



### Work Programme for the Balkan and Black Sea Regional Commission

This Geographical Commission is working on three priorities:

- Develop its membership and therefore that of the CPMR in the Balkan and Black Sea area, thus contributing to a better consideration of the regional authorities in the European policies that are important for the area: regional policies, neighbourhood policies, transport policies, integrated maritime policies;
- Participate in EU reflections and debates on macro-regional strategies and in particular the Black Sea Strategy and the Danube and Adriatic-Ionian Strategy;
- Develop its internal capacities to produce relevant contributions on these subjects, for itself and to further develop the work and positions of the CPMR.

For the first six months of 2013, these priorities take the form of the following action plan and timetable:

- 26 April in Odessa : Annual General Assembly
  - o Election of the President and two Vice-Presidents;
  - o Establishing the Political Bureau;
  - o Adopting the BBSRC priorities for 2013-2014 and a work programme for this period;
  - o Debate on European and pan-European macro-regional initiatives;
  - o Leading dignitaries will participate in this work: Ukrainian Minister, representatives from the European Parliament, the European Commission, the Secretariat of the "Black Sea Basin" cross-border cooperation programme, the International Centre for Black Sea Studies;
  - o This year's General Assembly will be preceded by a briefing between the CPMR and the Ukrainian maritime regions, including those that are not yet members of the CPMR (based on the model of the meeting held in June 2012 in Sinop with the Turkish provinces).
  - o A preparatory meeting of the future programme "Black Sea Basin" 2014-2020, coorganised with the secretariat of the current programme is being explored: to be confirmed;
- 23 May in Tulcea: briefing between the CPMR and Romanian Regions, including those that are not yet members of the CPMR, maritime regions and those situated along the Danube;
- 24 May in Tulcea: high-level international seminar on "Romanian Regions between the Black Sea Synergy and the Danube Strategy", in the presence of:
  - o The Romanian Prime Minister or Foreign Minister;
  - o The European Commissioner for regional policies (to be confirmed);
  - o Representatives of the European institutions and other stakeholders;
- 29 May in Odessa: speech by the CPMR in the annual Inter-transport conference on the "Reduction of Sulphur Emissions from Ships: a challenge for the Black Sea"

This calendar will be completed during the General Assembly on 26 April 2013. Subject to an agreement being reached by the General Assembly, additional activities could be undertaken particularly on the following policy areas:

- o Technical structuring of the BBSRC;
- o Transport, TEN-T, Motorways of the Sea;
- o Issues relating to the Sulphur Directive for maritime transport: partnership could be considered with the BSEC on this issue;
- o Partnership with the secretariat of the Black Sea Basin programme to prepare the 2014-2020 operational programme;
- o Briefing between Bulgarian regions and the CPMR.