



COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

STATUTE OF THE ADRIATIC EUROREGION

Based on the Protocol on the Establishment of the Adriatic Euroregion signed by representatives of international organizations, state, regional and local authorities in Europe at the international conference held on 09 November 2004 in the Town of Termoli (the Republic of Italy) and Article 11. of the Associations Act (the official gazette of the Republic of Croatia "Narodne novine" no. 88/01 and 11/02), the Assembly – Council of Adriatic Euroregion at the session held on 30 June 2006 in passes

THE STATUTE OF THE ADRIATIC EUROREGION

Preamble

Proceeding from stages leading to the creation of the Adriatic Euroregion, in particular:

- "**The Declaration of Opatija**" adopted on the initiative of the Littoral-Mountain Region, Istria Region, Dubrovnik and Neretva Region and the Autonomous Region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia, in the course of the "Adriatic summer school" of the Assembly of European Regions held in the year 2002 in Opatija with the subject "Contribution of the regions to the process of viability - innovative practice for innovative policies of regional development"
- The decisions of the meeting of the presidents of the Croatian Adriatic Regions with the participation of the representatives of the Italian Region of Molise, held in **Mošćenička Draga**, Littoral-Mountain Region, 25 October 2003
- The report (CLRAE - AER) on common activities for the interregional collaboration: aims and results of the Summer school of the Assembly of European Regions and of the Program Centurio - Congress of the local and regional authorities of the Council of Europe
- conference held in **Pula** on 28 June 2004 which confirmed the need of promoting activities of collaboration among regions,
- seminar held in **Dubrovnik** on 06 September 2004 defining a series of sectors such collaboration includes (fisheries, environment, agriculture, tourism and culture, infrastructure and transportation), without excluding the possibility of adding other future fields of work;
- conference in **Chioggia** from 22-24 September 2004 organized by the Parliamentary Assembly entitled "Towards Sustainable Development of the Adriatic: Collaboration Among Local and Regional Institutions" resulting in great consensus and winning a wide participation of Parliamentary members from various parts of the region,
- conference in **Termoli** from 08-09 November 2004 at which the representatives of regions and municipalities of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Italy, Serbia and Monte Negro and Slovenia signed "The Protocol on the Establishment of the Adriatic/Ionic Euroregion" and considered the first draft of the Statute of the new institution;
- conference in **Pula** dated 22 April 2005 at which the Provisional Council of the Adriatic Euroregion adopted the first draft of the Statute;
- seminar in **Brussels** dated November 2005 entitled "Adriatic Euroregion: Means for European Integration" aimed at presenting the initiative to the European Union and getting its support;

- convention in **Venice** dated 06 February 2006 which shaped the initiative by signing the common political declaration with the enclosed draft of the Statute of the Euroregion.

CHAPTER I. GENERAL REGULATIONS

Article 1.

Foundation and objectives

The Adriatic Euroregion (hereafter referred to as: the AE) is the association of units of territorial self-governments, as a rule of the first level below state level in the area of the Republic of Italy, the Republic of Slovenia, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Monte Negro and the Republic of Albania situated on the Adriatic Sea and of national and international institutions.

The AE members shall, in joint activities, works towards stimulating, improving, and realizing the development in the area of the AE aimed at creating a perspective of improving the quality of life and standard of its inhabitants.

The AE members work aiming at the following goals:

- establishment and development of relations of inhabitants and institutions of the area as premises for a more knowledge, better understanding and collaboration,
- creation of premises for the development of economy in harmony with the environment, definition of common development interests, preparation, definition, and coordination of a joint development strategy,
- creation of the programme of cultural exchange,
- securing premises for a successful flow of experience and its application on the EU programmes.

Article 2.

Title, legal status, and official languages

The AE works under the title: Euroregione Adriatica Jadranska euroregija, Jadranska Evroregija, Euro Rajoni Adriatik.

The head office of the AE is in Pula, Ul. Flanatička 29, the Republic of Croatia.

The AE has the quality of nonprofit legal entity in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Croatia.

Official languages of entities of the AE are languages of the AE member countries.

Standing Orders relating to its work shall regulate working languages of bodies of the AE.

Article 3.

Symbols of the AE

The AE has its sign, flag, logotype, and seal.

