Minutes
As of 30 April 2019

2019 BBSC General Assembly

(view link)

12 April 2019, Tulcea (RO)

08:15 – 09:15: Statutory Session and meeting of the Political Bureau (for Members only)

Mr Horia TEODORESCU, President of Tulcea County Council and CPMR Vice-President in charge of Neighbourhood Policy, briefly presented Tulcea County, located in the South-East of Romania and its significant feature of the Danube Delta, which holds the biosphere of the Danube Delta. He then presented the county's interests which include maritime transport, energy, environment science and technology, trade, information and technology and communication that lead to social and economic development of the area.

Tulcea County Council’s priority as a Member of the BBSC is that the county, which is part of the territorial instrument for investment for the Danube Delta, be recognised as a peripheral maritime region of the EU to benefit from the higher regional funds allocation, as well as to access EU co-financing projects.

He thanked the President of the Balkan and Black Sea Commission, Ms KALOGIROU for her work carried out during her current mandate, the Members of the Political Bureau and the Secretariat of the BBSC.

Ms Christiana KALOGIROU, President of the CPMR Balkan and Black Sea Commission (BBSC), Regional Governor of North Aegean (Greece) thanked all participants, especially Mr Teodorescu for hosting the General Assembly of the BBSC. She underlined the joint work and collaboration between Member Regions that has been achieved so far. She stressed the Member Regions’ valuable efforts continuously strived towards the aim of developing even more EU projects and strengthening cooperation as well as increasing membership in the wider Balkan and Black Sea area.

Mr Stavros KALOGNOMOS, Executive Secretary of the CPMR Balkan and Black Sea Commission submitted the draft minutes of the BBSC Pre-Assembly meeting held in Funchal (Madeira) last October to members for a vote. The Draft Minutes were unanimously adopted.

He presented the BBSC Activity Report for 2018-2019, listing numerous activities in which the BBSC participated in line with its roadmap and strategic plan. In the last few years, the Commission has placed emphasis on promoting and developing EU projects in the area, signing a Memorandum of
Understanding with the Permanent International Secretariat of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC PERMIS), setting up of numerous consortia with local and regional authorities, organisations, EU institutions, civil society and universities in the fields of fisheries, sustainable maritime areas, accessibility.

This session was followed by the ratification of the BBSC Political Bureau Members with the election of the BBSC President for the period 2019-2021.

Ms Christiana KALOGIROU, Regional Governor of North Aegean (Greece) was unanimously re-elected for a two-year term.

Mr Valentin MOLDOVEANU, Tulcea County Councillor, was elected as BBSC Vice-President.

Mr Marian DINULESCU, Vice-President of Calarasi County Council, became Honorary Vice-President of the BBSC.

In her post-election speech, Ms Christiana KALOGIROU thanked Members for renewing their trust and ensured that the efforts of cooperation in all the Commission’s policy areas will be intensified in order to develop even more projects and increase the membership.

Mr Horia TEODORESCU, after having presented his congratulations, reaffirmed his expectation that this mandate should be the opportunity to increase economic and social prosperity in the area through greater and more effective collaboration and the development of EU projects. He mentioned Constanța County Council’s wish to become a member of the CPMR and the BBSC once again and expected that the decision will be put into practice soon. He informed that the situation in the wider region is tricky. However, Tulcea has very good cooperation between Izmail (Odesa Region – Ukraine), Cahul (Republic of Moldova) and Constanța (Romania). He expressed their support to their neighbouring countries, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, in accessing EU funds and their willingness to take part actively in EU programmes that support the whole area and contribute to its economic and social development.

The financial issues were presented by the BBSC Executive Secretary followed by a presentation of the priorities for the next period. The Final Declaration was unanimously adopted.