PRESS RELEASE

Athens, 16 October 2019

Green Energy & Blue Growth: drivers for development across the Black Sea

In the framework of the Hellenic BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office, the International Center for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) successfully organized in cooperation with the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Conference “Green Energy & Blue Growth: drivers for development across the Black Sea”, on Monday 14 October 2019 in Athens, Greece (‘Giannos Kranidiotis’ Amphitheatre - Hellenic MFA).

The main objective of the event was to inform the wider public about the policy developments at regional level in the two key priorities of the Hellenic BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office, namely green energy and blue growth, as well as to highlight best practices and opportunities for synergies in the wider Black Sea region.

Opening the Symposium, the ICBSS Director General, Mr. Georgios Mitrakos, stressed the importance of productive discussions concerning the abovementioned priorities in the wider Black Sea Region.

Welcome addresses were delivered by H.E. Ambassador Frangiskos Kostellenos, Director of the Diplomatic Cabinet of the Deputy Minister for
Economic Diplomacy and Openness of the Hellenic MFA, by Ms. Ioanna Efthymiadou, Minister Plenipotentiary B, Director of the B2 Directorate for Bilateral Economic Relations with Balkan, CIS & OCBS countries of the Hellenic MFA, and by Ms. Maria Theodorou, Minister Plenipotentiary B, Director of the B7 Directorate for International Energy Matters of the Hellenic MFA.

The first panel of the event under the subject “Green Energy-sustainable energy for the Black Sea” was moderated by Mr. Georgios Mitrakos, ICBSS DG, and covered by Mr. Theodoros Christopoulos, Director for International and European Affairs of the Hellenic Ministry of Environment & Energy, by Professor Dr. Dimitrios Mavrakis, Director of the Energy Policy and Development Centre (KEPA) of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and by Dr. Vahan Sargsyan, Director of the Scientific Research Institute of Energy of Armenia.

The second panel, which was referred to “Blue Growth – common vision for the Black Sea”, was moderated by Ms. Georgia Chantzi, Research Fellow at the ICSBSS. Speakers at the panel were Mr. Thanos Smanis, Environmental Consultant at the Facility for Blue Growth in the Black Sea, Professor Dr. Georgios Georgiou, Director of the Oceanography Center of the University of Cyprus, Coordinator Blue Career Centre of Eastern Mediterranean and Black Sea (MENTOR), Mr. Antonios Avranas, Port Policy Director at the Hellenic Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy and Ms. Leta Psalti, Communication Manager at the Blue Lab.

Closing the conference, Ms. Georgia Chantzi, ICBSS Research Fellow, announced the next event to be organized by the ICBSS, the Regional Stakeholders Conference on “Black Sea Synergy: the way forward” to be held on Thursday 7 November 2019, in Athens, Greece. For further information, please visit the ICBSS website on www.icbss.org.