



ADM

AGENZIA DELLE DOGANE E DEI MONOPOLI
DIREZIONE GENERALE
UFFICIO RELAZIONI INTERNAZIONALI

PRESS RELEASE

ADM, STRENGTHENING SECURITY IN THE ADRIATIC SEA: LAUNCH OF THE ADRIACUSTOMS PROJECT TO COMBAT FRAUD AND ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING

Rome, April 19, 2024 – The launch conference of the *Adriacustoms* project was successfully concluded in Rome at the headquarters of the Customs and Monopolies Agency (ADM). This initiative, co-financed by the European Anti-Fraud Office (Olaf), aims to strengthen cooperation in the Adriatic sea area among the customs administrations of Italy, Albania, Croatia, Montenegro, and Slovenia. Delegates from participating countries expressed great satisfaction with the organization of the event and the topics addressed.

The main focus of the project was on the security of commercial movements and travelers in the Adriatic sea, as well as the fight against fraud and the trafficking of illicit goods such as weapons and drugs. On the sidelines of the conference, the Director of the International Relations Office of ADM, Minister Plenipotentiary Andrea Mazzella, met with the heads of delegations from Slovenia and Croatia.

During the first meeting, the Director of the Slovenian customs department, Boris Kastelic, expressed his appreciation for the *Adriacustoms* project and emphasized the broad possibilities for intensifying cooperation with ADM to ensure the success of the initiative and greater regional collaboration in the Adriatic area.

Subsequently, a meeting was held with the representative of the Croatian delegation, Marijana Bukić, who expressed the strong interest of the Croatian Customs Administration in working together on cooperation projects for third countries in the Balkan area.

In both meetings, Director Mazzella reiterated ADM's firm commitment to promoting international cooperation and facilitating the exchange of information and best practices among the partner countries in the Adriatic region. Collaboration between customs administrations is essential to ensure security and combat illicit activities.

The next of the five subsequent meetings planned for *Adriacustoms* will be held in June in the city of Bari.