Horia TEODORESCU - Declaration on the BBSC Strategy

As president of Balkan and Black Sea Commission within CPMR, complementary to my duties as president of Tulcea County Council, I will constantly campaign to combine efforts and involvement of local and regional authorities in the establishment and implementation of new and viable programs and initiatives, with a beneficial territorial impact, both in terms of cross-border cooperation and regional partnerships.

Looking punctually at the current situation in Europe, I will take all the necessary steps in order to make the most of new EU instruments (EU Recovery Plan and new Multi-Annual Financial Framework) and EU policies linked with the Green Deal for the benefit of the Balkan and Black Sea Regions’ key economic sectors to face the challenges deriving from the Covid-19 outbreak which put us all to the test, no matter where we live.

As key actions for the mandate, alongside you all, I will manage to put in place different type of actions: policy messages, lobbying activities, organisation and co-organisation of high-level political conferences and seminar sessions with its Member Regions and key partners in the area (such as the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS), and Black Sea Association of Maritime Institutions (BSAMI)). Participation in fora at EU, international or sea-basin level, as well as in specific cooperation projects (funded by the EU or regional/international donors) corresponding to the political orientations of the BBSC will also be my priority.

Regarding our political positions, we will jointly work with the CPMR General Secretariat to prepare the necessary documents, in the framework of the BBSC General Assemblies, and on actions harnessing the transversal and per political priority work as well as the main objectives of the cooperation projects in which the BBSC is involved as a partner or facilitator.

As for high-level events and lobbying activities, together with the Vice-Presidents and all Member Regions we will concentrate on the different priorities of our region, both regarding the various policies and programmes that apply in the BBSC region.

I will try to manage, alongside our member regions, to explore the possibilities of cooperation with other regions from the geographical coverage, as mentioned in the BBSC Rules of Procedure (EUSAIR and Black Sea Synergy countries), and capitalise on the work initiated with the cooperation projects in which it is involved (e.g. AI-NURECC PLUS). Specific attention will be given to approaching non-CPMR member regions in the Balkans and the Black Sea. BBSC regions could work as ambassadors of the CPMR in the regions and spread the good word so that non-CPMR regions join forces with us,
under the CPMR BBSC umbrella, to make our voice better heard at regional and European levels. Ad hoc political meetings between regions, technical meetings with CPMR staff or punctual invitation to Working Groups meetings could be a tool used in this respect.

In order to support the priorities of the BBSC membership and the implementation of its Action Plan, both we, the BBSC team, and the CPMR General Secretariat will monitor funding opportunities (mainly EU) that can materialize a “win-win” cooperation and grant additional resources for concrete actions.

As the Balkan and Black Sea Commission has a membership beyond the EU, we welcome the European Commission’s support to the Western Balkans and the Eastern Partnership countries in tackling the coronavirus crisis and encouraging recovery from it. As BBSC, we are planning, in cooperation with the CPMR and the other Geographical Commissions, to make the most of the new EU instruments, both at political and technical level, for the benefit of the Balkan and Black Sea Regions’ aforementioned economic sectors to face the challenges deriving from the covid-19 outbreak.

Given that the Balkan and Black Sea Region is an area facing many challenges but also providing many opportunities for cooperation, we will keep on asking the European Institutions to ensure the flexibility of measures taken in our region, so that we deal with covid-19 together with our neighbours – both EU and non-EU, that we work in cohesion and avoid renationalisation that will weaken our efforts for regional cooperation.

In the light of improving BBSC image and communication activities, due to the Covid-19 situation, we have to keep on reinventing our communication actions to ensure the visibility of the BBSC work.

As a personal note, I think that the entire activity of Tulcea County Council within the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe stands as a guarantee and therefore recommend me and my region to represent Romania within Balkan and Black Sea Commission Board. The support I had from Romanians and all other member regions in the previous mandates strongly determines me to work harder and take a series of actions and responsibilities to increase the role and activity of BBSC in the frame of CPMR and throughout Europe.

Thank you for your trust and cooperation!

Horia TEODORESCU

President of Tulcea County Council