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ΔΙΑΣΚΕΨΗ ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΑΚΩΝ &
ΠΑΡΑΚΤΙΩΝ ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΩΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΥΡΩΠΗΣ



ΕΠΙΤΡΟΠΗ ΒΑΛΚΑΝΙΩΝ &
ΜΑΥΡΗΣ ΘΑΛΑΣΣΑΣ

37TH CPMR GENERAL ASSEMBLY - Göteborg, Västra Götaland, Sweden CPMR BALKAN AND BLACK SEA REGIONAL COMMISSION (BBSRC) PRE-ASSEMBLY MEETING

Brief Activity Report “From Odessa to Göteborg”, by Anthony Papadimitriou, BBSRC Executive Secretary.

During the past 3 1/2 months and under the leadership of its President Professor G. TSIOTRAS, Secretary General of the Region of Central Macedonia, Greece, the BBSRC implementing the guidelines set at the General Assembly of Odessa has been engaged in the following areas:

Involvement with the work of the CPMR

The work of CPMR and its other 5 geographical commissions has been followed closely, promoting the special interests and political priorities of BBSRC and the wider Balkan and Black Sea area. At the same time, the BBSRC participated actively as an integral part of the CPMR in all administrative and other day-to-day activities in cooperation with the CPMR secretariats in Rennes and Brussels.

Anthony Papadimitriou, Executive Secretary of the BBSRC took part representing the CPMR to the Federal Assembly of the International European Movement which took place in Prague, on the 19-20 June 2009, at the same time as the European Council of June in Brussels, under the Czech Presidency. A new Secretary General was elected, Mr. Diogo Pinto former S.G of the European Youth Forum. During the G.A a Resolution was adopted on the necessity for an electoral reform of the current system for the European Parliament elections. Three working Commissions were established on: Future of Europe, chaired by Jo Leinen, The European Union and its Neighbours, chaired by C-F Nothomb, - a Commission of special importance for the BBSRC as its work will deal as well with the Black Sea - and Citizens, Europe and European Identity. Anthony Papadimitriou was appointed to participate in the working group on projects related to the Eastern Partnership and the Black Sea area in General. Specific activities will be organised in Istanbul with the cooperation of BSEC and in Georgia. At the same time, the final program of the Congress of Valencia under the IEM policy on “North-South Mediterranean Dialogue” which will take place on 19-21 November 2009 on “Education and Migration” was discussed. The Prime Minister of the Czech Republic Mr. Jan Fisher hosted the participants immediately after his arrival from the Summit in Brussels and presented its political conclusions.

CPMR/BBSRC application for “Sectoral Partnership Dialogue” status with the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)

The Permanent international Secretariat (PERMIS) of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) has contacted us with reference to our application for obtaining Sectoral Dialogue Partnership Status with BSEC, dated 1 December 2008, and informed us that the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials at its last meeting held in Istanbul on 14-15 September 2009, decided to consider our application at its next Meeting to be

held in Baku, Azerbaijan on 21 October 2009. At the same time, they are informing us that in order to facilitate the discussion the Committee decided also to invite the CPMR to participate in the said meeting so we can present information on our activities and on possible areas of cooperation with BSEC asking at the same time to communicate to them our representative who will take part in the meeting. Just to remind you, following a decision of the Bayonne CPMR Political Bureau an official application for SDP status with BSEC has been submitted to the PERMIS of BSEC in Istanbul signed by both CPMR and BBSRC Presidents Martini and Tsiotras. It has to be stressed that in case of a positive outcome this would be an important development for our organization. Member regions will have the possibility to take part in certain working groups of the BSEC, bringing a regional dimension to its work. Several sectoral policies discussed within BSEC are directly related to the maritime regions of the wider Black Sea area.

The Black Sea Basin Joint Operational Programme 2007-2013

The first call for proposals of the Black Sea Joint Operational CBC Programme 2007-2013 under the European Neighbourhood & Partnership Instrument (ENPI) of the EU opened in June 2009. The deadline for submitting project proposals is 12th of October 2009 at 16 00 (local time). The indicative amount of ENPI funds available under this first call is 3.311.369 EURO, and Turkey participates with IPA funds amounting to 1.339.401 EURO. The co financing of the EU is 90 % of the total eligible costs at project level. The projects have to be jointly submitted and implemented by partnerships that will always involve partners from one or several Member States (Bulgaria, Greece, Romania) and from one or several partner countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, R. Moldova, Russia, Ukraine) and/or Turkey. Several project preparation workshops have been organized by the Managing Authority in most eligible regions like in Tulcea (Romania) on 17th of September 2009, Thessalonica on 3 September, etc. The BBSRC Secretariat on several occasions has been asked by local and regional authorities, mainly from Greece, to disseminate project proposals seeking partners among our regions. This has been the case and these project proposals were diffused to Odessa, Sebastopol, Constanta, the UBBSLAA, etc. At the same time in our web pages there are project proposals proposed by the Region of Central Macedonia

Eastern Partnership

A month after the launch of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) the EU and its eastern neighbors started work. One of the innovations of the EaP is a new multilateral dimension to relations with these countries alongside the bilateral path of cooperation. The first Eastern Partnership (EaP) multilateral platform was held on 5 June, in Brussels. It focused on democracy, good governance and stability with also two Flagship Initiatives, on border management and prevention, preparedness and response to disasters. The other platforms, devoted to economic integration, energy, people to people contacts were also launched in June. The aim of the platforms is to support the eastern partners' efforts to approximate to EU standards, to foster exchanges of experience and best practice and to strengthen contacts between them.

Eastern Partnership - Civil Society Forum

In the Eastern Partnership joint declaration, the Prague Declaration, from 7 May 2009, "the participants of the Prague Summit invited the European Commission to develop and propose modalities for the establishment of a Civil Society Forum of the Eastern Partnership". On June 29 the Commission invited all interested parties, i.e. grass roots organisations, trade unions, employers' organisations, professional associations, NGOs, think-tanks, non-profit foundations, national and international CSOs/networks and other relevant Civil Society actors, to submit their expressions of interest to participate in the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum. Our Commission has submitted its Expression of interest in the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum as it will be a good opportunity to present our policies in the Forum and to meet and work together with several entities from

the wider Black Sea area. The submission of the expressions of interest is a necessary step in the selection process to participate in the EaP Civil Society Forum. The participation itself will be decided at a later stage following the transparent criteria, as listed in the invitation. The European Commission, together with the EU Presidency and the European Economic and Social Committee, will organise the launch of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum in mid-November 2009 in Brussels.

BBSRC membership policy

Since our last meeting in Odessa, we have been in contact with the Sebastopol City State Administration. We have provided to them all possible information on CPMR/BBSRC. The decision for membership has been taken and their application will arrive soon.

Administrative matters

During the past months, the Executive Secretary has run the day-to-day business of the Commission and has maintained contacts between the Region members, potential members, international organizations, and the CPMR, dealing as well with several secretarial matters (drafting the minutes, preparing the meetings, etc.).

Gothenburg – 30 September 2009

Anthony Papadimitriou

Executive Secretary, CPMR Balkan & Black Sea Regional Commission