



STATUTES OF THE CPMR BALKANS & BLACK SEA REGIONAL COMMISSION

ARTICLE 1 - AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The CPMR Balkans and Black Sea Regional Commission (BBSRC) is created within CPMR and will act as its Geographical Commission.

The present statutes fall within the framework of the organisational charter of CPMR. They are approved by the Political Bureau and the General Assembly of CPMR.

The aim of the CPMR Balkans and Black Sea Regional Commission is to act as the political voice of the Regions with the following objectives:

1. To organise and develop dialogue, consultation and cooperation between all Regions of the Balkans and Black Sea area, while complying with the Constitutions, laws and regulations, and treaties in force in their States;
2. To contribute towards peace and stability in the Balkan and Black Sea area; and to promote the integration of this region in the European Union;
3. To promote regionalisation in Europe and encourage the application of the principles of subsidiarity and complementarity between the local, regional, national and European Institutional levels;
4. To identify and to promote specific programmes for the Balkans and Black Sea area or to participate in programmes organised by third parties in order to achieve or pursue its objectives;
5. To promote cooperation between structures of public authorities from the member regions;
6. To have consultations and to make proposals to inter-state structures specially created for the Balkans and Black Sea.

ARTICLE 2 - MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

1- The following may become members of the Association:

- As Full Members, the regions of the states in the Balkans including the North-East part of Italy and the regions of the states in the Black Sea. All the full members are members of the CPMR.
- As observers: territorial entities that are in the process of regionalisation, individual regions or regional associations for a period of one year.

- 2- The term "Region" covers mainly the local authorities immediately below the level of central government. The same territory may be directly represented in the BBSRC by only one entity.
- 3- The CPMR General Assembly decides, upon the proposal of the CPMR Political Bureau, on whether membership of the regions, groups of regions within a state or interregional associations, should be granted, maintained or revoked and on the type of membership. In its proposals, the Political Bureau shall take into account, as appropriate, the internal particularities of each region in accordance with the measures set out in paragraph 2 of this article. Before the decision of the General Assembly, the applicant regions, groups of regions within a state or interregional associations may attend the working meetings of the BBSRC as observers.

ARTICLE 3 - THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- 1- Each region appoints its delegates to the General Assembly.
- 2- Each member has a maximum of two seats at the General Assembly. The delegates at the General Assembly must be members of a Regional Government or a Regional Assembly, or representatives with a political mandate.
- 3- Each full member of the BBSRC, as specified in article 2.1a of the present Statutes, after paying the membership dues for the past or current calendar year, has the right to one vote at the General Assembly.
- 4- The General Assembly is convened at least once a year by the Political Bureau. If the Political Bureau, or a quarter of the full members so request, the President will convene an Extraordinary General Assembly.
- 5- The General Assembly, in the presence of at least half of the full members, and by a simple majority, discharges its responsibility for the accounts of the previous year, establishes the amounts of the current year and approves, upon the Political Bureau's proposal, the draft budget for the following year.
- 6- The General Assembly may take decisions on its own initiative.
- 7- The General Assembly, in the presence of at least half of the full members, discusses and adopts reports from the President and the Political Bureau.
- 8- The General Assembly decides, upon proposal by the Political Bureau and by a half vote of the present members:
 - On the annual reports of the President and the Political Bureau, and also their work programmes,
 - On the resolutions on the political strategy of the BBSRC,
 - Unanimity is requested to admit members.
- 9- The General Assembly, in the presence of at least half of the full members, elects, separately, for a term of 2 years, the President and the Vice-president in a first ballot and by a two-thirds majority vote of the full members of the BBSRC. They may be re-elected immediately for a second mandate.
- 10- The General Assembly elects, on the proposal of the regions of the different states represented in the BBSRC, the other members of the Political Bureau. They have a two-year mandate and may be re-elected immediately for a second mandate. Upon proposal by the regions from within a State, they may have a following third mandate.
- 11- Only members of a regional government or assembly may be elected.
- 12- The General Assembly initiates studies, adopts recommendations, and examines projects for interregional cooperation in the political, economic, social, cultural, educational, environmental and healthcare fields, and in any other areas insofar as it deems appropriate.
- 13- The minutes shall be drawn up following the proceedings of the General Assembly. The minutes shall be signed by the President and entered in a register kept for this purpose.

