



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FORUM  
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## Short Sea Shipping in the Adriatic and Ionian Basin Observatory Project

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ANCONA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
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### OBJECTIVES OF THE OBSERVATORY ON SHORT SEA SHIPPING

Short sea shipping is a key European Union priority representing: an alternative to the very saturated road transport mode; an opportunity to strengthen economic ties between different regions; a tangible opportunity for growth in the transport modes in relation to the future demand factor. Thus, short sea shipping should become an integral part of the logistic chain and door-to-door solutions.

The future success of short sea shipping depends on various factors. The most important being the development and expansion of trade between countries and the effective competition with other modes of transport especially road transport. However, statistics related to these factors are incomplete.

An Observatory could provide useful strategic information to public agencies and maritime operators in order to promote and stimulate short sea shipping by studying and analysing the following key areas:

1. Prospects and Dynamics of Short Sea Shipping in the Adriatic and Ionian Basin: the present and future potential market

Firstly, it is necessary to know the characteristics and potentials of the market. This requires periodical reports on the commercial traffic between the regions and countries shipping in the Adriatic/Ionian basin (The Balkans, south-east Europe, north-central Europe) with particular emphasis on the entity and nature of trade and the modes of transport used.

2. The competitiveness of the Adriatic seaports

The Observatory should monitor the competitiveness of the short sea shipping sector considering the following points:



- Cost effectiveness: compare short sea shipping costs to road transport costs;
- Maritime transport quality: study and analyse types of ships; routes; time schedules; travelling time; shipping quality and reliability;
- Quality of port terminals: analyse the infrastructure performance; embarkation / imberkation and docking times; services; use of technological innovations and platform logistics.

### 3. Specific analysis of the socio-economic impact on the ports in the Adriatic/Ionian basin

These studies, conducted in a methodological manner with frequent updates, can provide valuable benchmarks for political economic decision making, on all levels, by administrators and politicians.

#### **THE ANCONA VENTURE/ENTERPRISE**

Over the past years, the Chamber of Commerce and the Port Authority of Ancona have recognised the growth of short sea shipping in the Adriatic basin and henceforth a remarkable growth in short sea shipping in the port of Ancona has taken place. The University of Ancona and ISTAO have carried out the following preliminary studies on short sea shipping<sup>1</sup>:

- A study on the maritime traffic in the Adriatic/Ionian basin countries.  
The international shipping between the ports of the Adriatic/Ionian basin provides reference for short sea shipping market. This maritime "connection" has two main functions:
  - It is a direct import and export service originating between the countries of the basin (local function);
  - It represents only a part of the corridor and a component of the intermode system (basically road-ferry with ro-ro traffic that connect Northern Central Europe to Southeastern Europe (transit traffic)

The studies analyse the volume, the dynamics and the nature of trade for the last ten years particularly the traffic between Italy and Greece which was characterised by a tremendous growth at the onset of the nineties.

- In 2002, an update was carried out on the economic impact on the local maritime traffic at the Port of Ancona for the year 1999. The economic benefits of this traffic, compared to the social- environmental costs, provide an essential element for strategic collaboration for the future growth and development of the port and the city of Ancona. It is of particular importance the infrastructure policy and the allocation of national and international spending.

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<sup>1</sup> Camera di Commercio Industria e Artigianato di Ancona – *Il porto di Ancona: prospettive di sviluppo e vincoli territoriali* - 2000



## **PROPOSALS**

The Chamber of Commerce of Ancona desires to consolidate its experience in order to create a permanent Observatory in collaboration with other Chamber of Commerces in the Adriatic/Ionian basin.

Three strategics points to finalize:

- The specific objectives of the Observatory on short sea shipping and the priority of analysis based on needs of individual countries;
- Organisational procedures for collecting and managing information on the ports of the basin. The hypothesis is that the Chamber of Commerces should play an active role in these procedures;
- To become promoters together with other institutions/government agencies for funding of the Observatory and specific studies.