



The 2014 General Assembly of the CPMR Balkan & Black Sea Regional Commission (BBSRC)

13 June 2014, Edirne (Governorship of Edirne, Turkey)

FINAL DECLARATION

The Balkan & Black Sea Regional Authorities gathered in Edirne (Governorship of Edirne) on 13 June 2014 in the framework of the Annual General Assembly of the CPMR Balkan & Black Sea Regional Commission:

**Burgas (BG), Central Macedonia (GR), Edirne (TR), Kirklareli (TR),
Peloponnese (GR), Sinop (TR), Tulcea (RO), Varna (BG)**

Thank the Governorship of Edirne for hosting their annual conference.

Adopt the following Declaration:

The Regions of the Balkan and the Black Sea Regional Commission (BBSRC) want first of all to express their support to peace, reconciliation and development in the Balkan and Black Sea area.

The CPMR has been conceived to bring together the different population catchment areas surrounding the various European maritime basins and which are potential macro-regions. The CPMR supports the development of macro-regional strategies to respond to the demands of the territories concerned. Enhanced cooperation at regional and macro-regional level allows the countries concerned to focus on common challenges and collaborate in order to cope with them. Therefore, the BBSRC fully supports the Eastern Partnership and the Black Sea Synergy, which respectively promote the partner countries' rapprochement to the EU and the regional cooperation in the Black Sea area. Only by fostering cooperation between the countries and the regions of the Balkans and the Black Sea will common problems be tackled and political and economic reform be encouraged.



The Regions of the Balkan and Black Sea Commission are going to collaborate with their central state authorities in order to enhance the sectoral dialogue partnership with the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) and benefit the national and regional level. The BBSRC invites BSEC to settle a close collaboration, in areas of common interest, aiming to bring good results and to strengthen the relations between the EU and the Black Sea area.

Territorial Cooperation

The BBSRC looks forward to close cooperation with the Managing Authorities for the European Territorial Cooperation and the European Neighbourhood Instrument programmes relative to the region.

In particular:

- The Black Sea Regions ask the ENI CBC Black Sea Basin Programme 2014-2020 to continue working with the CPMR in order to exchange expertise and collaborate on targeted projects.
- The Adriatic and Ionian Regions underline the importance of the European Union Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR) and ask the EU Institutions to continue working on this index with the CPMR and the Regions.
- The Danube Regions welcome the opportunities provided by the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) and the new Danube Transnational Programme 2014-2020. The above-mentioned Regions – via the BBSRC – are ready to support with their expertise both the EUSAIR and a future macro-regional strategy in the Black Sea.
- The BBSRC and the CPMR welcome all the programmes aiming to enhance the regional and macro-regional cooperation in the area, and invite the European Commission to deepen and further develop the Black Sea Synergy.
- Address the overlapping aspects of the EUSAIR, the EUSDR and of a future macro-regional strategy for the Black Sea area.

Transport

The CPMR and the BBSRC have taken into account the new framework, for 2014-2020, defining the EU support to transport infrastructures and services. As we have entered the implementation phase of the renewed instruments (TEN-t and Connecting Europe Facility) clarifications are required from the European



Commission on how this policy will take EU neighbourhoods into consideration, in particular as regards the transeuropean corridors and the – hopefully strengthened - Motorways of the Sea.

Maritime Issues

The CPMR and the BBSRC welcome the conclusions of the Stakeholders conference on sustainable development of the blue economy of the Black Sea which took place on 30 January 2014 in Bucharest. CPMR and BBSRC also welcome the on-going development of the EUSAIR in the areas it covers so far.

The work to be developed in the areas of cooperation identified in the framework of these processes should involve Regions in order to ensure good sea-land connection, synergies with regional policies, and adequate mobilization of ESI funds in support of EU objectives. This could for instance take the form of clusters of Interreg projects involving Regions and representing a critical mass in these areas which EU institutions should encourage, with the objective to provide grounds for the strengthening of sea-basins and macro-regional strategies.

The Balkan and Black Sea Regional Authorities:

- We invite the European Institutions to recognise the challenges of the area and reconsider allocations that may help overcome the structural handicaps of the region.
- We ask our states to help us to overcome the obstacles that impede regional cooperation in the area.
- We welcome the expertise of the BBSRC and the CPMR and their role as a bridge for best practices exchange between EU members, candidate and potential candidate countries.
- We express our commitment to reinforce our Commission through the existing Working Groups, Tourism and Business cooperation, and any new Working Group if need be.

Adopted unanimously