum of Understanding signed in April 2020, among Apulia Region and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy of Albania and the Ministry of Transport and Maritime Affairs of Montenegro for a more efficient governor system between the territories, in the framework of the Connectivity Agenda in the south of the Adriatic area.

PANEL 3

THE ROLE OF SOUTH - ADRIATIC PORTS IN THE GLOBAL TRANSPORT CONNECTIVITY NETWORK

The final panel of the two-day forum focused on the key role of South - Adriatic ports in the global transport connectivity network. The panel took place under the moderation of **Mr. Enrico Fardella, T.wai - Torino World Affairs Institute.**



Mr. Fardella is Tenured Associate Professor at the History Department of Peking University (PKU) and Director of PKU's Center for Mediterranean Area Studies. In this capacity, he jointly works with TOChina Hub as director of the ChinaMed Project and Area Director of the ChinaMed Business Program.

Mr. Fardella faced the role of the South Adriatic Ports in the global transport connectivity network. This framework is meant to analyze the fundamental role of Puglia, Albania and Montenegro as a gateway, not only in the Balkans and Italy, but also in some fundamental crossroads in the global connectivity network, that can exponentially boost the movement of goods and people from the East towards the heart of Europe, and viceversa.

PANEL MEMBERS



Mr. Giuseppe Garofalo
General Director at ASSET
Apulia Region

Giuseppe Garofalo is a transportation engineer at ASSET (Strategic Regional Agency for the Sustainable Development of the Territory) of Apulia Region. He worked for 10 years in hydrogeological instability, managing the flood risk mapping for an Italian area in the Apulia Region.

Mr. Garofalo presented ASSET, the Strategic Regional Agency for the Sustainable Development of the Apulian territory, that deals with strategic planning for which Puglia is spending its resources. He also underlined how big is the infrastructural gap of the Puglia Region compared to Northern Europe, a deficiency that should be reduced with the new European funds, in order to enhance those strategic hubs, such as the vast area of Taranto and Brindisi, which are important for the whole Mediterranean.



Mr. Pirro Vengu
CEO at the Durres Port Authority
of the Republic of Albania

Mr. Vengu stressed the importance for Albania of becoming more regionally competitive, improving capacity building; associating all the countries of the Region to align their maritime regulations with European directives and obtain private skills to solve logistical problems, so that Albania can become a more attractive country.



Mr. Lucas Bosser
Director for Transport and Accessibility
at Conference of Peripheral Maritime
Regions. (CPMR)

Mr. Bosser discussed the importance of cooperation and cohesion on a human level, which has always accompanied Countries and the difficulties that the lack of connectivity brings to all of us. Therefore, it is essential to prioritize this area, create investment projects that would increase the hub's efficiency in connectivity and develop an efficient connectivity model.



Mr. Alessandro Panaro
Director of Maritime and Mediterranean
Economy department at SRM
(Studi Ricerche Mezzogiorno)

Alessandro Panaro is a transport economist, with particular reference to ports, shipping and logistics. Head of the Research Area of SRM (Intesa Sanpaolo Group) called "Maritime & Energy". Coordinator of Research and Reports that have seen the participation of Italian, foreign Universities and Research Centers including the Universities of Rotterdam, Copenhagen, Bremen, Hamburg and Antwerp, the Shanghai International Shipping Institute, Certet Bocconi, Prometeia, Bank of Italy.

Mr. Panaro discussed the position of China, its Belt and Road Initiative and also the insistence that China has in the Mediterranean territories such as Piraeus, Valencia, Suez, Turkish ports and Israeli ports, as a result of a stable and flow strategy, allying with other companies. Puglia has a strong propensity by sea, constituting 47% of exports with major partners not to be missed, such as the USA and China. Bari and Taranto, with their strategic position, have led Turkish companies to make investments in Turkey, Malta and Tunisia. To date, Taranto, based on a model developed by SRM - Studies and Research for Southern Italy, is a Port 6.0, that bases its development strategy on drivers that represent the main competitive growth assets of the Ionian port: innovation, sustainability, intermodality, logistics, internationalization and territorial marketing.

The key highlight of this session was attributed to the new initiative "Center of Excellence on Maritime Affairs" - between Durres Port, in collaboration with the Permanent Secretariat of the Transport Community, the Cooperation and Development Institute (CDI Albania) and the University of Durres. Durres Port aims to become a regional port, at the service of North Macedonia and Kosovo and in connection with the Apulian ports.

The panelists also highlighted that Ports that will incorporate ZES (Economic Special Zones), an integrated governance approach need to adapt to the post Covid19 situation. This method will define ports in the South Adriatic Area.

ADRIATIC CONNECTIVITY FORUM

PROMOTING CONNECTIVITY IN SOUTH ADRIATIC AREA



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connectivity.cdinstitute.eu



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SAGOV project is co-financed by the European Union under the instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II). This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro Programme. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of Puglia Region (Italy) and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union, of the Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro Programme Authorities or of any other party.



REGIONE
PUGLIA



Evropski pokret
Črna Gora

