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International Conference

Launch of the “Black Sea Euroregion”

FINAL DECLARATION

Varna (Bulgaria)
26 September 2008

organised by

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

**Final Declaration on the Black Sea Euroregion
Varna, 26 September 2008**

The representatives of the cities, regions and institutions taking part in the Conference for the launching of the Black Sea Euroregion held in Varna on 26 September 2008:

Wishing to thank the Municipality of Varna, the Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe for the organization of the Varna Conference;

Expressing gratitude to the Constanta County Council (Romania), the Metropolitan Municipality of Samsun (Turkey), the Municipality of Odessa (Ukraine) and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe for the preparatory activities brought about in favor of the Black Sea Euroregion initiative;

Welcoming the efforts made by the Congress to promote second generation Euroregions which have been successful by the creation in 2006 of the Adriatic Euroregion;

Bearing in mind Recommendation 199 (2006) of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, on “Inter-regional co-operation in the Black Sea Basin”, adopted in Strasbourg on 1st June 2006;

Considering the importance of the Black Sea area in the context of the present challenges of the European Continent and for the future of European integration;

Conscious of the recent efforts of the European Union to develop a “Black Sea Synergy” programme;

Stressing the importance of developing fruitful co-operation with the inter-governmental organization for the Black Sea (Black Sea Economic Co-operation Organization – BSEC);

Acknowledging that the enhancement of transfrontier and inter-regional co-operation in the Black Sea area can make a significant contribution to the advancement of peace, stability and cohesion for the territories concerned;

Considering that the regions, provinces and municipalities in the Black Sea Area share extensive human, cultural and natural resources that can be successfully valorised through cross-border and inter-regional co-operation initiatives;

Acknowledging that the Black Sea Euroregion can represent an important forum for: exchanging experiences between local, regional, national and international authorities; strengthening good-neighbourhood relations and implementing inter-territorial co-operation projects;

Expressing full support to the Black Sea Euroregion initiative;

Taking note of the Constituent Act and Statutes of the Black Sea Euroregion to be signed in Varna on 26 September 2008 by 14 cities or regional institutions at the issue of the present Conference;

Welcoming the establishment of a network of contact points in cities such as: Varna (Bulgaria), Constanta (Romania), Samsun (Turkey), Odessa (Ukraine), Batumi (Georgia), Cahul (Moldova), Ljevan (Armenia) and others upon request;

Decide to disseminate the information on the Black Sea Euroregion initiative in order to gather additional potential memberships for it;

Express their satisfaction on the willingness expressed by several municipalities and regional institutions neighbouring the Black Sea to study the possibility of signing, as soon as possible, the Constituent Act and Statute of the Black Sea Euroregion once the internal procedures in their respective countries have been complied with.