



PRESS RELEASE

Athens, 22 September 2014

Official visit of ICBSS Director General, Dr. Zefi Dimadama, to Baku

Within the framework of further promoting regional cooperation, ICBSS Director General, Dr. Zefi Dimadama, visited Baku, on 16-19 September 2014. Dr. Dimadama was accompanied by ICBSS Research Fellow, Ms. Georgia Chantzi. The scope of the visit was to further promote bilateral cooperation in fields of common interest with a view to establishing an extended network of collaboration within the BSEC Member States.

During her two-day visit, Ms. Dimadama had the opportunity to meet with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Mahmud Ahmed Oglu Mammad-Guliyev, to discuss issues of common priority.

Within the context of her visit, on 17 September, Dr. Zefi Dimadama gave a lecture at Khazar University, in the context Jean Monnet European Seminar Series, on “Perspectives on the European Union and the Black Sea Regional Cooperation”, hosted by Dr. Mukhtar Hajizada, Head of Department of Political Science and International Relations and Jean Monnet Chair. The lecture was preceded by the official signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Mr. Hamlet Isaxanli, Founder and Chairman of Khazar University and ICBSS Director General, Dr. Zefi Dimadama. Desiring to establish and to develop cooperation regarding joint research, the MoU’s main objective is to promote and further enhance cooperation between the two Institutions in fields of common interest.

Furthermore, on 17 September, the ICBSS Delegation met with representatives from the Center for Strategic Studies under the President of Azerbaijan (SAM), Dr. Vusal Quasimli, Head of Economic Analysis and Global Affairs Department, Dr. Rovshan Ibrahimov, Head of Foreign Policy Analysis Department and Mr. Shahmar Hajiyev, Leading Research Fellow. Within the framework of the existing MoU between ICBSS and SAM, the two parties discussed the future organisation of joint actions in priority issues, such as energy efficiency.

In the context of her visit, on 18 September, Dr. Zefi Dimadama participated as key speaker on a Round Table Discussion on “Impact of the Transadriatic pipeline on Southeastern Europe”, hosted by the Caspian Center for Energy and Environment of ADA University. At the margins of the event, CCEE Chair, Dr. Elnur Soltanov and ICBSS Director General, Dr. Zefi Dimadama signed a Cooperation Agreement aiming at fostering joint actions and exchange of knowledge in fields of common interest such as energy efficiency and environmental policies.

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About the ICBSS: The International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) was founded in 1998 as a non-profit organisation. It has since fulfilled a dual function. On the one hand, it is an independent research and training institution focusing on the wider Black Sea region. On the other hand, it is a related body of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) and serves as its acknowledged think-tank. Thus, the ICBSS pursues applied, policy-oriented research, promotes knowledge on the Black Sea region both within and outside its boundaries, and offers policy advice with the aim to foster multilateral cooperation among the BSEC member states as well as with their international partners.

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