



**EUROREGIONE ADRIATICA  
JADRANSKA EUROREGIJA  
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European Commission  
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B – 1049 Brussels  
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12 January 2010

***ADRIATIC MACROREGIONAL INITIATIVE IN ANSWER TO THE  
CONSULTATIONS "EU 2020" LAUNCHED FROM THE EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION AND THE "WHITE PAPER ON MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE"  
LAUNCHED FROM THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS***

Hereby the Adriatic Euroregion will contribute to the Committee of the Regions debate through the use of the White Paper on Multilevel Governance with some ideas drawing on its own experience.

Particularly, We want to emphasize on the points, listed in the White Paper, that are:

- The EU tendency to the development of macro-regional policies;
- The need to strengthen and develop the territorial cooperation;
- The regional dimension of the European neighborhoods policy;
- The need to strengthen the territorial assemblies (meetings) at political and operational level and in terms of qualify partnership;

- The need to involve networks, organizations and associations of local and regional bodies in the operational roles of the territorial cooperation;
- The need to enhance the community effectiveness through juridical tools of negotiation  
( such as territorial pacts, tripartite agreements and EGTC);
- The opportunity to improve the EGTC also updating its policy code;
- The need to enhance the institutional participation and representation of local bodies in decisional making processes.

With regard to this we mark:

**1.**We share the EU Policies strategic approach on macro-areas and we wish the development of it all over the EU territories with homogenous features. Potentially, this approach enables to pool (join) the EU policies ( cohesion, neighborhood, environment, etc..) breaking the national borders in order to promote the coordination of the actions within the sector-based programs. The territorial homogeneity and the development problems of some areas break the national, regional and local borders and could find solution in one supranational context, particularly the community one.

**2.**In this context, the participation of the cross-border cooperation bodies, the networks and the associations with common territorial features is fundamental in the community policies achievement. However, these actors and other ones should be more involved in the direct management of the EU macro-areas policies through the institutional improvement of the EGTC or other active partnerships ( territorial pacts, tripartite agreements).

**3.**We wish that the EGTC can be " intermediate body" between the EU, the MS (member states) and the Neighborhood Countries; thus the EGTC should be able to schedule, execute and manage the macro-areas territorial cooperation policies, inside and outside the UE borders, and to suggest community actions in homogeneous territories if there will not be a macro-area strategy;

4. Moreover, we wish the European associations of regional and local authorities and the EGTC can (play an institutional role) be represented in the Committee of the Regions.

5. In order to strengthen the Multilevel Governance the Adriatic Euroregion promotes the involvement of the civil society: the political mobilization should not be represented only by the elites of government (both national and local), but also by the population. To do this, it is also necessary consider those "alternative" risen movements especially in those border territories where such need is more strong and whose objective is that the cross-border cooperation - and particularly the Adriatic Euroregion- consider some requests "from the lower part" too.

Adriatic Euroregion agrees with the Committee of the Regions to affirm it's absolutely necessary to develop territorial cooperation potential in order to achieve the economic, social and territorial cohesion targets (aims).

With regard to this, AE considers the possibility to constitute into GECT.

In fact, the GECT aim is " facilitating and promoting the trans-border, trans-national and/or inter regional cooperation among members in order to reinforce the economic and social cohesion".

GECT institution answers the necessity to create territorial cooperation fitting tools so that territorial authorities of different states can form cooperation homogeneous groups with legal status.

In this way, the territorial cooperation concept assumes a central importance in European integration process, including also the States that are about to join, thanks to a normative corpus that codifies its working, even if there is a different national disciplines situation.

AE takes pleasure in pointing out the EU inner strategy steered into a macro regions develop.

AE intends to make Members will known to Committee of the Regions – on the occasion of Multilevel Governance consultation – and to European Commission – on the occasion of EU 2020 future strategy consultation. In fact, Members' will is to create a develop strategy based on macro Regions in regard to Adriatic Sea, that is involving regional and local actors, since its beginning.

In the occasion of the V AE Assembly on 22 of October in Split, the Adriatic Euroregion took the "Initiative Paper for a common Adriatic strategy" unanimously. The goal is to realize a strategy that can coordinate politics of multilevel development for the protection and valorisation of the territorial resources of the whole Adriatic area. The potential priorities are: the search of integrated solutions for the management of the coasts and the sea, the implementation of a shared and sustainable management system of the fishing activities, the definition of strategic lines for the rationalization of material and immaterial infrastructural networking between Europe and Western Balkans, the training of public officials of the territorial corporate body of the Countries of South-oriental Europe, the sharing of development politic in an unitary point of view for the environmental and energetic resources in the area. Such strategy can surely be an example of Multilevel Governance to involve the Countries of South-East Europe in the definition of a common way toward a best valorization of the Adriatic system and an opening to the dialogue with the other macro-regional areas that the EU aims to sustain in the future.

