

Key outcomes of the first Summit of the Adriatic Ports' Presidents

Tomislav Batur - President of Croatian Association of Port Authorities

As you know yesterday there have been the 1st Adriatic Ports' Presidents Summit, a joint initiative started from Croatian Port Authorities, Assoporti Italian Ports Association and Risposte Turismo.

Presidents from Croatia, Italy, Montenegro and Greece were attending in person with further connected online.

*For this first Summit we decided to start with a discussion on one of the wider and more relevant topics for the future of Adriatic maritime tourism: **the relation between port-cities** with the new opportunities and challenges of managing passengers coming by the sea.*

*What most strongly emerged is that **running a port and a city must always be an open dialogue to better welcome cruise, ferry and nautical tourists**: cities provide the cultural background while ports provide the infrastructure to make it technically possible.*

Further objectives and topics will be decided in advance before each summit and might include support to cruise & ferry traffic in the Adriatic, studying sustainable maritime tourism models, integrating ports as part of the touristic assets of the territory, engaging local communities and stakeholders.

***We agreed and signed a declaration of intent** yesterday, already 13 Presidents signed it with the news of Corfu that declared its intent to join and sign the declaration, thus recognizing the importance of this cooperation.*

We are also really happy that ESPO joined us and signed the declaration and shared the same objectives and this will raise to 15 the number of signatories.

*It is not our intention to create new associations or structures but our intention to continue to share information, best practices and meet, at least once a year keeping the networking while **facing common issues**.*

Here during Adriatic Sea Forum an enthusiastic beginning of a new future cooperation for the Adriatic was shared among all Presidents.