

CPMR BALKAN AND BLACK SEA COMMISSION (BBSRC)

2009 GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

Thursday, 11 June 2009 (9.30-16.00) - Odessa (UKRAINE)

Welcome address by Mr Mykola SKORYK, Head of Odessa Regional Council.

Dear Members,

On behalf of Odessa region I want to welcome all members of the meeting of Balkans-Black Sea Commission of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe on the hospitable Odessa land.

The Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions has been formed 35 years ago for stimulation of harmonious development of maritime regions. 160 regions from 28 countries of the world are members of the Conference nowadays.

It is pleasant to note that Odessa region which has entered this international structure in 2004 is the only one region of Ukraine that has membership in this organization. This is why it is a great honor for us to hold a meeting of such level and to play host to representatives from 30 countries of the world.

Such actions not only form positive image of the Odessa region but also help in solving economic and socially important questions.

Our countries occupy important place on the map of Europe and our successes substantially depends not only from internal factors, but also on cooperation with the neighboring states, as on a bilateral basis so and within the frames of this organization.

I consider that the main task for our states and regions is solving of actual problems with an aim of further regional development and achievement of high European standards of life.

I would like to thank Secretary General of CPMR Xavier Gizard for the considerable personal contribution for development and cooperation strengthening between our countries and to wish him strong health and successes in further work.

Also it I would like to express hope that election of the new secretary will allow to reach even more good results in development of relations between our regions, by realization of projects in social and economic, ecological and cultural-humanitarian spheres.

Despite all achievements which we have reached in the course of formation of inter-regional cooperation with all without an exception neighboring countries, the main task all the same there is an achievement of compatibility with regions of the countries.

In spite of all achievements that we succeeded during the process of interregional cooperation establishment with all neighboring countries without exception the main task still remains achievement of compatibility with state regions.

We are confident that the basic weight in relations of Ukraine and EU countries is necessary to give for realization of real programs and projects on the regional cooperation level.

So, realization of joint projects in the frame of an existing Cross-Border Cooperation Program "Black sea" for 2007-2013 will promote infrastructure development, particularly, transport and power, will allow to activate trade and economic cooperation, will create favorable conditions for investments attraction, will allow to solve questions of environment protection, struggle against illegal migration, scientific and technological cooperation development.

To our opinion, realization of projects in above-mentioned spheres will allow to strengthen cross border cooperation between our regions and to create additional economic possibilities for residents of our territories. In a context of the European integration the role of cross border cooperation is very important since it appears not only as an instrument of border territories development, but also promotes strengthening of contacts between people and interpenetration of society values through the European borders.

In conclusion I want to express our strong belief that active actions of Odessa region in questions of inter-regional and cross border cooperation development with the EU countries are important part on the way of our country to European Union.

Thank You for attention