

## PRESS RELEASE

### participation of General Director of the Danube Commission Secretariat at the 14<sup>th</sup> Coordination Meeting of Regional Organizations

*(Trieste, Italy, March 27-28, 2017)*

The 14<sup>th</sup> Coordination Meeting of Regional Organizations was held at the CEI Headquarters, in Trieste, Italy on 27-28 March. It was attended by the Adriatic - Ionian Initiative (AII), the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC), the Central European Initiative (CEI), the Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS), the Danube Commission, the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) and the Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat (UFM Secretariat).

The above-mentioned Meeting was opened by CEI Secretary General, Ambassador Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri, who mentioned the current initiatives in order to promote regional cooperation, in particular, taking into account the Meeting of the Heads of Governments of the Berlin Process, to be held in Trieste on 12 July. It was followed by a *tour de table* where the Regional Organizations exchanged information on their main activities since the previous Coordination Meeting, held in Budapest in 2016.

The meeting was focused on the blue economy, security at a time of migration flows and in particular on the future of EU macro-regional strategies (MRS) and of the transnational cooperation programmes in the Community Cohesion Policy. Shared opinion of the participants was how the institutional building of the macroregional governance 2020 remains a challenging goal to be further pursued also with a stronger commitment and inclusion of the Regional International Organizations.



The Danube Commission has been represented by **Mr. Petar Margic**, General Director of the Secretariat of Danube Commission who during the 14<sup>th</sup> Coordination Meeting of Regional Organizations, on behalf of Danube Commission, signed the Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation between the Secretariat of the Danube Commission and the Secretariat of Central European Initiative.

Participants pointed out that the MRS experience represented a substantial playground for building Europe through a bottom – up approach, thanks to the commitment of regional and local authorities, academia, business and civil society organizations. This participatory approach, featuring the activities of all regional organizations, fuels innovative stances of European policies, filling the gap between community level and place – based implementation

