Pre-Annual General Assembly of the CPMR Balkan & Black Sea Commission

Thursday, 18 October 2018 – Funchal (Madeira, Portugal)

(Adopted during the BBSC General Assembly held in Tulcea (RO) on 12-13 April 2019)

Mr Stavros Kalognomos, Policy Officer in charge of the Balkan and Black Sea Commission welcomed Mr Marian Dinulescu, Vice-President of Calarasi County Council (Romania) and BBSC 1st Vice-President as well as Mr Alexandru Dan Munteanu, County Councillor representing Mr Horia Teodorescu, President of Tulcea County Council (Romania) and CPMR Vice-President.

Mr Dinulescu thanked the hosts for the invitation to this meeting, which is important for the development of the Balkan and Black Sea Commission. He also thanked participants and organisers for the good functioning of the CPMR and the work of its BBSC.

In his address, he emphasised the importance that members attach to regional cooperation and the enhancement of cross-border cooperation in this area. Being a Danubian region, Calarasi County is constantly interested in intensifying cooperation with neighbouring regions, with the aim to improve European regional identity and develop the economic and social perspectives of their communities.

Mr Munteanu informed participants of the efforts made by the County Council and its President, Mr Teodorescu, in endeavouring to connect all the efforts and involve every regional and local authority to set up and implement new reliable programmes and projects. He underlined their significant impact on regional partnership and cross-border cooperation by citing numerous examples of cooperation between Romanian counties themselves but also with Local and Regional Authorities of Eastern Partnership countries such as the Republic of Moldova, Belarus and Ukraine. In this way, Tulcea is shaping mutual beneficial economic relationships.

He reminded participants that Romania is a beneficiary of EU funding through the Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) instrument amounting 1.2 billion Euros in the context of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Danube Delta. Thanks to maximising the absorption of funds through ITI, the country benefits from economic growth and testifies to its partners from the east of the border all the benefits of being an EU Member.
The Romanian Presidency of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) continues to be fully committed to its effective implementation during its rotating Presidency (November 2018 - October 2019), bearing the responsibility of developing the EUSDR’s Agenda and added value of regional development.

Mr Munteanu reminded participants that the President of Tulcea County Council is calling for the creation of a partnership through the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and external cooperation, and he called for the Danube Delta to be recognised as a peripheral region and to be eligible for funding.

Mr Kalognomos updated participants on the state of play of the BBSC and kindly asked members to respect the payment of membership dues on time.

He reminded participants that the CPMR and its BBSC encourages collaboration not only between the Member Regions but also municipalities, universities, and a wide range of stakeholders from their territories, as suggested by the Members. The BLUES Project (BLUe growth connects European Seas) and the BluAct (BLUe cities in ACTION) network are examples where the BBSC facilitated the collaboration between partners from other CPMR Member Regions and the BBSC (i.e. BLUES: Marine Cluster Bulgaria from Varna; BluAct: Burgas and Galati Municipalities).

The BBSC is in close contact with different services of the Directorates-General of the European Commission: DG REGIO, DG MARE, DG NEAR and DG RTD - please see the PPT presentation.

There is also good collaboration with the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), with whom the CPMR has signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

As regards the CPMR Final Declaration and General Assembly’s working documents, no comments were raised from members.