



CRPM CPMR

ΔΙΑΣΚΕΨΗ ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΑΚΩΝ &
ΠΑΡΑΚΤΙΩΝ ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΩΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΥΡΩΠΗΣ



ΕΠΙΤΡΟΠΗ ΒΑΛΚΑΝΙΩΝ &
ΜΑΥΡΗΣ ΘΑΛΑΣΣΑΣ

37TH CPMR GENERAL ASSEMBLY - Goteborg, Vastra Gotaland, Sweden
CPMR BALKAN AND BLACK SEA REGIONAL COMMISSION (BBSRC)
PRE-ASSEMBLY MEETING

Brief Presentation of the 2009-2010 BBSRC Work Programme, by Anthony Papadimitriou, BBSRC Executive Secretary

The 2009-2010 work programme of the CPMR Balkans and Black Sea Commission for the period October 2009 to June 2010 (the scheduled date of the next General Assembly meeting), in accordance with the guidelines set at the June 2009 Odessa General Assembly is as follows:

Monitoring E.U. policies related to the specific interests of the BBSRC: The BBSRC will closely follow developments related to the Eastern Partnership Initiative which is important for Ukraine and the other countries involved in this initiative in the lines of the Odessa BBSRC Reaction to the “Joint Declaration of the Prague Eastern Partnership Summit” signed on 7 May 2009, the Black Sea Synergy which involves all the states around the Black Sea and the Eastern Dimension of the European Neighborhood Policy and will respond to developments through communications such as the Odessa BBSRC Reaction. In addition, the CPMR/BBSRC will take part in the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum if invited to participate.

The BSEC: The BBSRC, in support of our application for Sectoral Dialogue Partnership Status with the BSEC, will be present as requested by the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials at its next meeting, to be held 21 October 2009 in Baku, Azerbaijan, in order to provide information about our activities and possible areas of cooperation with the BSEC. If our application is accepted, we will next define the BSEC working groups in which the BBSRC member regions would like to participate in representing the CPMR and our Geographical Commission.

Cooperation with other organizations in the area: Contact will be maintained with other organizations active in the area, including the European Commission, the Commission for External Relations and Decentralized Cooperation of the Committee of the Regions (RELEX), the Chamber of Regions of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, the Black Sea Euroregion, and the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative. These contacts are important and provide opportunities for interaction and for publicizing our policies and priorities.

The Black Sea Basin Joint Operational Programme 2007-2013. Contact will be maintained with the managing authority of the programme. At the same time we will continue to exchange information on specific projects among member regions and other entities, for a coordinated approach to the 2nd call for proposals which will take place in 2010. In addition, the CPMR and the BBSRC will continue petitioning the European Commission to increase the financing of this programme.

Amendment of the BBSRC statutes: Work on amending the BBSRC statutes, originally proposed in Bayonne last year and scheduled for completion in Odessa last June, will be continued through the circulation of a draft of the amended statutes to all BBSRC member regions. Member regions will be asked for comments and/or approval, and the final text is scheduled to be presented for adoption at the 2010 BBSRC General Assembly.

Preparations for the 2010 BBSRC General Assembly: The priority of the secretariat in regard to the 2010 BBSRC General Assembly is to fix the place and time of the assembly, which, for the first time since 2007, will not take place in conjunction with the June CPMR Political Bureau meeting. Proposals under consideration for the theme of the 2010 General Assembly include "The coordinated development of the Black Sea Ring Highway. The role of the regions". A positive outcome of the CPMR/BBSRC application for Sectoral Dialogue Partnership Status with the BSEC will provide the opportunity for the first concrete example of cooperation with the BSEC PERMIS.

Organization of the proposed 2nd BBSRC Technical Commission meeting: The first meeting of the BBSRC Technical Commission (TC) took place 7 November 2008 in Thessaloniki, pursuant to the BBSRC decision of the 2007 Canakkale General Assembly to proceed to the establishment of a BBSRC Technical Commission. The goal is to provide a flexible organ for cooperation among member regions of our Geographical Commission in which officials from the member regions that deal with projects of interregional cooperation can meet. If the 2nd BBSRC Technical Commission will be finally organized, an evaluation of the project submitted by member regions during the first stage of The Black Sea Basin Joint Operational Programme 2007-2013 under the European Neighborhood & Partnership Instrument (ENPI) of the European Union may also be considered.

