

## ΥΠΑΡΧΗΓΟΣ ΣΤΟΛΟΥ

### ADRION LIVEX 2017-INTRODUCTION STATEMENT

- On behalf of the Chief of the Hellenic Navy, let me welcome you all in Crete on the occasion of the LIVEX phase of ADRION 2017.
- Mr Ambassador - your Excellency- let me also welcome you in ADRION Distinguished Visitors Day and congratulate you and our Slovenian colleagues on yesterday's Croatian and Slovenian Statehood Day. We really appreciate your presence here today; it's a great honor for us and for ADRION LIVEX.
- Let me also congratulate the Chief of the Montenegrin Navy for the very recent accession of Montenegro to NATO. Against this background, I have to emphasize the fact that as of this June all ADRION Nations are full NATO members; this obviously has a symbolism of its own, which should not be missed by anybody!
- Dear Distinguished Visitors , representatives of the Press, Ladies and Gentlemen, the history of my country is interwoven with the history of the Western Balkans as well as of the Italian peninsula, an area in which Greece along with your countries have played a major role down through the centuries.
- At this point, allow me to stress that my nation pursues the consolidation of stability, security and development, through the establishment of good neighborly relations and respect for international law and order.
- Within this framework, ADRION nations' pursue of stability through the establishment of regional platforms led to the Adriatic Ionian Initiative and its main pillar, the ADRION

- Maritime Concept. This concept acts as an enabler for our countries to take our collective share of responsibility in tackling regional challenges as appropriate and necessary.**
- **It is also worth mentioning that the importance of cooperation amongst ADRION nations has been addressed in the recent EU strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian region, approved by the European Council in October 2014. This strategy aims at promoting sustainable economic and social prosperity in the region.**
  - **Furthermore, ADRION should also be seen as a test bed in terms of both interoperability and Concept operationalization. The Adriatic and Ionian seas constitute a virtual bridge connecting our peoples' need to act collectively, and this is where ADRION Navies are called upon to ensure the maritime added value of such a commitment.**
  - **In this respect, ADRION ships have already been integrated in the On Call Maritime Force – the OCMF – (which represents the new concept for ADRION), and will be deployed in the NW area of Crete to conduct a Maritime Multinational Exercise. More details will be presented by the OCMF Commander - Captain Tsarmaklis- under his capacity as Commander Hellenic Frigates Squadron Two.**
  - **To conclude, I am confident that ADRION 2017 will promote even further regional cooperation and will cement synergies among our navies. It goes without saying, that no Nation can act in isolation in addressing effectively contemporary challenges, and this is something we should always bear in our minds.**
  - **Last but not least and referring to the Commanding Officers of the ships, my wish to you, your officers and**

**your crews would be to enjoy the time you are going to spend at sea, and I encourage you to provide your feedback on how ADRION-LIVEX should be further improved.**