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language during the General Assemblies, reminding participants that the members from the South of the Mediterranean do not have the possibility to express themselves in their mother tongue during the CPMR meetings.

Mr Özkan indicated that he does not wish to appoint a second person in charge of the secretariat, but to have support provided by Berkol Alevli. He expressed his hope to develop the BBSRC membership towards Russia and Azerbaijan and indicated that the BBSRC would have a higher budget available if every Region paid its membership dues.

Mr Pavlos Damianidis considered that the historical reasons that explain the differences in the amount of membership fees between the Members no longer apply, and therefore the schedule of dues should be reviewed.

He supported Mr Özkan’s proposal concerning Mr Alevli.

With regard to the office in Kavala, this is provided by the municipality. The personnel on site is available to the BBSRC. This approach must be carried forward. The possibility of opening regional offices in other countries, like in Odessa, is extremely useful.

**BBSRC Technical Agenda:**

Mr Patrick Anvroin, Director, CPMR, reminded participants of the proposals for technical organisation that were put forward at the General Assembly in Odessa: see the PowerPoint presentation

At the end of the debate on these issues, an agreement was reached to focus the BBSRC’s activities on three priority areas: tourism, entrusted to a Greek Region, Business Cooperation, entrusted to the Province of Sinop, and external cooperation entrusted to Odessa.

The BBSRC will also be active on the Danube macro-region and the Black Sea Synergy.

Mr Damianidis emphasised the difficulty in getting numerous working groups to function and encouraged moderation. He would like these groups to launch cooperation projects cofinanced by the CBC Black Sea Basin-European Neighbourhood Instrument programme.

Mrs Eleni Marianou reminded participants that the BBSRC is the smallest CPMR Geographical Commission, with a limited budget. This Commission must be made more attractive if it is to gain new members. Projects should also be submitted to European programmes. Mrs Marianou stressed that a discussion should be held around the membership fees, in particular given the retreat of some members and the wish expressed by Greek regions to reduce their increased contribution to this Commission. It would be advisable for the Commission to establish different financial scenarios to meet the budget requirements. Mrs Eugeniya Volynets, Director of Department, Odessa Region, informed participants that an important international economic forum would be held from 31 October to 1 November in Odessa, and invited participants to take part in it.

Mr Alevli suggested that national meetings should be organised to increase BBSRC membership. He also proposed updating the BBSRC website, being active on social networking websites and publishing articles on the specific problems of the Balkan and Black Sea area.

In conclusion, Mr Ayhan Özkan reiterated his invitation to hold the next General Assembly of the BBSRC in Edirne. In order to take into consideration the elections that will be held in Greece on 14 May 2014, he suggested that the General Assembly takes place at the end of May or early June.