ARTICLE 4 - THE POLITICAL BUREAU

1. The Political Bureau is made up of the President and a number of Vice-Presidents, representing the different countries of the Balkan and Black Sea area.
2. The Political Bureau forms the executive body of the BBSRC. It represents the interests of the BBSRC members. It implements the decisions of the General Assembly and makes the necessary decisions between two General Assemblies.
3. The Political Bureau:
 - a - Coordinates the activities carried out by the Committees and other subsidiary bodies;
 - b - Forwards its recommendations to the General Assembly on the setting up or dissolution of the Committees and decides on the creation of *ad hoc* Working Groups assisting its activities;
 - c - Prepares decisions for conventions, declarations and decisions which are submitted to the General Assembly;
 - d - Initiates and makes studies and reports concerning themes that are relative to the BBSRC's objectives and, if necessary, puts forward its recommendations to the General Assembly;
 - e - May organise a General Conference to discuss issues of general interest;
 - f - Cooperates with international, interregional, regional and municipal organisations whenever these deals with matters within the BBSRC's remit.
4. The Political Bureau is responsible for the preparation of decisions to be submitted to the General Assembly. It organises and coordinates the work of the General Assembly and the other bodies of the BBSRC that will be created subsequently.
5. The Political Bureau makes its decisions by a two-thirds majority vote of the full members present.
6. The composition of the Political Bureau must be proportionally adjusted according to the regions belonging to a state. In case of absence, members of the Political Bureau may be represented by a designated alternative member. These substitutes must be members or high-ranking political representatives of a government or assembly of a region of the same State.
7. When a member of the Political Bureau loses his/her political mandate, a new election will be organised during the following General Assembly. In the interim period, his/her substitute or successor in the regional mandate is admitted to take his/her place in the Political Bureau.
8. The Political Bureau meets at least twice a year.

ARTICLE 5 - THE PRESIDENT

1. The President is the supreme representative of the BBSRC, representing it in all external relations. He/she chairs the meeting of the BBSRC bodies and has the power to make all necessary decisions aiming at the implementation of the decisions of the above mentioned bodies. The President is member of the Political Bureau of the CPMR.
2. In agreement with the Political Bureau, the President may delegate certain tasks to one or more Vice-Presidents. Should the President lose his/her regional mandate, a new vote will be organised in an Extraordinary General Assembly.

ARTICLE 6 - THE WORKING GROUPS

1. The Working Groups are open to all members of the BBSRC.
2. Each established Working Group is chaired by one of the members of the Political Bureau. The task of the Working Groups is to prepare the actions and standpoints in order to carry out the BBSRC programmes. The Political Bureau or the General Assembly decides on the recommendations of the Working Groups.

ARTICLE 7 - THE SECRETARIAT

To help the President prepare the documents for the General Assembly and the meetings of the Political Bureau, and assist in the day-to-day running of the BBSRC, the President shall appoint an executive secretary.

ARTICLE 8 - FINANCE

1. The financial year of the BBSRC corresponds to the calendar year. A forecast statement and a closing balance sheet are drawn-up for each financial year.
2. The financial resources of the BBSRC are as follows:
 - Membership dues in accordance with Article 3,
 - Grants from public and private institutions,
 - Income from its own activities,
 - Income generated by its own assets,
 - Other legally authorised resources.
3. The BBSRC fulfils its financial commitments by means of its assets. The full members of the BBSRC are also jointly held liable for the undertaken commitments.
4. The amount of annual membership dues is set each year in the budget.

ARTICLE 9 - AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES

1. The Statutes can be amended only by an *Extraordinary* General Assembly.
2. Decisions amending the Statutes may be made only by unanimity of the present members of the BBSRC. The presence of the two-thirds of the full members is needed.

ARTICLE 10 - HEADQUARTERS AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The Balkans and Black Sea Regional Commission is established in Kavala, Greece. It may be transferred elsewhere by the decision of the Political Bureau.