



European Committee  
of the Regions



# Towards a multimodal Adriatic-Ionian route connected to the Tyrrhenian sea



## Event type

Digital local  
dialogue

## Date

24.06.21

## Initialising member

Marco Marsilio

## Audience

Local and regional bodies, transport industry actors

## Organiser

Abruzzo Region, ECR group, European  
Committee of the Regions

## Partners

DG MOVE,  
European  
Commission

## Themes

European Year of Rail; land and maritime transport



## Speakers

- **Marco Marsilio**, President of the Abruzzo Region
- **Barbara Morgante**, Director General Abruzzo Region
- **Jorge Delgado**, Secretary of State for Infrastructure, Portugal
- **Herald Ruijters**, Director, Investment, Innovative & Sustainable Transport, DG MOVE, European Commission
- **Alberto Mazzola**, Executive Director of CER (Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies), Member of EESC/CCMI Committee
- **Vincenzo Macello**, Head of Investment Dpt of RFI and Government Commissioner for some major railway investments
- **Sergio F. Garribba**, European Adriatic-Ionian Macroregion (EUSAIR) - Coordinator for thematic steering group TSG.TSG 2 Connecting the region: Energy
- **Francesco Cocco**, Secretary General of the Euroregion Adriatic Ionian (EAI)
- **Ugo Patroni Griffi**, President of the Authority of Harbour System "Southern Adriatic Sea"
- **Pino Musolino**, President of the Authority of Harbour System "Central-North Tyrrhenian Sea"
- **Mauro Alessandri**, Councillor of the Lazio Region
- **Francesco Baldelli**, Councillor of the Marche Region
- **Donato Toma**, President of the Molise Region
- **Michele Emiliano**, President of the Puglia Region
- **Jean-Pierre Halkin**, European Commission - DG REGIO
- **Emidio Primavera**, Director of the Infrastructure and Transport Dept of the Abruzzo Region
- **Maxmilian Di Pasquale**, General Manager of the Trasporto Unico Abruzzese
- **Mosè Renzi**, General Manager of the Interporto d'Abruzzo S.p.a.
- **Emanuela Grimaldi**, Director of the Presidency Dept of the Abruzzo Region
- **Carmine Cipollone**, Managing Authority ERDF/ESF of the Abruzzo Region
- **Iris Flacco**, Land and Environment Dept of the Abruzzo Region
- **Gino D'Ovidio**, University of L'Aquila
- **Alessandro Morelli**, Deputy Minister for sustainable infrastructures and mobility, Italy



## Press/Social media coverage

### Media coverage

[COR Press Release](#)

### Website

[FutureofEurope](#)

[Conference Platform](#)

### Social Media

[#EU\\_CoR](#)

[twitter](#)



## Increasing Adriatic-Ionian transport options

Citizens and experts took part in the event "Towards a multimodal Adriatic-Ionian major line with multiple connections to the Tyrrhenian coast", staged by the Abruzzo Region in collaboration with the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) as part of the European Year of Rail 2021. Connecting from L'Aquila and Brussels, speakers included president of the Abruzzo Region and CoR member Marco Marsilio; Portugal's secretary of state for infrastructure, Jorge Delgado representing the Portuguese Council presidency; the director for Investment, Innovative & Sustainable Transport at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE), Herald Ruijters; and Italy's deputy minister for infrastructure and sustainable transport, Alessandro Morelli.

The local event was part of DG MOVE's official programme for the European Year of Rail 2021 and is supported by the Commission for Cohesion Policy and EU Budget (COTER) of the European Committee of the Regions.

Building on the objectives of the Green Deal (decarbonisation of transport and promoting a modal shift to rail) and the promotion of social, economic and territorial cohesion, the aim of the initiative was to disseminate information to the public and businesses about planned and ongoing projects and interregional cooperation on the Adriatic-Ionian rail line, as the backbone of an intermodal and interconnected transport system.

Among those taking part in the first panel, "Connecting Regions", was Alberto Mazzola, executive director of the CER (the European-level Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies) and member of the European Economic and Social Committee. The second panel, "Cooperating among Regions", brought together the president of the Abruzzo Region, Marco Marsilio, the presidents of the regions of Molise and Apulia, Donato Toma (CoR member) and Michele Emiliano, and the Lazio Region's mobility minister, Mauro Alessandri. President Marsilio's conclusions followed an address from Alessandro Morelli, Italy's deputy minister for infrastructure and sustainable mobility.

The videoconference tackled in particular the issues of integration between different modes of transport, especially green and smart modes, and the use of state-of-the-art and sustainable fuel technologies such as hydrogen. To end, there was a presentation of the missing links in the current European transport corridors and the opportunities that may arise from their inclusion in the TEN-T network:

- promoting employment
- improving territorial cohesion
- reducing emissions
- raising awareness of environmental sustainability.

In his speech, the president of the Abruzzo Region, Marco Marsilio, proposed to the European Commission, as part of the TEN-T review process, that it consider the major Adriatic line and the lateral line towards the Tyrrhenian coast, stressing Abruzzo's ideal logistical position and the huge potential for attracting new industries and businesses.

*"Abruzzo's centrality in commercial and tourist traffic in the Mediterranean cannot be ignored - he said - Building up Abruzzo's ports will serve to expedite the transport of goods and people, thereby boosting employment and increasing competitiveness for production. Abruzzo calls on the European Commission to review the TEN-T networks, from which the European Mobility Corridors derive, and in particular to extend the Baltic-Adriatic corridor to the entire major Adriatic line, so as to link it, in Apulia, to the Scandinavian-Mediterranean Corridor and create a branch of the latter from the Iberian Peninsula to the Balkans via the port of Ortona."*

