



CRPM CPMR

ΔΙΑΣΚΕΨΗ ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΑΚΩΝ &  
ΠΑΡΑΚΤΙΩΝ ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΩΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΥΡΩΠΗΣ



ΕΠΙΤΡΟΠΗ ΒΑΛΚΑΝΙΩΝ &  
ΜΑΥΡΗΣ ΘΑΛΑΣΣΑΣ

## CPMR BALKAN AND BLACK SEA REGIONAL COMMISSION (BBSRC)

### Brief Activity Report "From Bayonne to Odessa"

During the past 8 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 in the General Assembly of Rhodes and in the Bayonne pre-assembly meeting has been engaged into 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.

Anthony Papadimitriou, Executive Secretary of the BBSRC took part to the following international meetings:

- Together with President Tsiotras attended the CPMR Political Bureau Meeting which took place in Aarhus (Denmark), on 23 January 2009
- The meetings of the CPMR Extended Management Committee to include the Executive Secretaries of the Geographical Commissions, in Rennes (France) on 8-9 January and in Brussels on 2 -3 June 2009.
- 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. It meets twice a year.
- The presentation of the CPMR Work Program for 2009, in Brussels on 4 March 2009.
- 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.).
- The meeting of the CPMR Geographical Commissions Executive Secretaries with the CPMR Secretary General in Marseille, on 5 December 2008 in relation to the drafting of the technical paper on the recommendations to the CPMR Political Bureau following the inquiry in relation to the Future of CPMR.
- The pre-selection committee chaired by President Martini for the selection of the short list candidates for the post of the future CPMR Secretary General which took place in Brussels on 3 April 2009.

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.

**Contact with Regions of the BBSRC:** On 8-9 December 2009, Mr. Papadimitriou paid a visit to the Galati County Council following the kind invitation of its President Eugen Chebac, to participate as a speaker to the Anniversary Conference on "LOWER BANUBE EUROREGION - 10 YEARS OF CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION" experiencing the importance of the LOWER BANUBE EUROREGION for a successful interregional cooperation in the area with a great impact on sustainable development. L.D.E. brings together the regional authorities from Galati, Vraila and Tulcea from Romania, Cahul and Canternir from Moldova and Odessa from Ukraine.

The past months several contacts were made and a visit, on April 28<sup>th</sup>, with the General Department for Foreign Economic Activity and European Integration of the Odessa Regional State Administration in preparation of the BBSRC General Assembly. We would like to express our thanks and gratitude to Mrs. Svetlana Yakimenko the Head of the Department, Ms Anna Ursol for her efforts and passion, Ms. Anastasiya

Andronova and Mr. Andrey Staniev. It has been a real pleasure to work with them and I am sure we all believe that they have done a great job.

**Member Regions of the BBSRC participating in CPMR working groups:** BBSRC member regions became actively involved in several CPMR working groups on Energy and the CAP (Primorsko-Goranska County), Tourism (Region of Central Macedonia and Tulcea County) and Transport (Canakkale). However, due also to the recent financial crisis, the participation of more BBSRC member regions to the CPMR working groups constitutes a heavy financial obligations which is not always easy to overcome. At the same time, member regions coming from non E.U member states or regions without administrative involvement with certain E.U policies result to lack of expertise in these domains.

### **Amendments to the BBSRC Statutes**

Following the discussions held during the G.A in Rhodes and the Pre-Assembly meeting in Bayonne on the need to proceed to an amendment of the BBSRC existing statutes as they are not fully in line with the Commission's functions and particularities resulting that some provisions of the Statutes remained inactive and some others apply differently in practice, a draft version incorporating all points presented to the "STATUTES AMENDMENT- BAYONNE Pre-Assembly MEMO" was drafted by BBSRC Executive Secretary Anthony Papadimitriou and was communicated to the President of the BBSRC Mr. G. Tsiotras.

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

Following a decision of the Bayonne CPMR Political Bureau an official application for SDP status 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, as member regions will have the possibility to take part in certain working groups of the BSEC, bringing a regional dimension to its works. Several sectoral policies discussed are directly related to the maritime regions of the wider Black Sea area. Our application was first discussed at the meetings of the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials in Istanbul, last January but due to a heavy agenda and to the request of the Russian Federation the decision was postponed for the next meetings of the Committee of High Officials of BSEC meeting in Yerevan on 14 -15 April. In the mean time, the Russian Federation competent authorities were furnished with a complete information pack on both CPMR and BBSRC in order to get to know our organization and be able to support our candidature. In Yerevan, again the decision on our application was not discussed at the meetings of the BSEC Committee of High Official and it was deferred to be discussed at the next meeting to take place in Baku, Azerbaijan next September. We remain optimistic that the decision will be a positive one.

