

## DECLARATION OF INTENT

### DECLARATION BY ADRIATIC PRESIDENTS OF PORT AUTHORITIES DURING THE FIRST SUMMIT HELD DURING ADRIATIC SEA FORUM 2023 IN DUBROVNIK ON 4 MAY 2023

Today the first Summit of Adriatic Presidents of Port Authorities has been held in Dubrovnik coinciding with the sixth *Adriatic Sea Forum – cruise ferry sail & yacht*.

The new initiative has been made possible thanks to the collaboration among Assoporti - Italian Ports Association, Croatian Association of Port Authorities and Risposte Turismo, the organizing company of *Adriatic Sea Forum – cruise ferry sail & yacht*.

The Presidents of the Adriatic Port Authorities are committed to undertake joint initiatives and actions, subject to each respective regulations, and to give proper attention to some common issues: for each possible field of cooperation the role of every single port is crucial but joint efforts can generate unexpected positive results.

For this first Summit the organizers and the Presidents 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**. Ports should have a more proactive role in the dialogue both with shipping companies and with the city, towards a sustainable approach to maritime tourism. Recognizing the uniqueness of each port-city relationship, there are common issues in Adriatic that can be addressed together. Issues such as the use of waterfronts in particular with many ongoing redevelopment projects in Adriatic, the importance of a sustainable mobility between the city and the port areas enjoyed by tourists, and the potential of the promotion and valorisation of the Adriatic port cultural heritage as an asset to reinforce both the relation with local communities and to welcome tourists and travellers.

Further objectives and topics will be decided in advance before each summit and might include, but not be limited to, the following ones: 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.

Today's participants believe **it is in their mutual interest of giving continuity to this common action** and to establish at least an annual moment of in-person meeting. The general framework of cooperation foresees the sharing of best practices to facilitating and generating new maritime tourism business in Adriatic. Such new business would help to increase the present level of economic growth in the region as well as increasing job opportunities.

This declaration does not entail any liability for one party to the other.