We appreciate and share the White Paper purposes (intents) and contents and we confide in the achievements of the debate launched by the Committee of the Regions in order to contribute to the European integration process.

About the involvement of the EA to the open consultation of the EU Commission on the thematics of its own paper of vision to 2020, in which a reflection has been proposed on the results of the Strategy in Lisbon and Goteborg from 2000 to today, and proposals are suggested for the Spring Council, with the purpose to renew and to update priorities, methods and systems of governance, the Adriatic Euroregion intends to contribute to the debate with the following considerations:

- on the consultation method, it notices that the times to elaborate an answer and to reflect on thematic so important as the redefinition of a future strategy for the sustainable competitiveness of the European system are absolutely inadequate, as acknowledged from different parts (EESC); it notices that territorial corporate bodies of local and regional level and stakeholders of the civil and social world have been set on the same plane, but they don't play the same role in the public decision on territorial development and territorial dimension of the politics of cohesion;

- the document of the Commission seems not to recognize at the regional institutional level the role that the Treat instead makes explicit. In fact, against generic declarations on the necessary interaction among institutional levels and on intervention, to harmonize and to integrate for the real operability of the new strategy, the Regions are sporadically quoted and there are no considerations regarding the new role, more active and involved, that they have to play in the system of governance of the reform strategy of the European economy, if it wishes indeed that it has concrete relapses on the territory which is reported. If it is true that the system of multilevel governance is already in action, and only through the ownership of the regions it is possible to check the efficiency and effectiveness of the public politics of sustainable development of the territory and to manage the reforms according to an harmonic approach that guarantees positive relapses, then the document of the Commission doesn't overcome the c.d. "paradox of Lisbon" and it doesn't propose any useful alternative to give great efficiency and to allow an evaluation of the measures of reform takings within the Strategy;

- about the contents of the proposal of vision to the 2020 of the Commission, the Adriatic Euroregion agrees with the Committee of the Regions in what it affirmed in the opinion 25/2009 –chairman: Chapman- in particular at the points **13** (invitation to integrate in the strategy the objectives and commitment of the climatic changes), **30** (necessity of the involvement of the local and regional corporate bodies in the definition, realization and evaluation of the strategy), **32** (necessity of good coordination and cooperation between levels of government and valorization of the regional dimension of the strategy), **35** (invitation to include the strategy in the mandate of the Commission and the Parliament) and **40** (auspice of a direct involvement of the regional corporate bodies in the determination of objectives and indicators of the strategy).

Finally the AE highlights that a strategy at macro- regional level for the Adriatic basin, developed from the lower part, that is the territorial corporate bodies that participate in the same Euroregion, and careful to the integration and harmonization of the demands of the area, is able to be that a vehicle and tool of promotion of the principles of the territorial cohesion and the multilevel governance in the involved territories, from various geo-political and economic situations and from very different territorial identities aiming to constitute a macro-area with real possibility of sustainable development, and able to dialogue with other macro-regions to guarantee flexibility and integrated approach, but careful to the territorial specificities, to the sector-based

problems list and the great challenges of the Europe. The macro-region could be a privileged place for the institutional comparison and the sharing of the priorities of development of the whole basin, toward the definition of functional politics in strategic sectors as the fishing, the management of the seaport areas, the nets of cultural and environmental goods, the infrastructural and logistic nets, as well as the immaterial ones and related to the search and knowledge. The macro-region can and must dialogue with the Baltic area, with the Danubian area, and propose itself as conjunction among the logics of development of the Mediterranean and those that move the European centre of mass to the Balkans and the East; the macro-region can guarantee to the institutions of the European system a constant and profitable contact with its territory, that is the only system to have control of the situation and to evaluate the effectiveness of the reform measures and the politics of development and cohesion.

Finally the Adriatic Euroregion agree with the application elaborated in the Italian State-Regions Conference to assure and to confirm a suitable financial support suddenly, and in the years to come, to the politics of cohesion, also counting, if possible, additional specific resources, in order to rationalize and to reduce the priority objectives of the strategy, with the purpose to guarantee its maximum effectiveness.

Yours sincerely,

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