



## PRESS RELEASE

Athens, 15 February 2012

Dr. Zefi Dimadama, Director General of International Centre for Black Sea Studies, (ICBSS) participated as speaker in the Workshop on Maritime Affairs, “*Towards a Strategy for the Adriatic Ionian Macro – Region*”, the first in a series of events organised in the framework of the preparation for a EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Macro-Region which was held in Athens on 14 February 2012.

Having the experience as ICBSS’ Director General, Dr. Dimadama stressed the major challenges that the wider area of Black Sea faces such as: water resources and management, coastal areas, forests and inland ecosystems, natural and technical risks. Moreover, during her presentation, she proposed several recommendations since as she mentioned “*the two regions present several common characteristics*” and underlined that “*given the pressing problems and the current challenges, the need for a strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian macro-region seems imperative, in order to address a range of issues and problems that cannot be solved only at local, regional or national levels.*”

The aim of the event was to offer a discussion platform for all interested stakeholders who are willing to be involved in the formulation of the Strategy. The aim of the conference was to enable in-depth discussions among relevant stakeholders and authorities on the priority actions to be included in such a Strategy.

Four simultaneous Round Table discussions on Fisheries, Marine Environment, Blue Growth and Maritime Safety-Security were organised, in order to gather the feedback of the stakeholders related to the EU Strategy for the Region and their involvement in its implementation.

The event was organised by the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs in partnership with the European Commission.

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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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