



# 4PILLARS

For Promoting an Innovative multi-Level  
governance System of EUSAIR

# Online Magazine

## September 2016



The IPA Adriatic CBC Programme is co-financed  
by the Instrument of Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)





## Ancona, 2 September 2016

### Conference: "Adriatic Ionian Macro-region, Cohesion for development"

Following the Intermediate Steering Committee held in Ancona on 1st September, where Partnership met to analyze and discuss the state of the play of project's activities, events and outputs, Marche Region, as partner of 4PILLARS, project financed by the IPA Adriatic CBC Programme, promoted a local event that took place in Ancona on 2nd September, in the framework of the Conference "Adriatic Ionian Macro-region, Cohesion for development". The conference was organized as a preparatory event to the "Open Days", to be held in Brussels in October 2016, annual event in the European capital to promote the Union's cohesion policy, anticipated by moments of depth on the territory.

The Conference aimed at presenting the current EU-SAIR state of the art by focusing on PILLAR 2 "Connecting the Region" perspective and on the results

achieved by the ETC projects carried out by Marche Region.

Cohesion for development and innovative logistics, but also young people, culture, subsidiarity to build a European identity through the territorial cooperation were the matters debated at Ancona's "Mole Vanvitelliana".

During Panel 1, the debate focused on the state of the art regarding the implementation of the EUSAIR (Pillar 2 "Connecting the Region") and of the European Territorial Cooperation Programmes.

The second Panel was centred on the strategic project "EASY CONNECTING", financed by the IPA Adriatic CBC 2007-2013, that is also one of the projects capitalized by 4PILLARS, pursuing the strategic goal of strengthening the cross-border cooperation in order to improve the organization, services, infrastructures of all multi-modal freight transport, for a more sustain-





nable and efficient network.

During the Conference, some of the most relevant outputs and results produced by the regional working team were also presented. A territorial analysis of the main infrastructural bottlenecks and transport service inefficiencies was carried out on the basis of an interview conducted with more than 400 local companies working in the field of logistic. The analysis led to the elaboration of a proposals' pack for the enhancement of local transport services. An interesting study about new intermodal logistic solutions and services, such as Reverse Logistics, was also elaborated, showing the potential benefit of the sector for the regional economy. A further project's outcome consists in the commitment to harmonise different ICT standards to foster the integration of maritime mobility in the Adriatic-Ionian area.

The panel discussion that followed brought together Institutional representatives and logistic and transport experts to reflect on the infrastructural opportunities offered by intermodal transports. Main findings that arose from the panel discussion stressed the importance to invest in the intermodal sector in order to meet



the ambitious challenge of increasing mobility while reducing gas emissions (in compliance with the new EU comprehensive strategy "Transport 2050"), to support an effective implementation of the EUSAIR pillars and to further strengthen the future economic development of both the regional territory and the whole IPA area. These recommendations represent a useful contribution to design an effective common strategy on transport and logistics at European level.



## Hangzhou (China), 4-5 September 2016

### International G20 Summit



G20 leaders met in Hangzhou, China, on 4-5 September. European Council President Donald Tusk and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker represented the EU at the summit. This year, China holds the rotating Presidency of the G20. The theme of this year's summit was "Towards an innovative, invigorated, interconnected and inclusive world economy".

Leaders adopted a communique focusing on:

- strengthening the G20 growth agenda
- pursuing innovative growth concepts and policies
- building an open world economy
- ensuring that economic growth benefits all countries and people

On the migration and refugee crisis G20 leaders agreed on the need for global efforts to address the effects, protection needs and root causes of the crisis. They called for strengthening humanitarian assistance and refugee resettlement.

On the fight against terrorism, leaders reaffirmed their solidarity and resolve and their commitment to tackle terrorist financing.

The summit also highlighted the importance of joining the Paris Agreement on climate change as soon as possible.

The world's leading economies expressed their determination to use all policy tools, including monetary, fiscal and structural, to achieve strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth. To this end, they launched the Hangzhou action plan and called for swift

and full implementation of the growth strategies. The summit also initiated cooperation on innovation, the new industrial revolution and digital economy. Leaders endorsed the G20 blueprint on innovative growth, encompassing policies on these areas. They discussed how to continue building an open and resilient financial system and supporting international tax cooperation. Leaders also committed to enhance an open world economy and promote the benefits of trade and open markets, as well as to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

The 12th edition of the G20 summit will be hosted by Germany in 2017.



In the margins of the summit, Presidents Tusk and Juncker met with Recep Erdogan, President of Turkey, to discuss EU-Turkey relations and continued co-operation on migration.

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Brussels, 7-8 September 2016

*Interinstitutional Conference on the future financing of the European Union*

Interinstitutional Conference  
with National Parliaments on the

# FUTURE FINANCING OF THE EU

BRUSSELS,  
7 - 8 SEPTEMBER 2016

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT,  
József Antall Building,  
Room JAN 2Q2

On Wednesday 7 and Thursday 8 September, the Interinstitutional Conference with national Parliaments on the future financing of the European Union, organised within the framework of the High Level Group on Own Resources (HLGOR), took place at the European Parliament in Brussels.