### **1st BBSRC Technical Commission meeting in Thessaloniki, 7-8 November 2008**

The first meeting of the BBSRC Technical Commission (TC) took place as scheduled in Thessaloniki, on 7 November 2009 following the kind invitation of the Region of Central Macedonia and its Secretary General G. Tsiotras. The regions of Tulcea and Konstanta from Romania, Varna from Bulgaria, Canakkale and Tekirdag from Turkey and East Macedonia & Thrace, Ionian Islands and Central Macedonia from Greece attended. After the presentation of all existing financial instruments in the Balkan and Black Sea area coming from the European Union and the BSEC and the presentation of best practices learned from territorial cooperation projects, two presentations were made by Ms Roxana Iacob from the Tulcea County Council on Tourism and Mr. Recai Basaran from Canakkale on Education. Mr. Mehmet Karaman from Tekirdag submitted for consideration a proposal related to the creation of an online project database for exchange project ideas and experiences between member regions. Ms. Avgoulidou from the Region of Central Macedonia submitted concrete project ideas on environment, natural risk and climate change, cultural heritage & landscape. All information on the 1st TC meeting can be found at the BBSRC web site.

### **The Black Sea Basin Joint Operational Programme 2007 - 2013**

The Launching Conference of the Black Sea Joint Operational CBC Programme 2007-2013 under the European Neighbourhood & Partnership Instrument (ENPI) of the EU took place in Bucharest on 5 May 2009 with the participation of officials from the EU and the states involved in the programme together with representatives from regional authorities and potential applicants. The BBSRC Commission was represented by A. Papadimitriou. Mrs T. Avgoulidou advisor to BBSRC President Tsiotras took part as well making a presentation on the function of the BBSRC Technical Commission.

## **Black Sea Euroregion**

Mr. A. Papadimitriou took part to the 1<sup>st</sup> General Assembly of the Black Sea Euroregion which took place in Constanta, Romania on 25-27 November 2008 following the kind invitation of its President and President of Constanta County Council Mr. Nicusor CONSTANTINESCU. In this meeting the first guidelines of the BSER activity were set and a working plan was adopted including concrete projects of interregional cooperation among its members.

## **Adriatic and Ionian Initiative**

Mr. A. Papadimitriou contacted members of the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative permanent secretariat during the Athens 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the AI Council on the occasion of the Hellenic Chairmanship in order to identify ways of cooperation between BBSRC member regions and regions from the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative which was established by the Ancona Declaration of May 20<sup>th</sup> 2000. It would be up to the BBSRC member regions in the area with the participation of the BBSRC to initiate first contacts viewing to establish concrete ways for such cooperation.

## **BBSRC membership policy**

Since our last meeting in Bayonne, we have received two applications for membership to our Commission. The first from the important Black Sea Turkish maritime region of Trabzon which means among others a geographical expansion of our Commission further to the East following the accession of Samsun in 2008. At the same time, we are ready to welcome our first observer member with the entry to the BBSRC of "The Union of the Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities" with a vast experience in co-operation projects representing the totality of the Bulgarian Black Sea coast.

At the same time, our policy of increasing BBSRC membership in the wider Black Sea area has continued towards the maritime regions of Ukraine and Russia. As discussed in Bayonne, our priority in view of the Odessa General Assembly was to establish contact with the Ukrainian Maritime Regions i.e., The Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Kherson, Mykolaiv, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhya and Sebastopol City state Administration which has a regime of a region. BBSRC Executive Secretary A. Papadimitriou visited the last week of April all above regions except Zaporizhzhya having the opportunity to introduce both CPMR and BBSRC, its policies, work and activities. At the same time he had the occasion to experience the function of the sub-national territorial structures of public administration in Ukraine. Mr. Papadimitriou was received in Kherson by Deputy Head Andrey Gradil and Mrs. Lyudmila Samsonenco the Head of the Department for External relations, In Mykolaiv, by the Deputy Head Mr. Volodymyr Lusta and Mrs. Tetiana Chychkalyuk, Head of the Department for External Relations and European Integration, in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea by the Deputy Minister of Economy Mr. Aleksandr Balanin and Mr. Igor Primyshev, Head of the office of External Relations and Economic cooperation, in Sebastopol by its first Deputy Head Mr. Vladimir Kazarin and in Donetsk by Chairman Vladimir LOGVINENKO, and Mr. Yuri Andryunin, Head of the Department of International cooperation. We would like to thank the Embassy of Ukraine in Greece and in particular Mr. Serhiy ORLOV and the Odessa Regional State Administration for their assistance in the preparation of this visit.

Contact with the Russian Federation was also undertaken through the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the E.U. A meeting was arranged with Mr. Igor Savastyanov, senior counselor on regional cooperation. In the meeting it was suggested by Mr. Sevastyanov to proceed to a joint presentation of the three CPMR Geographical Commissions with border areas with Russia (BBSRC, Baltic Sea and North Sea) in view of the preparation of an official visit to Moscow for contact with the competent Ministries of the Russian Federation. Contacts are under way to this Direction.

## **Administrative matters**

During the past 8 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.) together with the assistance of Mrs. Catherine Patieu from the Rennes CPMR Secretariat. However, as the BBSRC is involved with an increased number of activities and responsibilities, the secretarial support should be increased.