



CPMR Balkan & Black Sea Regional Commission Activity Report 2014-2015

During the last General Assembly of the Balkan and Black Sea Regional Commission (BBSRC) in Edirne (Turkey), on the 13th of June 2014, of the General Assembly adopted the [Final Declaration of Edirne](#). The General Assembly was preceded by the kick-off meetings of the Working Groups on Business Cooperation (Sinop, Turkey) and Tourism (Central Macedonia, Greece).

Further to the Final Declaration of Edirne, the General Secretariat of the CPMR contacted the European Commission Directorates-General for Regional and Urban Policy, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Enlargement, Development and Cooperation-EuropeAid, Enterprise and Industry, asking to work closely with them in order to cope with the needs and the particularities of the wider Black Sea area. In the same context, a letter asking for a more active sectoral dialogue partnership was sent to the Hellenic Chairmanship-in-Office of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC).

On the 26th of June 2014, in Brussels (Committee of the Regions), a representative from the CPMR Secretariat attended the conference titled “**EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region** and Synergies with the EU Direct Funding Programmes” organised by Molise Region (Italy) in the framework of AdriGov Project.

On the 17th-18th of July 2014, in Brussels, a representative from the CPMR Secretariat observed the fifth meeting of the Joint Programming Committee for the **Black Sea Basin ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020**. The CPMR has supported the request of the Region of North Aegean (Greece) to be included in the cooperation area, by contacting the managing authority of the

programme (Romanian Ministry in charge of Regional Policy) and the European Commission (DG DEVCO).

On the 2nd of September 2014, a delegation from the North Anatolian Development Agency (Turkey) met with the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General, Ambassador Dr Victor Tvircun. Among the topics discussed, Mr Berkol Alevli, Adviser to the CPMR Secretary General for questions relating to the Turkish Maritime Provinces and Metropolitan Municipalities, Coordinator of Sinop Investment Support Office of the North Anatolian Development Agency, and coordinator of the BBSRC Working Group on Business Cooperation, mentioned possible cooperation with the CPMR/BBSRC.

During the Pre-Assembly Meeting of the BBSRC in Umeå (Sweden), on the 24th of September 2014, the rules of procedure were amended and henceforth Mr George Siscu, Vice-President of Tulcea County Council and 3rd Vice-President of the BBSRC, was the Acting President of our Commission until the election of the new President of the BBSRC.

On the 10th of October 2014, in Brussels (European Commission – DG MARE), the CPMR Secretary General, Mrs Eleni Marianou, met with Mrs Beate Gminder, Head of Unit, and discussed a study proposal on coastal and maritime tourism prepared by the CPMR and the University of the Aegean/Research in Shipping and Ports Laboratory. Further information on the study is expected during 2015.

On the 23rd of October 2014, in Athens, the CPMR was represented during the meeting of the Ministers of Tourism of the Member States of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), by its Secretary General, Mrs Eleni Marianou. The CPMR Secretary General declared that “tourism is one of the greatest assets for the wider Black Sea region and an instrument to enhance regional cooperation”, and took the opportunity to present the recent activities of the CPMR and its BBSRC to the Minister of Tourism of the Hellenic Republic and exchange views with the Secretary General of the BSEC, Ambassador Dr Victor Tvircun.

On the 18th of November 2014, in Brussels, the CPMR Secretary General, Mrs Eleni Marianou participated in the Launch Conference of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR) organised by the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, in cooperation with the European Commission, and together with the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative and Marche Region (as Presidency of the Adriatic-Ionian Interregional Group in the Committee of the Regions).

Between November 2014 and February 2015, the BBSRC Secretariat in accordance with the coordinators of the Working Groups on Tourism and Business Cooperation – the Region of Central Macedonia and Sinop Governorship respectively – released the draft Action Plans for the 2015-2016 period to the BBSRC members for consultation.

On the 20th of January 2015, in Brussels, the CPMR Vice-President – Regional Councillor of Crete in charge of European and International Affairs, Mr George Alexakis, participated in the Conference titled **“Smart cooperation in coastal and maritime tourism - Encouraging transnational partnerships through clusters and networks”** organised by the European Commission (DG MARE – DG GROW). Mr Alexakis made a presentation titled “Encouraging transnational partnerships through clusters and networks”. A representative from the BBSRC Secretariat attended the conference.

On the 27th of February 2015, in Nantes (France), during the CPMR Political Bureau, the application of the Region of North Aegean (Greece) for CPMR/BBSRC membership was accepted.

On the 5th - 6th of March 2015, in Brussels, the Regional Councillor of Central Macedonia in charge of Tourism, Mr Georgios Tsalonis, represented the CPMR at the 3rd Parallel Workshop titled **“Challenges and Opportunities for Cruise Tourism in the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea”** of the **“Pan-European Dialogue between cruise operators, ports and coastal tourism stakeholders”** organised in Brussels on 5-6 March 2015 by the European Commission (DG MARE – DG GROW). “The Region of Central Macedonia as an active Member of the CPMR would be glad to participate in the follow-up of the Pan-European Dialogue at regional level and to act as a representative of the EU in the wider Balkan and Black Sea area and the

wider Eastern Mediterranean and vice-versa.” stated Georgios Tsalonis, representing the coordinating region of the BBSRC Working Group on Tourism.

On the 12th of March 2015 the Region of Eastern Macedonia - Thrace, in collaboration with the BBSRC sent an outline project proposal concerning tourism in estuaries, wetlands and coastal areas of outstanding natural beauty (designated as protected areas or equivalent) to one BBSRC member per country from the eligible area of the Black Sea Basin ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020. The objective was to create a partnership scheme with a view to the calls for proposals of the aforementioned programme.

On the 19th of March 2015 in Athens, the CPMR Adviser for Energy/Islands, Mr Alexis Chatzimpiros, represented the CPMR/BBSRC at the Round Table Discussion on **“A Challenge or Obstacle for the future? Climate Change & Environmental Strategy for the Black Sea”** organised by the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS). Mr. Chatzimpiros highlighted the importance of local actors and peripheries, as well as the fact that climate change could affect agriculture and water management in the Black Sea.

On the 24th of March 2015 in Sofia, Mr Mircea Stoian, Tulcea County Councillor, candidate for the BBSRC Presidency, participated in the Second Black Sea Stakeholder Conference titled **“Smart and Blue - new opportunities for the blue economy of the Black Sea”**, organised by the European Commission (DG MARE) and the Bulgarian Ministry of Transport, Information, Technology and Communications. Mr Stoian was accompanied by the CPMR Director following the BBSRC, Mr Patrick Anvrouin. During the works Mr Stoian had the chance to meet and exchange views with the EU Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Mr Karmenu Vella, and the Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS, Ambassador Dr Victor Tvircun.

On 1st of April 2015, in the frame of the consultation on the draft operational programme 2014-2020, the **BBSRC/CPMR secretariat sent a message to the Black Sea Basin ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020** Managing Authority asking for amendments of this draft. CPMR was asking for a better contribution of the programme to Integrated Maritime Policy process in the

Black Sea, a strengthened integration of transnational youth mobility and a mention of CPMR amongst the stakeholders which animate the Black Sea.