Sign of the AE is square, consisting of 9 parts. The base of the lower half of the square is dark blue, and the upper half is light blue. Inside the two-colour square is a white outline closing the square field (also two-colour) containing the drawing of six white fish. The six fish symbolize six countries surrounding the Adriatic Sea.

Flag of the AE is rectangular and horizontally divided into two equal fields with the sign AE written in the centre. The relation of the width and the length of the flag is 1:2

If the flag is turned vertically, it is permitted to have the relation of sides 1:4.

Logotype of AE is rectangular and green within which is a white outline closing the rectangular field containing the white text: ADRIATIC EUROREGION, EUROREGIONE ADRIATICA, JADRANSKA EURO REGIJA, EURO-RAJONI ADRIATIK.

Seal of the AE is round, 38 mm in diameter, in its centre is the sign of the AE-“JE”, along the border is the title ADRIATIC EUROREGION, EUROREGIONE ADRIATICA, JADRANSKA EURO REGIJA, EURO-RAJONI ADRIATIK.

Article 4.

Representation

The AE is represented by the President of the AE, or by his/her Vice-President or the person replacing him/her in the case of absence in accordance with provisions of this Statute.

Article 5.

Principle of equal territorial representation

The AE guarantees all its members equal geographic representation within its bodies.

With this objective, entities of the AE equally represent the west, east, north, and south part of the Adriatic.

Article 6.

Public recognitions

The AE awards public recognitions for the work aimed at the promotion of objectives and for extraordinary achievements and contribution of particular significance for the development of activities in the domain of work of the AE.

Public recognitions the AE awards, their look and shape, the criteria and the procedure of their awarding are defined by the Assembly in compliance with provisions of Article 17.

Article 7.

Publicity of work

Acts and work of the AE are public.

The AE secures the publicity of its work through reporting to the AE members about all performed activities and public work of sessions of its bodies.

Publicity of work of the AE is also realized through publishing its own publications, in accordance with the resolution of the authorized body.

CHAPTER II. ACTIVITY OF AE

Article 8.

Activities

With the objective of reaching the goals defined by this Statute, the AE:

- organizes joint activities aimed at promoting the richness and diversities making up the unique value of togetherness,
- organizes and encourages the development of collaboration in the area of preserving the Adriatic as a valuable natural resource, traffic and communication, agriculture, fisheries, tourism, and cultural values,
- undertakes activities geared at promoting and participating in joint projects.

CHAPTER III. ASSOCIATION AND MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Article 9.

Acquisition of membership status

The AE members can be regular or honorary members.

Regular member of the AE can be any unit of territorial self-government on the Adriatic Sea which passes the act on joining the AE membership, usually based on the criteria of representation of the first level below state level.

Honorary members are State Governments, The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, the European Commission, the European Parliament, and the Committee of Regions.

Any unit of territorial self-government on the Adriatic Sea can be an observer, based on the criteria of representation of the first level below the state level that did not pass the act on joining the AE membership.

Supporting institutions are units advocating active collaboration in the realization of objectives of the AE.

Observers and supporting institutions do not have membership status.

Observers and supporting institutions can participate in the work of the Assembly of the AE without the right of voting.

Article 10.

Joining procedure

Joining procedure begins following the submitted application of the authorized administrative entity of a territorial unit, organization, or institution of the candidate stating the intention to join the AE and taking the obligation to accept the Statute as the fundamental act of the organization.

The Assembly of the AE considers and decides about joining the membership.

Based on a positive decision, it signs the solemn Joining Statement with the new AE member.

Article 11.

Legal succession

In the case of a change of status which changes borders or identity of a unit territorial self-government that is an AE member, the membership in the AE is transferred to the unit of local or regional government that shall become the legal successor of that particular member.

In case of formation of another member of territorial government in the area of a member that is not its direct legal successor, it is necessary to initiate a new acceptance procedure at the demand of that unit.

Article 12.

Rights and obligations of members

Rights, obligations and responsibilities of the AE members are the following:

- participating in the definition of the common policy and programme of the AE,
- deciding about funds and property of the AE and other issues defined by this Statute,
- agreeing and collaborating with the objective of realizing common goals,
- participating in activities of shared interest,
- electing and being elected in bodies of the AE,
- being timely and regularly informed about the work of the AE and its bodies, and about the financial business of the AE,
- complying with the provisions of this Statute and other acts of the AE.
- preserving and promoting the reputation of the AE.

