

Zagreb, 12<sup>th</sup> of March 2014

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Members of tourism parliamentary committees,  
Representatives of international institutions and organizations,

It is a great honour for me to invite you on behalf of the Croatian Parliament to the **European Inter-parliamentary Conference** on sustainable tourism which will be held in Croatia in September 2014.

Croatia is a country of rich cultural heritage and preserved nature well-known on the world tourist map as a desirable holiday destination with active holiday opportunities. Just like the other countries which are well aware that tourism is an important and perspective part of national economy Croatia feels great responsibility for sustainable development of tourism too.

Being the youngest European Union member state Croatia intents to further improve cooperation and exchange of best practices in that field with EU member states and other countries especially its neighbours both at the level of tourism expertise and at the level where development politics and laws are created and adopted. Possibility of intensified multilateral cooperation among EU national parliaments certainly represents a huge and insufficiently explored scope.

In this respect Tourism Committee of the Croatian Parliament has launched the initiative inviting representatives of EU parliamentary committees responsible for tourism as well as South East European accession candidate countries and potential candidate countries to meet for the first time in order to exchange opinions and experiences at the Inter-parliamentary Conference: **“Challenges of sustainable tourism: promoting cultural heritage and environmental protection”**. Representatives of respectable international institutions and organizations have also been invited to the Conference.

Croatian Parliament will do its best to be a good host hoping that the European Conference would open new perspectives of harmonization and development of national politics related to sustainable development of tourism.

We expect you in September with an open heart as dear friends.

Welcome to Zagreb and to Mali Lošinj, welcome to Croatia.

Josip Leko  
SPEAKER OF THE CROATIAN PARLIAMENT