



MINUTES BBSRC PRE-ASSEMBLY MEETING

24 September 2014, Umeå (Västerbotten, SE)

Welcoming words, introduction by Mr George Şişcu, Vice-President of the Balkan and Black Sea Commission, who presided the meeting

Mr George Şişcu (*read the speech*) thanked the Västerbotten County Council for its kind welcome and expressed his belief in an effective meeting in Umeå. He also thanked the outgoing BBSRC President, Dr Ayhan Özkan, for his achievements during his presidency and assured him that we will continue his important work. Mr Şişcu presented the actions that followed the BBSRC General Assembly in Edirne, preceded by the kick-off meetings of the Working Groups on Business Cooperation (led by the Governorship of Sinop, Turkey) and Tourism (led by the Region of Central Macedonia, Greece). Mr Şişcu expressed the hope that the difficulties faced in the Black Sea area will be solved peacefully and the support of the BBSRC members in dialogue and cooperation will help us overcome problems and build a future for the entire Black Sea area.

Mr Şişcu then referred to the need for active participation in the Working Groups, in view of the Black Sea Basin ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020 and the Balkan-Mediterranean 2014-2020 Transnational Programme. Further to the [Final Declaration of Edirne](#), Mr Şişcu mentioned the initiative of the CPMR General Secretary to contact the relative European Commission General Directorates and the Hellenic Chairmanship-in-Office of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC). He expressed the hope that the BBSRC Regions have in their turn solicited their states to help them overcome the obstacles that impede regional cooperation in the area. The BBSRC Vice-President highlighted Tulcea's interest – taking into consideration its geographical position in Danube Delta – to work closely with the Croatian members of the Commission. As Romania hosts the managing authority of the Black Sea Basin ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020, Mr Şişcu also expressed the willingness of Tulcea County Council to work with the managing authority in Bucharest and the CPMR in order to present policies and projects that correspond to the needs of the area.

In his conclusion, the Vice-President of the BBSRC assured the members of the support of Mr Horia Teodorescu, President of Tulcea County Council and Vice-President of the CPMR, and likewise of his willingness to help the CPMR by contacting the new European Commissioner for Regional Policy, Ms Corina Creţu, if necessary.

Mr Patrick Anvroin, CPMR Director – follow-up of the BBSRC, thanked the President for the opening speech and the news regarding the Commissioner for Regional Policy, Ms Corina Creţu.

[The draft minutes of the BBSRC General Assembly held in Edirne on 13 June 2014 were unanimously adopted.](#)

Mr Stavros Kalognomos, CPMR Policy Officer, [presented](#) the state of play of the Black Sea Basin ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020 and the Balkan-Mediterranean Transnational Programme 2014-2020 and reminded the members of the BBSRC WGs of the approaching deadline for calls for proposals.

Mr Berkol Alevli, Adviser to the BBSRC, Coordinator of Sinop Investment Support Office, North Anatolian Development Agency (Turkey) [presented](#) the progress report and next steps of the Working Group on Business Cooperation. He kindly asked all BBSRC members to register for the Business Cooperation WG and establish a network in order to create concrete project proposals. Mr Alevli also mentioned that at the beginning of September 2014, a representation of the North Anatolian Development Agency (Turkey) met with the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General, Ambassador Dr Victor Tvircun. Among the topics discussed was possible cooperation with the CPMR/BBSRC.

Mr Patrick Anvroin, CPMR Director – follow-up of the BBSRC, agreed with Mr Berkol Alevli on the fact that this Commission needs to have practical projects in order to enlarge its membership.

Mr Stavros Kalognomos [presented](#) the progress report and next steps of the Working Group on Tourism (led by the Region of Central Macedonia, GR) together with the main lines of the study proposal that the CPMR/BBSRC Secretariat and the University of the Aegean/Research in Shipping and Ports Laboratory have submitted to the DG Mare of the European Commission.

Mr Patrick Anvroin mentioned that, due to technical problems, Mr Maxhid Cungu, President of the Regional Council of Shkodër (Albania), could not participate in the Pre-Assembly meeting and that his presentation would take place during the last day of the CPMR General Assembly.

Regarding the date and venue of the next BBSRC General Assembly, there was no proposal during the Pre-Assembly meeting and the issue will be discussed again within the next weeks.

Mr Apostolos Papafotiou, Regional Councillor of Peloponnese (Greece) in charge of International Affairs and European Programmes, thanked the president and congratulated the speakers, in particular for the sector on Tourism, and repeated his Edirne proposal for the name of the Black Sea as a touristic brand-name. The name “Black-Sea” does not reflect all the efforts made by all countries, in order to clean this sea, starting from the Danubian countries who participate in the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) and their good practices regarding environment; so the brand-name “Black-Sea” sounds strange. During our last meeting in Edirne, he suggested that we should return to the ancient Greek name “Efxinos Pontos”, a brand-name that conforms to our time, as well as our spirit and efforts for democracy, clean environment and sustainable development. Efxinos means hospitable, a facet encouraged by the Tourism Roadmap. Efxinos Pontos is a part of the Mediterranean Sea and collaborates in particular with the Aegean Sea. Mr Papafotiou expressed the point of view that this brand-name will make the Black Sea sound nicer and more welcoming and will reflect the efforts made by all countries for a clean and blue sea.

Mr Patrick Anvroin thanked Mr Apostolos Papafotiou for his intervention and said that the WG on Tourism will introduce this proposal to its works.

The BBSRC draft budget for 2015 was unanimously approved.

[The proposed amendments to the rules of procedure were unanimously adopted.](#)

Mr Berkol Alevli mentioned that, although the Bulgarian and Croatian members are always punctual in payment of their membership fee, they do not attend the BBSRC meetings. Therefore, we should also work on this issue in order to keep them in the Commission.

Mr Patrick Anvroin agreed with this statement and ended the works of this Pre-Assembly meeting.