Members participate in financing of the AE; honorary members participate in financing the AE voluntarily and without obligations.

Standing Orders shall regulate the rights and obligations to be applied to the members, the observers, and the supporting institutions of the AE.

Article 13.

Termination of membership

Membership in the AE ceases due to:

- termination of existence of the AE,
- termination of existence of the territorial unit of an AE unit in cases defined in Article 11. Subsection 2,
- withdrawal based on written statement by the AE member,
- exclusion of an AE member.

Membership to a single AE member can be terminated through its exclusion only with the prior decision of the authorized body, in the case that it works against the objectives of the association defined by this Statute, or that it causes serious damage to the existence of the association.

CHAPTER IV. MANAGING THE EUROREGION

Article 14.

Bodies of the AE

Bodies of the AE are the following:

1. The Assembly
2. The President
3. The Executive Board
4. The Supervisory Board

Article 15.

Assembly

The Assembly is the representative and the highest body.

The Assembly consists of legal representatives of units of territorial self-government of the members of the Adriatic Euroregion.

Each representative of the member has the right of one vote at the AE Assembly.

Each member appoints one representative and one deputy of the representative.

The title of the Assembly is Adriatic Council.

The Assembly of the AE shall make the decision about the number of representatives of the members and about its structure.

Status of representatives of the members of the Adriatic Council is acquired by submitting the written act of appointment on the part of the authorized body of the members in accordance with procedures prescribed in each country.

Article 16.

Work domain and competence

The Assembly of the Euroregion:

a) passes:

- amendments to the Statute of the AE,
- the internal Standing Orders
- the annual programme of the AE,
- the financial plan and the annual financial statement,
- resolutions on admitting new members and awarding the status of observers or supporting institution,
- decision on awarding public recognitions of the AE,
- any other act not explicitly entrusted to other bodies according to this Statute;

b) elects:

- the President and Vice-President of the AE,
- the Supervisory Board,
- members of commissions,
 - members of the Executive Board of the AE;

c) considers:

- the realization of the programme of activities and other acts of the AE,
- reports about the work of bodies of the AE,
- other issues significant for the work of the AE,

d) defines:

- undamental elements of the AE work policy contained in its programmes,
- manner of securing, distributing, and using funds used by the AE in reaching its goals.

Article 17.

Sessions

The Assembly holds regular sessions at least once a year, as a rule every time in a different member.

The session of the Assembly is convoked by the President of the AE at his own initiative, following the argued decision of the Executive Board, the Supervisory Board, or if the majority of AE Assembly members proposes a motion.

The session of the Assembly is chaired by the President of the AE, or by the Vice-President if the former is absent.

The Assembly can elect a working presidency and entrust it with chairing the session.

The manner of constituting, convoking, and setting up the internal organization of the Assembly shall be regulated in the Standing Orders relating to work of the Assembly.

Article 18.

Decision-making

As a rule, the Assembly makes decisions by unanimous vote of present members, except in cases when this Statute or Standing Orders relating to its work prescribe a different majority.

Article 19.

President and Vice-President

The AE has a President and a Vice-President.

The President and the Vice-President are elected by the Assembly for the period of two years in the manner that the President and the Vice-President must be from different countries of the two Adriatic coasts.

The President and the Vice-President can be elected as such for only one mandate as President and Vice-President. The first President and Vice-President elected on the occasion of the constitution of the AE have the initial mandate of twelve months, after which they can be reelected for the following two-year term.

The President convokes and chairs the sessions of the Assembly and the Executive Board, signs their acts, coordinates the work of bodies of the AE, represents the AE, and performs other works defined by this Statute.

The internal Standing Orders shall define the manner of electing future presidents.

In case of his/her absence, the President shall be substituted by the Vice-President.

Article 20.

Executive Board Structure

The Executive Board is the executive body of the AE consisting of eight members.

The Executive Board is elected by the Assembly for the term of two years, in compliance with provisions of the Standing Orders relating to the work.

The first Executive Board shall be elected for the same duration planned for the first mandate of the President and the Vice-President.

Out of the eight members, the President of the AE and the Vice-President are members of the Executive Board by their position.

Article 21.

Liability of Executive Board

The Executive Board is liable for its work to the Assembly within the limits of its authorization and the duties entrusted to it.