The High Level Group on Own Resources (HLGOR) was established in February 2014 with the task of reviewing the current system for how Member States contribute to the EU budget and proposing

“more transparent, simple, fair and democratically accountable ways to finance the EU”. The Group is chaired by former Italian Prime Minister and European Commissioner Mario Monti, along with representatives from each of the three EU institutions (Commission, Council and European Parliament). On Thursday 5 February 2015, Monti presented the Group’s first assessment of the current system of financing the EU budget to the EP’s Committee on Budgets (BUDG). The Group is expected

to deliver its final recommendations by the end of 2016, after which the Commission will decide whether or not to propose legislative initiatives to amend the current procedure, known as the Own Resources system. Any proposal would require adoption by unanimity in Council plus ratification in each national Parliament. The European Parliament (EP) would be consulted but not required to give its consent.

Currently, the EU is funded from three main sources (three types of “Own Resources”):

- Traditional Own Resources, comprising customs duties on imports from outside the EU and sugar levies;
- VAT-based resources, comprising a percentage (around 0.3%) of each Member State’s standardised value added tax (VAT) rate; and
- Gross National Income (GNI)-based resources, comprising a percentage (around 0.7%) of each Member State’s GNI.

Furthermore, the EU receives



money from other sources such as bank interest, fines and contributions from non-EU countries. There are also a number of “correction mechanisms”, designed to re-balance excessive contributions by certain Member States. These include the UK’s rebate, as well as lump-sum payments or reduced VAT call rates for certain countries.

EP President Martin Schulz opened the Conference and welcomed all delegates. Before handing over to Mario Monti, Chairman of the High Level Group on Own Resources, Schulz gave his own view that any new system for financing the EU should have:

- more transparency: it should be easier to see and understand how much each country contributed;
- more clarity: there should be a “logical link” between political projects, such as Energy Union, and the EU financing made available;



- more democracy: the new system should be subject to scrutiny by the European Parliament;
- greater efficiency: income should be linked to projects for which financing had already been pledged, to ensure the sustainability of EU projects.

During Session I, debate focused on the role of the EU budget: in essence, what it should and should not be used for. The second Session centred on the strengths and weaknesses of the

current Own Resources system, and what a new system of funding the EU could look like.

The final session was opened by Lolita Čigāne (European Affairs Committee, Latvian Saeima), who spoke about the need to have trust and confidence in the EU budget.

Mario Monti said that the Conference was a “listening project”, intended to hear the hopes, concerns and suggestions of those who would ultimately decide on the new system: national Parliamentarians.

[www.europarl.europa.eu](http://www.europarl.europa.eu)  
[www.ec.europa.eu](http://www.ec.europa.eu)



## Strasbourg, 14 September 2016

### EU Commission President's State of the Union Address 2016

Every year in September, the President of the European Commission delivers his State of the Union speech before the European Parliament, taking stock of achievements of the past year and presenting priorities for the year ahead. The President also sets out how the Commission will address the most pressing challenges the European Union is facing.

On Wednesday, 14 September 2016, the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, addressed the European Parliament in his annual 'State of the Union' speech. This debate dominated the plenary session in Strasbourg on 12-15 September.

The State of Union address, which is delivered by the President of the European Commission every year in September, takes stock of the European Union's (EU) political, economic and social situation and sets out the actions and initiatives the European Commission intends to take in the following year. It also provides the initial framework for the European Commission's work programme for the following year, which will be agreed by between the Commission, the EU Council and the European Parliament in the coming weeks and will outline a detailed list of initiatives to be proposed in the near future.



In his speech, Juncker acknowledged that the EU faced an "existential crisis" and called for a more united and stronger Union, advocating for more integration particularly within the socio-economic sphere and in the area of defence and security.

The Commission President outlined his intention to push forward a range of proposals to strengthen the EU and help it cope with the various challenges it is currently being presented with, ranging from proposals to deepen security and defence co-operation, to ambitious copyright and telecommunications reforms, to measures to increase investment in strategically important projects by doubling the scope and duration of the European Fund for Strategic Investment (EFSI).

In his State of the Union Speech, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker focused on the following priority actions and initiatives to be proposed by the European Commission:

- European Defence and Security: proposal to create a permanent EU military and defence structure, a single headquarters for EU operations and common military assets. The proposal – the President assured - would be developed in full complementarity with the transatlantic cooperation in NATO. The President also highlighted that the lack of cooperation between EU countries within the defence and security sphere costs the EU between €20 billion and €100 billion a year; establishment of the European Border and Coast Guard; creation of a European Defence Fund; reinforcement of Europol, by providing it with better access to the Member States' databases and more resources - particularly to counter terrorism.
- Economic and Fiscal integration: Acceleration of the work on the Capital Markets Union (CMU); strengthening of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI); application of the Stability and Growth

Pact; implementation of the EU General Data Protection Regulation, adopted by the EU institutions in May 2016; revision of Europe's copyright rules; reform of the European telecommunications markets; abolishment of the mobile roaming charges; ensuring fair taxation across the European Union.

