



PRESS RELEASE

Athens, 16 October 2024

Participation of ICBSS Director General at a European Parliament Public Hearing on "The Three Seas Initiative: Connectivity in Central Europe"

On 15 October 2024, the **ICBSS Director General, Mr. Georgios MITRAKOS**, participated at a Public Hearing on "**The Three Seas Initiative: Connectivity in Central Europe**", organised and hosted by **MEP Mr. Arkadiusz MULARCZYK**, ECR Group, in the European Parliament in Brussels.

The event aimed at providing the widest possible knowledge of the 3SI to a non-affiliated audience and to stimulate further interest in the initiative's current achievements and prospects, focusing on the research findings of academics and experts.

On behalf of ICBSS, Director General, Mr. Georgios MITRAKOS, participated as speaker at the panel "**The Three Seas Initiative: a key for enhancing connectivity in Central Europe to make the EU more resilient and cohesive**", where he elaborated on the impact of Greece's membership as the newest participant of the 3SI (2023) and the optimum potential from creating links to a fourth sea.

More than 50 participants from academia, industry, media and policymaking attended the event, including prominent personalities Ambassador-at-Large **Ms. Beata DASZYŃSKA-MUZYCZKA** of the Chancellery of the President of Poland and Ambassador-at-Large **Mr. Gediminas VARVUOLIS** of Lithuania, responsible for connectivity issues.

The ICBSS extends its appreciation to H.E. MEP **Mr. Arkadiusz MULARCZYK** for the kind invitation and to **Prof. Agnieszka ORZELSKA-STĄCZEK** of the Research Centre of the Three Seas Initiative of the Institute of Political Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences (ISP PAN) for the continuous cooperation.

The visit reflected ICBSS' commitment to fostering dialogue, sharing knowledge and building partnerships to promote sustainability and development in the wider Black Sea region and beyond.

For more information about the ICBSS, please visit <https://icbss.org/>

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

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institution focusing on the wider Black Sea region. On the other hand, it is a related body of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), and its 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 of fostering multilateral cooperation among the BSEC member states as well as with their international partners.