

	<p>CONFERENCE OF PERIPHERAL MARITIME REGIONS OF EUROPE ΔΙΑΣΚΕΨΗ ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΑΚΩΝ &amp; ΠΑΡΑΚΤΙΩΝ ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΩΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΥΡΩΠΗΣ</p> <p><b>BALKAN &amp; BLACK SEA COMMISSION (BBSRC)</b> ΕΠΙΤΡΟΠΗ ΒΑΛΚΑΝΙΩΝ &amp; ΕΥΞΕΙΝΟΥ ΠΟΝΤΟΥ</p>	
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## PRESS RELEASE

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### THE CPMR CALLS FOR A BLACK SEA STRATEGY

On 8 July 2011 in Varna (Bulgaria), the CPMR's Balkan/Black Sea Commission invited (LINK HERE) the EU institutions to make the Black Sea a priority for EU neighbourhood policy and integrated maritime policy.

*"We are following the promising developments of the macro-regional approaches with interest, in particular the Danube Strategy. But in this context we should not forget about the Black Sea, which deserves a strategy of its own,"* stated the CPMR's President Jean-Yves **Le Drian**, who was present in Varna.

During the meeting, **Pavlos Damianidis**, Deputy Regional Governor of Western Macedonia and Thrace (Greece) was elected President of the Balkan/Black Sea Commission. His challenge will be to encourage the Regions to give fresh impetus to the necessary cooperation activities in this geographical area.

The Regions spoke out in favour of establishing a partnership with the national authorities and above all with the European Parliament, which was represented by Vladko **Panayotov**. Indeed, coordination between the MEPs of the Black Sea and the CPMR's Regions will be a key factor in ensuring the success of this future strategy.

The European Commission was represented by George **Kremlis**, Director at DG Environment, who strongly encouraged the different stakeholders to work together to protect marine and coastal ecosystems.

Finally, Eleni **Marianou**, Secretary General of the CPMR, recalled that it was necessary to *"make an assessment of the goals, actions and partnerships agreed in Varna to make sure that the Regions are involved more in neighbourhood policy and in preparing a Black Sea strategy"*.

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