- Europe after Brexit: Triggering of official negotiations on Brexit. President Juncker stated that the EU deeply regretted the decision of the UK to leave the Union, but that such a decision must be respected. He further called on the UK to formally notify the EU of its intention to leave as soon as possible. He also noted that, in order to gain access to the EU's internal market, the UK will have to accept the four freedoms - namely the free movement of goods, capital, services, and people; white Paper on the future of the EU: the European Commission will set out its vision on the future of the EU in a White Paper in March 2017, in time for the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, taking into account the political and democratic challenges that the Union of 27 will face in the future.

- Social Europe: Further development of the EU Youth Guarantee. With this tool the European Commission intends to increase opportunities for young people and tackle youth unemployment; creation of the European Solidarity Corps, which would allow young people across the EU to volunteer their help where it is needed most, in response to crisis situations like the refugee crisis or the recent earthquake in Italy.

- EU as a global player: launching of an Investment Plan for Africa and the Neighbourhood with the potential to raise billion in investments; enhancement of the role of the High Representative to become a European Foreign Minister; designing a European Strategy for Syria; reiteration of the EU's commitment to Free Trade and the commission intention to push forward with the ongoing free trade negotiations and the recently reached agreements; implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Juncker called Member States to swiftly implement the Paris



agreement on Climate Change, stating that slow delivery on promises may undermine the EU's credibility on the global stage.

This speech has been the European Commission's contribution to the informal summit of Heads of State or Government which was held in Bratislava on September 16, in fact, the first European summit "post Brexit" to which he was not involved in the UK. It also kick-starts a dialogue with the European Parliament and Council to prepare the Commission's 2017 Work Programme.

[www.europa.eu](http://www.europa.eu)





## Brussels, 21 September 2016

### European Days of Transborder Cooperation

European Cooperation Day was celebrated for the fifth consecutive year across the European Union and its neighbourhood on 21th September and the surrounding week, in order to highlight the achievements through territorial cooperation. This initiative was aimed to promote territorial cooperation and highlight its achievements towards citizens of Europe and beyond.

Many cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation programmes organised an event during that week for people who are normally not involved in EU-related activities. Furthermore, these events were an opportunity to exchange experiences and opinions and for a relaxed get-together of representatives of various institutions.

In the past four editions, people cycled together, sang together, ate



together and had a good time in hundreds of local events in over 30 countries. With the motto "sharing borders, growing closer" they all celebrated cooperation and learnt how various projects reduced obstacles and disparities among their communities and helped improve people's lives along the many borders within Europe and beyond. This year, over 700 local events

took place in Europe and beyond, where more than 70 Interreg, Interreg-IPA CBC and ENI CBC programmes have been actively involved in the organisation.



The European Cooperation Day campaign was coordinated by the INTERACT Programme with the support of the European Commission, European Parliament and Committee of the Regions.

[www.interact-eu.net](http://www.interact-eu.net)  
[www.ecday.eu](http://www.ecday.eu)





## Brussels, 22 September 2016

### Conference: "Vulnerability and protection of migrants"

A Conference on the protection of migrants co-organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) took place on 22 September 2016 at Solvay Library in Brussels.

The aim of the event was to stimulate the debate on migrants' vulnerabilities and to address the needs and challenges related to their protection in light of the current migration crisis.

Migration is a global phenomenon. Worldwide, the number of migrants continues to grow rapidly, reaching 244 million in 2015 according to United Nations figures. In Europe, over a million migrants arrived in 2015, a trend which is only set to continue. Migration can be voluntary or involuntary, but most people act on a combination of choices and threats. These threats include widespread persecution, armed conflict, and other situations of violence, insecurity and poverty.

Regardless of the reasons for migrating, people can become vulnerable at many stages of their journey as they travel from their home countries, often through numerous other countries. Migrants transit through areas of armed conflict or other situations of violence. Many get stranded. And all along their route, they make easy targets for abuse and exploitation, while



facing countless other risks. Even those migrants arriving safely in countries of destination, endure great hardship during their journey that can affect their physical integrity and mental health. Every year, thousands of migrants disappear or die along the way. Migrants who have left or fled their homes are frequently viewed in terms of sheer numbers and a potential source of insecurity. Yet, the securitization of borders, criminalization of migration and resort to detention as a deterrence measure do not prevent people from starting a journey; they create greater hardship and suffering. As conflicts rage and secure channels to reach safe ground become scarcer, migrants will continue to turn to the few options they are afforded – however risky these may be. The risks people are ready to take are somehow proportional to the threats they are fleeing.



This conference, coming in the wake of the UN Summit on Refugees and Migrants, and days ahead of the planned meeting of the European Union Justice and Home Affairs Council, explores issues related to the vulnerability and protection of migrants, together with security concerns. Dealing with this issue from different institutional perspectives, the ICRC and the EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) aim to provide new spurs to this important debate.

[www.eu-events.eu](http://www.eu-events.eu)

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