



## PRESS RELEASE

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Dr. Zefi Dimadama, Director General of International Centre for Black Sea Studies, (ICBSS) participated in the Meeting of the BSEC Troika in open format with the COEST Working Party, which was held in Brussels on 7 February 2012. The Serbian Chairmanship noted inter alia, the need for a closer cooperation between BSEC – EU and pledged to organize more periodic meetings during its Presidency.

Dr. Dimadama also met with the Cabinet of Commissioner Maria Damanaki, Mr. Andreas Papaconstantinou and Mr. Yves Auffret, where she had the opportunity to present briefly the role and contribution of ICBSS in the wider Black Sea area. Moreover, it was stressed the necessity for a further collaboration between the EU and an institution of the Black Sea Area as the ICBSS, that will assume the role of a stakeholder in order to promote the priorities in the wider area of the Black Sea.

She informed the officials on the ICBSS initiatives in order to promote further, the cooperation amongst the BSEC Member states; to become an important liaison of the Black Sea area and regional and international organizations, such as the EU.

She additionally noted that the countries of the Black Sea region need to implement multilateral environmental agreements in order to establish a more strategic environmental cooperation and sustainability in the Black Sea area, such as: Environment, Energy, Trade and Investment.

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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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