Contacts with member regions: Visits to member regions are recommended, especially where there is new political leadership and the need to reintroduce our organization. This is the case in the Bulgarian regions in Burgas and Varna, in some regions in Turkey such as Tekirdag, Canakkale, Edirne, Sinope, and may possibly be needed in Greece following the October 2009 elections.

Membership policy: BBSRC policy of increasing our membership in the wider Black Sea Area and the Balkans will continue. I have been contacted by the Sebastopol City state administration and I was informed that Sebastopol has decided to formally apply for membership in the next several days. This is a concrete result of my trip last April to the maritime regions of Ukraine. Efforts for establishing contacts with the two Russian Regions of Krasnodar and Rostov will also continue. We are in discussions for organizing a visit to the competent authorities of the Russian Federation in Moscow by the CPMR, the BBSRC and its two other Regional Commissions concerned namely with the Baltic Sea Commission and the North Sea Commission.

Involvement with the work of the CPMR: The work of the CPMR and its Geographical Commissions will be followed closely, to promote the special interests and political priorities of the BBSRC and the wider Balkan and Black Sea area. Its Executive Secretary Anthony Papadimitriou will take part in the Oviedo Political Bureau meeting next February, and the CPMR Extended Management Committee to include the Executive Secretaries of the Geographical Commissions in January and May. This is the staff meeting of the general secretariat of the CPMR, which prepares the statutory meetings (the General Assembly and the Political Bureau) and coordinates the policies and activities of the CPMR and its Geographical Commissions. Another CPMR event is the presentation of the CPMR Work Program for 2009, to be held in Brussels next March. This is an important annual activity of the CPMR and its Geographical Commissions, aiming to present its policies and activities to interested groups in Brussels, which include representatives of regions based in Brussels, diplomatic missions, journalists, and NGOs.

Member Regions of the BBSRC participating in CPMR working groups. An effort will be made for the BBSRC to be represented at the meetings of the working groups of the CPMR where the policy of the organization is decided, so that the particular interests of our Commission can be expressed. Our Commission will be represented by 2 representatives from Primorsko-Goranska County, Croatia at the next event of the working group on Energy (22-23 October in Falmouth, Cornwall, on Marine Energy). Representatives from our Commission also take part in the working groups on Tourism and Transport.

Administrative matters. During the next 9 months, the Executive Secretary will continue to be involved in the day-to-day business of the Commission; will maintain contacts between the regional members, potential members, international organizations and the CPMR; and will also deal with secretarial matters such as drafting the minutes and preparing the meetings.

Gothenburg, 1 October 2009.
Anthony Papadimitriou, BBSRC Executive Secretary

he CPMR Balkans and Black Sea Commission for the period ahead up to its next BBSRC General Assembly meeting which should take place in June 2010, in implementation of the guidelines set in the General Assembly of Odessa, in June 2009, will be engaged into the following areas:

A. Internal matters:

Amendment of the BBSRC Statutes: The work which has stated in Bayonne last year and was supposed to be concluded in Odessa last June will continue by implicating all BBSRC member regions by form of circulation of a draft of the Amended statutes. Member regions will be asked for comments and/or approval, so the final text to be presented for approval at the 2010 BBSRC General Assembly.

Preparations of the 2010 General Assembly: It will be for the first time since 2007, that the BBSRC General Assembly will not take place at the same time with the CPMR Political Bureau meeting of June. This will result to substantial work from the BBSRC secretariat. The first priority will be to fix the place and time. As for the main theme of the 2010 General Assembly a possible subject could be: "The coordinated development of the Black Sea Ring Highway. The role of the regions". A positive outcome of our CPMR/BBSRC application for Sectoral Dialogue Partnership Status with BSEC will give us the opportunity for a first concrete example of cooperation with the BSEC PERMIS.

A possible organization of the 2nd BBSRC Technical Commission meeting. The first meeting of the BBSRC Technical Commission (TC) took place in Thessaloniki, on 7 November 2008, pursuant to the BBSRC decision of the 2007 Canakkale General Assembly to proceed to the establishment of a "BBSRC Technical Commission". The target is officials from the member regions dealing with projects of interregional cooperation to meet, as a flexible organ for cooperation among member regions of our Geographical Commission. In case the meeting will finally be organized it will be good to proceed as well to an evaluation of the first stage of The Black Sea Basin Joint Operational Programme 2007 - 2013 under the European Neighbourhood & Partnership Instrument (ENPI) of the European Union.

Contacts with member regions: As much as possible it will be good to visit member regions especially where there is a new leadership and is necessary to reintroduce our organization. This is the case in the Bulgarian Regions in Burgas and Varna, in some Regions in Turkey such as Tekirdag, Canakale, Edirne, Sinop, and possibly in Greece in case there will be a political change, etc.

Membership policy: BBSRC policy of increasing our membership in the wider Black Sea Area and the Balkans will go on. I have been contacted by the Sebastopol City state Administration and I was informed that Sabastopol has decided to formally apply for membership in the next days. This is a concrete result from my trip to the maritime regions of Ukraine which I undertook last April. Efforts viewing to contact the two Russian Regions of Krasnodar and Rostov will go on. We are in discussions for the organization of a visit to

the competent authorities of the Russian Federation in Moscow by CPMR and its other 2 Regional Commissions concerned namely the Baltic Commission and the North Sea Commission.

Involvement with the work of the CPMR: The work of CPMR and its other 5 geographical commissions will be followed closely, promoting the special interests and political priorities of BBSRC and the wider Balkan and Black Sea area. Its Executive Secretary Anthony Papadimitriou will take part to the Oviedo Political Bureau meeting next February, the CPMR Extended Management Committee to include the Executive Secretaries of the Geographical Commissions in January and May. This is the staff meeting of the general secretariat of CPMR, which prepares the statutory meetings (the General Assembly and the Political Bureau) and coordinates the policies and activities of CPMR and its 6 Geographical Commissions. Another CPMR event is the presentation of the CPMR Work Program for 2009, in Brussels next March. This is an important annual activity of CPMR and its Geographical Commissions aiming to present its policies and activities to interested groups in Brussels. (Representatives of Regions based in Brussels, diplomatic missions, journalists, NGO's, etc.).

Member Regions of the BBSRC participating in CPMR working groups. An effort will be given so the BBSRC to be represented to the meetings of the working groups of CPMR where the policy of the organization is formatted so as the particular interests of our Commission to be expressed. In the next event of the WG on Energy on Marine Energy which will take place in Falmouth, Cornwall, on the 22nd/23rd of October our Commission will be represented by 2 representatives from Primorsko-Goranska County. However, this is not always possible due to financial, communication and other reasons, as to the fact that member regions coming from non E.U member regions without administrative involvement with certain E.U policies, result to lack of expertise in these domains. Representatives from our Commission take part to the WG on Tourism, Transport, etc.

Administrative matters. During the next 9 months, the Executive Secretary will run as usual the day-to-day business of the Commission and will 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.).

B. External matters:

Monitoring E.U policies related to the specific interests of the BBSRC:

Economic situation- Crisis

Lisbon Treaty – Ratification process

Eastern Partnership

Macroregions – Baltic Sea Strategy

New Commission, FUNDS, Black Sea Policies. Economic situation- Crisis

Follow up on developments related to the Eastern Partnership Initiative / Follow up with the Black Sea Synergy Policy of the EU - Contacts with the Commission of the EU.
EASTERN PARTNERSHIP FORUM Application

BSEC. Our organization in supporting our application for Sectoral Dialogue Partnership Status with BSEC will be present as requested by the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials at its next Meeting to be held in Baky, on 21 October 2009 in order to present our organization and give information on our activities and possible areas of co-operation with BSEC. In case of a positive outcome of our application it will be necessary to define in with BSEC working groups the BBSRC member regions would like to participate in the name of CPMR and our Geographical Commission.

Cooperation with other organizations in the area: Contacts with other organizations active in the area such as the European Commission, the Commission for External Relations and Decentralized Cooperation of the Committee of the Regions (RELEX), the Chamber of Regions of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, the Black Sea Euroregion, the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative, etc. will be maintained. These contacts are important and are giving us the opportunity for interaction and to make our policies and priorities known.

The Black Sea Basin Joint Operational Programme 2007-2013. Our Commission will maintain the good contacts with the managing authority of the project and continue to coordinate efforts and make an exchange of information on specific projects among member regions and other entities for a coordinated approach to the 2nd call of proposals which will begin in 2010. At the same time CPMR and the BBSRC will continue to pressure for an increase of the financing of this specific programme by the European Commission.