



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



## 2014 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### CPMR BALKAN & BLACK SEA REGIONAL COMMISSION

13 June 2014, Edirne (TR)

## MINUTES

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### FIRST SESSION

**Dr Ayhan Özkan**, Deputy Governor of the Province of Edirne (TR) and President of the BBSRC, welcomed the high guests and the participants, and gave the floor to the speakers.

**Mr Recep Gürkan**, Mayor of Edirne (TR), welcomed all the guests to the European Union-bordering City of Edirne, a city with a great history throughout centuries and empires, included in the UNESCO World Heritage List, and with an important university. He finally underlined the importance of the participation of the Province of Edirne in the CPMR/BBSRC family.

**Dr F.H. Burak Erdenir**, Deputy Undersecretary from the Turkish Ministry for EU Affairs, welcomed all participants to Edirne and underlined the importance given by the EU Ministry to different projects, in particular in this bordering region. He highlighted the different aspects of EU-Turkey approach during last decades, and especially regarding the democratization process, the economic relations and the efforts of Turkey regarding visa issues. He also mentioned the diversity of Turkey and the high potential that Turkey's integration could offer to the EU, stating that "the concept of integration becomes more and more important for our countries and I think this should be a point that should be emphasized in our work here. The CPMR could be a technical platform for integration in maritime issues." He expressed the hope that Ukraine and Turkey will become members of the European Union.

**Mr Dursun Ali Şahin**, Governor of Edirne (TR), welcomed all high guests and participants and recalled the duty of politicians to work and advance every single day. Hosting the annual General Assembly of the BBSRC is a great pleasure for the culturally and historically rich Province of Edirne.

**Mrs Eleni Marianou**, Secretary General of the CPMR, thanked the authorities of Edirne for hosting the annual General Assembly of the BBSRC, the high guests and the Deputy Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS, Ambassador Traian Chebeleu, and the participants. She presented the importance and added value of [the CPMR in the Balkan and Black Sea](#) area, underlining the role of the BBSRC as gateway.

**Dr Ayhan Özkan** advanced on the adoption of the [Draft Agenda of the General Assembly](#), the approval of the [minutes of the Saint-Malo meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2013](#) and presented the [Activity Report 2013-2014](#). He thanked all high guests and participants for their participation.

### SECOND SESSION

**Mrs Eleni Marianou**, Secretary General of the CPMR, opened and chaired the session entitled "Intensifying regional cooperation in the Balkan & Black Sea area".

**Mr Serkan Bozkurt**, Assistant EU Affairs Expert, Financial Cooperation Directorate of the Turkish Ministry for EU Affairs, presented the [lessons learnt from the ENPI Black Sea Basin Cross Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013](#).

**Ms Laura Bobarnac**, Deputy Head of the Joint Managing Authority, Romanian Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration, presented the [Black Sea Basin Cross Border Cooperation Programme 2014-2020](#).

**Ms Nikoletta Tatari**, Programme Officer, Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes in Thessaloniki (GR), presented the [“Balkan-Mediterranean Transnational Cooperation Programme 2014-2020”](#).

**Mr Ivan Delchev**, Head of the Joint Technical Secretariat of IPA CBC Programme Bulgaria–Turkey, Bulgarian Ministry of Regional Development presented the [Bulgaria-Turkey IPA Cross-Border Programme](#).

**Mr Mahmut Şahin**, Secretary General of Trakya Development Agency (TR) spoke on the role of local authorities for the integration of Balkan and Black Sea Region. The Secretary General referred to the importance of the Regional Development Agencies in promoting relations between regions as well as their contribution of promoting joint interregional and transnational projects in the Balkan and Black Sea area. He underlined the need for promoting the role of local authorities as the best placed to respond to the needs of the regions in different important sectors (commerce, transport, agriculture, natural resources).

**Ms Jelina Makrantonaki**, Deputy Governor of Central Macedonia (GR) – leading region of the BBSRC Working Group on Tourism, reaffirmed the belief of the Region of Central Macedonia that local authorities should be involved in all EU affairs, all types of programmes and efforts to enhance collaboration on the topics relating to the CPMR fields of activities. Finally, she summed up the main topics raised during the WG’s kick-off meeting.

**Mr Berkol Alevli**, Adviser to the BBSRC, Coordinator of Sinop Investment Support Office, North Anatolian Development Agency (TR) – leading Region (Sinop) of the BBSRC Working Group on Business Cooperation –underlined the importance of attracting local and regional authorities to the WG in order to be more active and efficient. He then summed up the main topics raised during the WG’s kick-off meeting, recalling challenges such as bureaucracy, and invited observers to follow its works.

**Mrs Eleni Marianou** highlighted the fact that all managing authorities active in the Balkan and Black Sea area were present at this session and thanked the speakers for their valuable input.

### THIRD SESSION

**Prof. Dr Yener Yörük**, Rector of Trakya University (TR), welcomed all participants and chaired the third session of the BBSRC General Assembly, entitled “The Balkan and Black Sea Region in the EU Maritime and Transport Policies”.

**Mr Svetoslav Stoyanov**, Policy Officer on Maritime Policy Mediterranean and Black Sea, European Commission’s Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE), introduced his presentation regarding [“Sea matters. Setting conditions for the blue economy in the Black Sea”](#).

**Ms Ilze Atanasova**, Chair of the Board, Marine Cluster Bulgaria, introduced [the Bulgarian perspective of Maritime Clusters in the Black Sea](#).

**Mr Stavros Kalognomos**, Policy Officer, CPMR, presented the [Vasco da Gama project](#) as a [model for the Black Sea Region](#).

**Mr Aykut Onat**, Coordinator of Kastamonu Investment Support Office, North Anatolian Development Agency (TR), presented [“An example for cooperation between Black Sea & Danube: Inebolu Port”](#).

**Mrs Eleni Marianou**, Secretary General of the CPMR, presented [the Transport perspectives in Southeastern Europe for CEF and TEN-T](#).

**Mr Berkol Alevli**, Adviser to the BBSRC, Coordinator of Sinop Investment Support Office, North Anatolian Development Agency (TR), thanked the speakers and expressed the interest of Turkish maritime regions to work more closely with DG Mare and his hope that new possible TEN-T corridors may motivate the BBSRC members.

#### FOURTH SESSION

**Mr Mahmut Şahin**, Secretary General of Trakya Development Agency (TR), chaired the session entitled “the BBSRC in the heart of the European Macroregional Strategies”.

**Ambassador Traian Chebeleu**, Deputy Secretary General of the Permanent International Secretariat of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC PERMIS) presented the [framework of regional cooperation](#) and made special reference to great potential of the BSEC and the CPMR in meeting the cooperation needs of their Member States and the maritime and peripheral regions alike.

**Mr George Siscu**, Vice-president of Tulcea County Council (RO), presented the [opportunities for development regarding EU Danube Strategy](#).

**Dr Ayhan Özkan** invited the participants to comment on the [Final Declaration](#) of Edirne, and, as there was no amendment to the text, the present BBSRC members adopted it unanimously. The BBSRC President once again thanked all the high guests and participants for their contribution to the success of the BBSRC’s work and thus ended its 2014 General Assembly.