The Executive Board or each of its members can be revoked if they:

- do not fulfill the duties defined in this Statute,
- act against provisions of this Statute and guidelines determined by the Assembly.

The mandate of individual members of the Executive Board shall be terminated if the unit of territorial self-government s/he represents is no longer an AE member.

Article 22.

Tasks of Executive Board

The Executive Board:

- secures the implementation of this Statute, other acts and guidelines determined by the Assembly,
- implements the financial plan, cares about the proper use of funds and the adoption of implementation decisions,
- organizes and coordinates the collaboration with other organizations,
- follows the work of commissions and considers their proposals,
- edits and organizes publishing and informational activity of the AE,
- appoints the secretary of the AE Office,
- defines the organization of performing professional works of the AE and adopts the respective acts,
- performs works entrusted to it by the Assembly necessary for a regular functioning of the AE, using the existing structures acting in the area of cross-border collaboration.

Article 23.

Sessions of Executive Board

The Executive Board holds regular sessions at least once in six months and every time in a different member.

Decisions of the Executive Board shall be in effect provided the presence of the majority of its members.

The Executive Board is convoked by the President of the AE by his/her decision, or at the demand of the Vice-President, or else when it is demanded by one third of the members of the Executive Board or the Supervisory Board.

Standing Orders relating to its work shall define the course of work of the Executive Board.

Article 24.

Permanent Commissions

Constituting, competence, the procedure of appointment and the duration of the mandate of members of commissions and their members shall be defined by the decree of the AE Assembly.

Article 25.

Supervisory Board

With the objective of securing its proper functioning, the AE establishes the Supervisory Board.

The Supervisory Board has the President and two members elected by the Assembly for the term of two years.

Members of the Supervisory Board cannot be members of the Executive Board at the same time.

The President and members of the Supervisory Board can be revoked under the terms and in the manner prescribed for the Executive Board and its members.

Article 26.

Activities of Supervisory Board

The Supervisory Board supervises the implementation of acts adopted by the bodies of the AE and the regularity of material and financial business activities.

The Supervisory Board submits a report about its work and results to the Assembly.

CHAPTER V. SECRETARY'S OFFICE OF THE EUROREGION

Article 27.

Secretary's Office of the Euroregion

The Secretary's Office of the AE helps in the works of bodies of the AE and performs only professional, administrative, and technical works for the AE.

The Secretary's Office of the AE is based in Pula (the Republic of Croatia) Ul. Flanatička 29 and in Brussels (Belgium) Rue de Toulouse 47

The executive board shall regulate the organization and the manner of work of the Secretary's Office.

It is not possible to transfer the authorities and the responsibilities of bodies of the AE to the Secretary's Office regarding works set out in Subsection 1. of this Article.

CHAPTER VI. FINANCING

Article 28.

Funds

For reaching goals defined in Article 1. of the Statute, the AE secures funds from the following sources:

- membership fee of each member, in the manner defined by the Assembly
- international and other funds intended for financing projects and other activities,
- grants, donations, and other contributions,
- other.

CHAPTER VII. STATUTE

Article 29.

Statute of AE

The Statute is the fundamental general act of the association, and all other general acts have to comply with the provisions of the Statute.

The interpretation of provisions of the Statute is made by the Executive Board.

Changes and amendments to the Statute of the AE can be proposed by each AE member, and by each AE body.

Changes and amendments to the Statute and other general acts of the AE are made by the Assembly.

CHAPTER VIII. PASSING AND FINAL REGULATIONS

Article 30.

Founding Conference

The Assembly is constituted at the founding conference after the election of the President by the representatives of units of territorial self-government on the Adriatic Sea, as a rule based on the criteria of representation of the first level below state level, which passed the act on joining the AE membership, provided that the act on joining the AE was passed by at least three AE members from three different countries set out in Article 1. of the Statute.

Article 31.

Termination of existence of the AE

The AE ceases to exist when it is decided by the majority of members of the AE Assembly, or when only members of one country stay in it due to withdrawal of other members.

Article 32.

Taking effect

This Statute takes effect on the day of its adoption.

Act number 4/2006

Pula, 30 June 2006

ASSEMBLY OF THE ADRIATIC EUROREGION

President
of the Adriatic Euroregion
Ivan Jakovčić