



PRESS RELEASE

Athens, 13 May 2014

“EU and Black Sea Interregional Cooperation for Business and Economic Cohesion”

On **Monday 12 May 2014**, at the margins of the 43rd General Assembly of the Parliamentary Assembly of BSEC (PABSEC), the **International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS)** organised successfully the Round Table Discussion on **“EU and Black Sea Interregional Cooperation for Business and Economic Cohesion”**, under the FP7 Project **SEARCH - Sharing Knowledge Assets: Interregionally Cohesive Neighbourhoods**.

The **main objective** of the event was to identify the challenges and perspectives and to elaborate relevant and valuable policy recommendations, in terms of improving economic cohesion between the EU and the Black Sea countries, with special emphasis on the role of businesses for achieving sustainable growth and competitiveness for the Black Sea countries and its peoples.

Welcome speeches were addressed by the **Secretary General of BSEC PERMIS, Ambassador Victor Tvircun, Dr. Zefi Dimadama, ICBSS Director General, Ms. Ekaterini Papakosta-Sidiropoulou, Head of the Hellenic Delegation of PABSEC and Mr. Sarantis Moschovis, First Counselor for Economic and Commercial Affairs at the Hellenic MFA**, who highlighted the importance of economic cohesion between the EU and the Black Sea region for achieving economic growth.

The discussion was complemented by academicians, Prof. Panayotis Liargovas, University of Peloponnese and Prof. Yannis Psicharis, Panteion University of Social & Political Sciences, who were actively involved in the implementation of the SEARCH Project thus, contributing with valuable input on regional development and economic interrelations.

The Round Table Discussion was completed with the speeches of Prof. George Filis, Dept. of International Business & European Affairs, DEREΕ - The American College of Greece, Mr. Thomas Katsadouros, Consultant to the President, Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ms. Mary E. Pothitos, LLB, NANE Shipping Management S.A. and Ms. Ioanna Lagoumidou, President BPW Athens, who, in their turn, shared best practices and identify the main challenges for business development and economic cohesion in the Black Sea area.

Additional material from the event will be available soon on www.icbss.org

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For further information please visit www.icbss.org or tel: +30 210 324 2321.

About the ICBS: The International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBS) 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 ICBS 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 of fostering multilateral cooperation among the BSEC member states as well as with their international partners.