

*Un legame che è passato indenne  
attraverso periodi tumultuosi della storia europea,  
che non hanno tuttavia alterato i vincoli  
di amicizia e stima fra i nostri due popoli \**

SERGIO MATTARELLA  
*President of the Italian Republic,  
on the occasion of the inauguration of the  
interconnection Italy – Montenegro, 15/11/2019*

Cooperation and friendship between Montenegro and Italy has existed for centuries, thanks to the Adriatic Sea that has always represented the bridge between our nations, cultures and economies. The two countries established diplomatic relations 140 years ago, in 1879; and were connected over the aether in 1904, when Italian scientist Guglielmo Marconi set up a wireless telegraphy link between Bari in Italy and Antivari (Bar) in Montenegro. He won a Nobel Prize five years later. Friendship flourished further when the Montenegrin beautiful princess married the Italian future-King Vittorio Emanuele III of Savoy, so becoming the Italian Queen Elena of Montenegro. It is thanks to Italian partnerships that the port of Bar began construction in 1905: it remains today one of the largest ports in the Adriatic.

New times have brought new models of cooperation. Our countries have cooperated for decades in different areas and have accomplished impressive results through economic, cultural and scientific cooperation. The existence of the Adriatic Region encourages the promotion of economic growth and intensifies cooperation between our countries in their efforts to become more competitive in the international environment. Italy has always been not only supportive, but also a very rich and generous resource of expertise and knowledge for our country. The two countries have gained an excellent level of cooperation, not only in political matters, but also in quite different spheres, such as energy, culture and science. Joint projects will further strengthen the framework of cooperation and of trust between our peoples and

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\* 'A bond that has passed unharmed through turbulent periods of European history, leaving unchanged the links of friendship and esteem between our two peoples'.

countries, and will make the Adriatic not only a place fostering a dynamic exchange of goods but also nurturing a strong network of knowledge and information, one that will be able to compete with even the most developed regions of the world.

Cooperation of Montenegro with the CNR officially started in 2013, with the signing of the Agreement of Cooperation with the Montenegrin Ministry of Science. I was honoured, as Minister of Science at the time, to put my name to the agreement along with Professor Luigi Nicolais, former President of CNR. It is more than clear that this friendship and cooperation with CNR will endure, under the chair of Professor Massimo Inguscio, thanks to enthusiasm of scientists and researchers from both sides, particularly Dr Lucia Alberti, Dr Tatjana Koprivica and Dr Slavko Burzanović. Recent agreements on cultural cooperation between the CNR and the Montenegrin Ministry of Culture will offer important opportunities to the Montenegrin scientific community and will continue to build new bridges of collaboration between our countries.

Sanja Vlahović  
*Ambassador of Montenegro in Italy*