

The representatives of the following local authorities:

- **The municipality of Dubrovačko primorje;**
- **The City of Dubrovnik;**
- **Herceg Novi;**
- **Konavale;**
- **Kotor;**
- **Neum;**
- **Ravno;**
- **Tivat;**
- **Trebinje;**
- **The County of Dubrovnik-neretva;**
- **The Municipality of Dubrovačka župa;**

In cooperation with the representatives of

- **The Igman Initiative;**

With the support of

- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro,**
- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and**
- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia;**

And with the respectable presence of Ministers of Internal Affairs of:

- **Montenegro – Mr. Milan Roćen,**
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina – Mr. Sven Alkalaj and**
- **The Republic of Croatia – Mr. Gordana Jandrokovića,**

As well as representatives of the international community and donors;

On the basis of:

- **The Joint Statement of Ministers of International Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Croatia, signed in Neum, from 27 April 2007, and on the basis of**
- **The Joint Statement of Ministers of International Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Croatia, signed in Dubrovnik, from 5 May 2008,**

In the best faith, and with the aim of further promotion of good neighborly relations through the realization of jointly selected and coordinated projects of local communities situated in trilateral regions,

Shall sign

THE JOINT STATEMENT

On Cooperation on the Realization of Joint Cross Border Projects from the Scope of Work of the Commission for Cross-border Cooperation in Case of Natural and Other Catastrophes and in the Area of the Natural Resources Management

In accordance with the Joint Statement from Dubrovnik, during the period of the Montenegrin presidency (from 5 May 2008 to 8 July 2009), local authorities established the Commission for Cross-Border Cooperation in Case of Natural and Other Catastrophes and in the Area of the Natural Resources Management (hereinafter: Commission).

In the period of the Montenegrin presidency, five meetings of the representatives of participants in the Initiative were held: the meeting in Kotor, on 23 June; in Herceg Novi, on 21 July; in Tivat, on 15 October 2008, Herceg Novi, on 14 April and 8 July 2009, which resulted in the adoption of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, and when the following projects were initiated, formulated and agreed:

- **»The Project of Integrated Firefighting Protection of Cross Border Areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Croatia «;**
- **»Border Monitoring of tri lateral border region of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Croatia“;**
- **»Roads of Historic Heritage«;** and
- **»Project of Cross Border Information Networking «.**

The representatives of local governments confirmed their interests in mutual cooperation in the agreed areas and emphasized the need for the realization of joint projects as soon as possible, while they highlighted, in particular, the need for urgent action in the area of anti-fire protection.

Participants in the Initiative have also declared their full openness for the new project ideas and readiness for their continuous evaluation, harmonization and realization, in the widest possible basis.

The Statement is not a legally binding document, but it is established on the voluntarily and interests basis.

The statement refers to, but is not limited to, the areas of cooperation, which are covered by the local governments' signatories and defined as possible scopes of work of the Commission:

- 1. Natural Resources Management**
 - a. Water Resources Use and Protection**
 - b. Monitoring and Protection of the Sea**
 - c. Ecology and Environmental Protection**
 - d. Energy Industry**
 - e. Waste Management**
- 2. Cross Border Interventions in Emergencies**
 - a. Anti Fire Protection**
 - b. Other Natural Catastrophes and Ecological Incidents**
- 3. Enhancement of Economic Cooperation**
 - a. Regional Development of Tourism**
 - b. Renovation of Other Modes of Economic Cooperation**
 - c. Establishing Traffic Lines between Towns/Municipalities Signatories**
- 4. Mine Clearance**

Fields and scopes of work of the Commission may be changed and amended according to the needs and interests of parties participating in the Commission, exclusively on the bases of the agreement and consensus of all the members of the Commission.

Financial Support for the Realization of Joint Projects

The presiding country over the Initiative of trilateral cooperation, in a transparent procedure, shall establish and maintain contacts with the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) and its Secretariat based in Sarajevo, with the aim of informing RCC regularly on the Commission's work and activities and in particular with the aim to nominate joint projects of cooperation in order to gain financial support for their implementation.

The presiding country over the Initiative shall do its best to promote agreed projects among international and other donors in order to provide for financial support for their implementation.

The presiding country shall inform in writing all the participants in the Initiative of its activities' achievements directed to third parties – potential donors, with the aim to provide for financial support for the realization of the above-mentioned joint projects.

The presiding country shall submit minutes from all the meetings of the Commission held during its presidency to the participants in the Initiative.

In Herceg Novi, 8 July 2009

For the County of Dubrovnik-neretva:

For the City of Dubrovnik:

For the Municipality of Dubrovačko primorje:

For the Herceg Novi municipality:

For the Konavle Municipality:

For the Municipality of Dubrovačka župa:

For the Kotor Municipality:

For Neum:

For the Ravno Municipality:

For the Tivat municipality:

For the Trebinje Municipality:
