

	<p style="text-align: center;">CONFERENCE OF PERIPHERAL MARITIME REGIONS OF EUROPE ΔΙΑΣΚΕΨΗ ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΑΚΩΝ & ΠΑΡΑΚΤΙΩΝ ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΩΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΥΡΩΠΗΣ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BALKAN & BLACK SEA COMMISSION (BBSRC) ΕΠΙΤΡΟΠΗ ΒΑΛΚΑΝΙΩΝ & ΕΥΞΕΙΝΟΥ ΠΟΝΤΟΥ</p>	
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8 JULY 2011

DECLARATION OF THE CPMR BALKAN AND BLACK SEA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Varna- Bulgaria - 8 July 2011

For an integrated EU strategy for the Black Sea Region

The BBSRC of the CPMR is taking into consideration the following facts:

- The Black Sea Synergy launched by the EU in 2007 has not sufficiently progressed, and not met the expectations fixed by the Council of Ministers at their meeting in Kiev
- In parallel, other EU initiatives have been launched (Eastern Partnership initiative, Danube Strategy, Ionian-Adriatic macroregion) but cannot be considered as covering the Black Sea area as such

Since 2007, Romania and Bulgaria have been Members States of the EU, and the Black Sea could now be seen as a "partly EU sea".

The BBSRC welcomes the European Parliament resolution on an EU strategy for the Black Sea, adopted on 20 January 2011, and considers it as a relevant basis for further consideration by the EU institutions towards the adoption of such a strategy. It has noticed with satisfaction that the Multiannual Financial Perspectives proposed by the European Commission for the next programming period foresee an increase in the budget attributed to the neighbourhood policy and expects that the Black Sea area will be positively taken into consideration in this context.

However, it regrets that in the communication of the EEAS and the EU on a new European neighbourhood policy, the Black Sea and its Black Sea Synergy have even not been referred to.

In this context, the BBSRC member Regions of the CPMR consider the need for developing an integrated Black Sea Strategy in the immediate future along with the Eastern Partnership Dimension, as a necessary condition for their economic and social development. Only a comprehensive and global interregional approach and a coordination of policies can reach this objective and bring concrete results.

To this effect, the BBSRC has resolved to work in close relationship with the EU Institutions so that the European Neighbourhood Policy takes into full consideration the EP Resolution on an EU Strategy for the Black Sea.

The BBSRC member Regions reaffirm their commitments that all the regional authorities around the Black Sea will actively participate in the preparation and implementation of such a strategy.

The Regions are fully supportive of the work of the Conference of the Regional and Local Authorities of the Eastern Partnership initiative of the EU (CORLEAP), which will hold its inaugural meeting in Poznan on 8 September 2011, and at the same time will work towards establishing a conference of regional authorities of the wider Black Sea area.

They invite all concerned and interested parties to work towards the implementation of the goals of the present resolution.