



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL EDUCATION
AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

*Chairmanship
of the Adriatic – Ionian Initiative*

ROUND TABLE
EDUCATION AND INTER-UNIVERSITY COOPERATION

REGULAR SESSION OF THE CONVENTION
ATHENS, GREECE
15 MAY 2002

JOINT STATEMENT

We, delegates and participants from the member countries of the Adriatic – Ionian Initiative (All) of the Convention of the Round Table “Education and Inter-University Cooperation”, convened in Athens at the regular session of the Convention, chaired by Professor Dionyssis Kladis, Secretary for Higher Education of the Hellenic Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs, on 15 May 2002.

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION the principles described in the two Ministerial Declarations of Ancona and Split as well as the commitments of the Participants of the Ravenna Declaration on the establishment of the Inter-university network UNIADRION and the development of common research and training projects aiming to promote regional dialogue and cooperation for well-balanced development, stability and integration, in view of the enlargement of the European Union.

TAKING ALSO INTO CONSIDERATION the decisions adopted in the first session of the Convention of the Round Table “Education and Inter-University Cooperation”, held in Corfu Island on 29-30 September 2001, as well as those adopted in the meeting of the Steering Committee of the Round Table, which took place in Athens on 15 December 2001.

AWARE of the fact that this Round Table is the only way for the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative to invest on education, training and manpower development in the area through the necessary synergies.

HAVING CONCLUDED that the thematic content of the Round Table is "education" and that "inter-university cooperation" is the means to reach its objectives.

AIMING at securing and strengthening the cohesion of the Adriatic – Ionian Initiative.

WISHING to improve the conditions for the active involvement of all the countries - partners, so that they gain full benefit of the cooperation and to ensure the equality in partnership.

HAVE DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The participating countries will continue their efforts in order to improve the inter-university cooperation in the framework of the Round Table, on the basis of the approved principles and rules, aiming at the achievement of the objectives of the Round Table, focusing on the priorities set and following the approved procedures.
2. The participating countries will encourage close links between inter-university cooperation and inter-regional cooperation, which are expected to realise through the development of common project proposals on a wider basis, aiming at supporting regional development needs of the wider geographical area.
3. The participating countries recognise the UniAdriatic Network as the only relevant programme realised in the framework of the Round Table and support its initiatives related with the development of projects of research and training of personnel in fields such as culture, heritage, sustainable economic development and development of transport, agriculture and tourism.
4. The participating countries will seek for synergy, coordination and complementarity between the initiatives of the Round Table and the activities carried out by other regional Organizations and Initiatives present in South Eastern Europe and / or Central Europe, as well as those envisaged by the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe and the European Union.
5. The participating countries will invite the European Commission to play an active role by offering available structural and assistance instruments to support the activities of the inter-university cooperation.
6. The participating countries will stress their efforts in order to assure for the financial support of the activities of the Round Table.