



CG/CONF/VARNA (2008)1

1 October 2008

International Conference
Launch of the “Black Sea Euroregion”

PROGRAMME

Varna (Bulgaria)
26 September 2008
Riviera Beach Hotel – Holiday Club Riviera – Golden Sands Resort

organised by

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe
Municipality of Varna
and the Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities

International Conference

Launch of the “Black Sea Euroregion”

Context

In 2006 the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe proposed setting up a new Euroregion in the Black Sea Basin, bearing in mind the experience gained by the “Adriatic Euroregion” which has been operating successfully since June 2006.

The Black Sea Basin, by virtue of its ties with Central Europe, its access to the Mediterranean Sea and its geographical position as a crossroads between East and West, is crucially important. In the socio-economic, cultural and environmental spheres, the Black Sea is one of Europe’s most sensitive geographical zones.

The Congress has already organised three major conferences on the subject, in Constanta (Romania, March 2006), Samsun (Turkey, November 2006) and Odessa (Ukraine, June 2007) (cf. Conclusions – Congress website: http://www.coe.int/t/congress/6-Specific-programmes/Euroregion/default_en.asp)

It emerged from these three conferences that a platform for co-operation between the local and regional authorities of the Black Sea Basin is wanted and, at local and regional level, will form a natural complement to the work of the intergovernmental organisations such as BSEC (Black Sea Economic Co-operation).

Objective of the Varna conference

On the basis of the proceedings of the three earlier conferences, a draft Constituent Act and Statute of the Euroregion have been prepared.

On the invitation of the town of Varna (Bulgaria), this further conference is being held to enable the towns and regions of the Black Sea to sign these instruments setting up the Black Sea Euroregion, or to undertake to sign them as soon as possible.

Participants

To be invited to the Conference: local and regional elected representatives from the Black Sea Basin; political representatives of the countries in the Black Sea Basin; officials of the European institutions and representatives of Euroregions; representatives of national and European associations of local and regional authorities; experts; representatives of NGOs specialising in transfrontier co-operation questions.

The working languages of the conference are Bulgarian, Russian, English and French.

The Conference will be held in Varna at the following address:

Riviera Beach hotel – Conference Hall
RIVIERA Holiday Club
Golden Sands Resort
Varna, Bulgaria

Programme

25 September 2008

Arrival of the participants, accommodation arrangements

8–10.30 pm Welcome dinner, hosted by Borislav GUTSANOV, Chair of Varna Municipal Council
Café Imperial, hotel 'Imperial'

26 September 2008

9–9.30 am Registration of participants

9.30–11 am Opening Session

- **Kiril YORDANOV**, Mayor of the City of Varna (Bulgaria)
- **Borislav GUTSANOV**, Chair of Varna Municipal Council (Bulgaria)
- **Atanas STOILOV**, Chairman of the Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities (UBBSLA)
- **Yavuz MILDON**, President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe
- **Vasil KUYBIDA**, Minister for Regional Development and Construction of Ukraine
- **Milen KEREMEDCHIEV**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria
- **Răzvan-Horațiu RADU**, Under-Secretary of State within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania
- **Ivan PETKOV**, Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the Council of Europe

11–11.30 am Press Conference
Conference Hall, II level, Riviera beach hotel

Coffee break
Lobby of Riviera beach hotel

11.45 am – 1 pm **“BLACK SEA EUROREGION” – PLATFORM FOR CO-OPERATION BETWEEN LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES OF THE BLACK SEA BASIN**

- Chair: **Ludmila SFIRLOAGA**, President of the Chamber of Regions of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe
- **Ivan Nikolaev IVANOV**, Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
- **Marusya LUBCHEVA**, Member of the European Parliament
- **Ramona MANESCU**, Member of the European Parliament

- **Aurelia DOMNITEANU**, Vice-President of National Union of County Council's of Romania
- **Rosita YANAKIEVA**, Head of the Bulgarian Delegation to the Congress of the Council of Europe
- **Mariana KANCHEVA IVANOVA**, Executive Director of the Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities (UBBSLA)
- **Oriano OTOCAN**, Member of the Government of the Istrian Region (Croatia), Representative of the Adriatic Euroregion
- **Giovanni Di STASI**, Head of the Centre of Expertise on Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

1–3 pm Lunch, hosted by **Dimitar NIKOLOV**, Mayor of the City of Bourgas
Riviera restaurant, Riviera beach hotel

3–4.00 pm **THE BLACK SEA EUROREGION: CONSTITUENT ACT AND DRAFT STATUTE**

- Chair: **Yavuz MILDON**, President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe
- **Ulrich BOHNER**, Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe
- **Nicusor Daniel CONSTANTINESCU**, President of Constanta County Council (Romania)
- **Mikheil MAKHARADZE**, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Autonomous Republic of Adjara (Georgia)
- **Dimitar NIKOLOV**, Mayor of the City of Bourgas (Bulgaria)
- **Varuzhan NERSISYAN**, Mayor of Ijevan (Armenia)

4.00-4.30 pm Coffee break
Lobby of Riviera Beach hotel

- 4.30–5 pm
- **Abulfaz BABAYEV**, Chairman of the National Association of City Municipalities of Azerbaijan
 - **Gheorghe VASILACHI**, President of Regional Council of Cahul (Moldova)
 - **Valery KADOKHOV**, Representative of the Parliament of North Osetia-Alania Republic to the Council of Federation of the Fed. Assembly of Russian Federation (Russian Federation)
 - **Yusuf Ziya YILMAZ**, Mayor of Samsun Metropolitan (Turkey)
 - Interventions of other local and regional Authorities representatives

General debate

FINAL SESSION

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| 5.00-5.30 pm | Adoption of the Final Declaration on the Black Sea Euroregion by the participants |
| 5.30 pm | Voting procedures of the Black Sea Euroregion Bodies |
| | Official signature of the Constituent Act and Statutes by the Members |
| 6.00 pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Statement by Kiril YORDANOV, Mayor of the City of Varna |
| 8 pm | Official dinner hosted by Kiril YORDANOV, Mayor of the City of Varna
<i>Imperial Restaurant, hotel 'Imperial'</i> |