



PRESS RELEASE

Athens, 7 March 2012

Formal Visit of Dr. Zefi Dimadama, ICBSS Director General to Tbilisi

Within the framework of further promoting regional cooperation, ICBSS Director General, Dr. Zefi Dimadama, paid a visit to Tbilisi, as a special guest of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. Dr. Dimadama was accompanied by ICBSS Alternate Director General, Ambassador David Kereselidze. The scope of the visit was to further promote bilateral cooperation in fields of common interest such as energy security, environmental protection and sustainable development with a view to establishing an extended network of collaboration within the BSEC Member States.

During their two-day visit, Ms. Dimadama and Amb. Kereselidze had the opportunity to meet with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. David Jalagania, the Deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development, Mr. Mikheil Janelidze, the Deputy Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, Mr. Giorgi Kavelashvili and with the Deputy Minister of Environment Mr. Giorgi Zedginidze; as well as with local NGOs and Institutions, such as Ilia University, the “Green Alternative” NGO, the Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation and the EU Delegation to Georgia.

Moreover, ICBSS Delegation was welcomed to Tbilisi State University by Rector Mr. Aleksander Kvitashvili, where Ms. Dimadama gave a public lecture to students with acute interest on the Black Sea region.

Furthermore, ICBSS Delegation had a meeting with Amb. Alexander Rondeli, President of the Georgian Foundation of Strategic and International Studies. Concluding their meeting, Dr. Dimadama and Amb. Rondeli signed a Cooperation and Academic Exchange Agreement between the ICBSS and GFSIS. Desiring to establish and to develop cooperation regarding joint research, the Agreement’s main objective is to promote and further enhance cooperation between the two Institutions in fields of common interest such as international relations, political science, European affairs, energy, economic relations, sustainable development and other relevant areas. The duration of the Agreement shall be 3 years.

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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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