



CONFERENCE OF PERIPHERAL MARITIME REGIONS  
**BALKAN & BLACK SEA  
REGIONAL COMMISSION**



**The 2015 General Assembly of the CPMR  
Balkan & Black Sea Regional Commission (BBSRC)**

**29 May 2015, Brussels (Belgium)**

**FINAL DECLARATION**

**The Balkan & Black Sea Regional Authorities gathered in Brussels on 29 May 2015 in the framework of  
the Annual General Assembly of the CPMR Balkan & Black Sea Regional Commission  
hosted by the European Committee of the Regions  
adopt the following Declaration:**

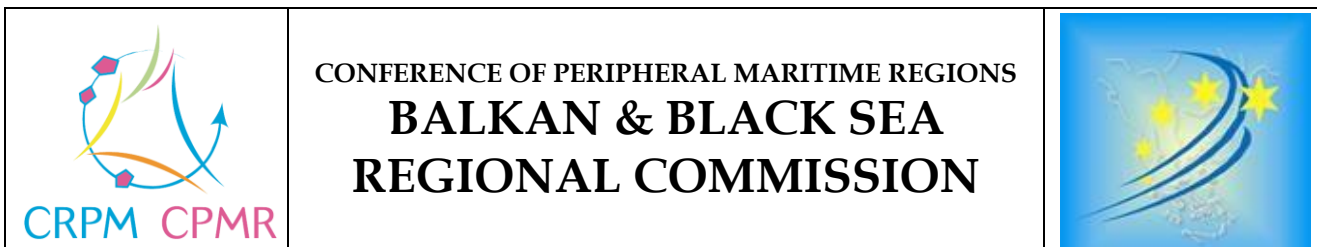
**Peace and reconciliation process**

The Regions of the Balkan and the Black Sea Regional Commission (BBSRC) wish to express their infinite support to peace, reconciliation and development in the Balkan and Black Sea area, which can only be secured through intensified collaboration at all levels. We, the CPMR and BBSRC Members, support the Joint Declaration of the Eastern Partnership Summit in Riga, 21-22 May 2015, and express our will to contribute to further regional cooperation in the wider Balkan and Black Sea area.

**Promoting and implementing macro regional strategies and territorial cooperation**

The CPMR has been conceived to bring together the different population catchment areas surrounding the various European maritime basins. 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 enhanced collaboration. In this respect, the role of the CPMR in the preparation and launching of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region ([EUSAIR](#)) has been of high significance.

Therefore, the CPMR 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) to the benefit of the national and regional level.

### **Shaping a regions-friendly future neighbourhood policy**

The European Neighbourhood Policy plays an important role in the Balkan and Black Sea area. The CPMR General Secretariat – together with the BBSRC Members – will use the results of the “The Balkan and the Black Sea Area on the move: Perspective for Regional Authorities” conference co-organised with the European Committee of the Regions, in order to contribute towards a more inclusive European Neighbourhood Policy.

As regional authorities, we share the new orientations (differentiation, focus, flexibility) of the European Neighbourhood Policy proposed by the European Institutions, provided that the Eastern Partnership and the Black Sea Synergy are further encouraged, and that the contribution of local and regional authorities is better enhanced and highlighted than in the current policy.

In this respect,

We wish to advocate a reinforced statement on the role of local and regional authorities in the final version of the Report of the European Parliament on the review of the European Neighbourhood Policy (2015/2002(INI)).

Given the significant contribution of regions to the success of neighbourhood policy, we advocate that a flexible funding mechanism should be introduced into the European Neighbourhood Instrument implementation arrangements, aiming to encourage joint actions between regional authorities, associations of regions and other stakeholders to this end.

**Adopted**