

# İSTANBUL DECLARATION

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Adopted at the meeting of the Forum of Architects of the Black Sea Region

İstanbul, 22 February 2008

The Black Sea region is a unique geographical location with its natural and cultural heritage formed through a long-established common history and culture, not only surrounding the coastal line but also within the boundaries of the whole hinterland nourishing this geography. In this definition, the Black Sea regional issues concern an enlarged group of countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine.

For the architects of the Black Sea Region, this common geography has even a wider significance. Besides its rich natural and cultural history and heritage, this region gives an important responsibility to its architects, who are the main actors for the creation of the built environment in the region. This responsibility mainly refers to the 'monitoring of all relevant regional activities that may have consequences on the valuable natural, cultural and social structure of this region', 'working for the protection and conservation of the natural and cultural heritage in general and architectural heritage in particular' and 'practicing of architecture in such a way to respect the existing values of our region and to further enhance our living culture and environment with the understanding that the building activities of today are the heritage of tomorrow'.

With this declaration, representatives from the professional organizations that are FABSR members have agreed upon working for the enhancement of their collaboration by developing the FABSR operation and taking an active role in the implementation of the following actions:

- to develop the existing collaboration and communication between the FABSR members and to encourage all the professional organizations covered by the enlarged definition of the Black Sea basin to become the members of the FABSR,
- to improve FABSR activities through the development of common projects and periodical activities such as exhibitions, publications and meetings that will enhance the exchange of technical knowledge and experience between the professionals from the different countries of the region,
- to establish links of the FABSR with the central and local administrations, universities and research centers, professional and cultural organizations, governmental / inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations in the Black Sea region,

- to create a Black Sea Architectural Database by collecting the existing documents, data and projects that can be publicly shared to support future projects and scientific work about the architecture, city and environment in the Black Sea region.

With this declaration, FABSR members are calling upon the central and local administrations, universities and research centers, professional and cultural organizations, governmental and non-governmental organizations in the Black Sea region:

- to take sensitive action towards new proposals of energy resources, pipelines and transport routes within the region and to consult the relevant professional and cultural organizations during the decision making process for new transport and pipeline routes, new modes of energy production and power plant locations;

- to be aware of the environmental damages caused by large-scale infrastructure projects and irregular building facilities constructed on the coastal lines, which are not only creating negative impacts on the long-established interaction between the coastal settlements and the sea through their new presence in the coastal land, but also creating undesired modifications on the regional resources and ecology during their building processes,

- to establish common projects between regional countries, cities and towns to overcome the escalating pollution in the Black Sea originating from the rivers, energy production plants and maritime activities, to look for alternative modes of transport routes and energy resources and to make an overall planning for building and infrastructure construction in the coastal area,

- to recognize the significance of cultural and architectural heritage in the definition of the Black Sea identity and therefore to support the development of common projects for the protection and conservation of the cultural and architectural heritage in the region through the exchange of technical and professional experience between the regional countries,

- to coordinate the actions realized in various fields for the preservation of shoreline and to monitor any type of construction activities in the shoreline, in such a way to enhance the fortification and strengthening of the coastal line, as well as to prevent negative impact on the flora and fauna peculiar to the region,

- to be aware of the need for a higher standard in the living environment of the people living in the region and therefore to consider the quality of human settlements as a major criteria in determining new actions and projects,

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With this declaration, the FABSR members invite the Black Sea governments, as well as local administrations and other non-governmental stakeholders:

- to contribute to the creation of an integrated Black Sea Management and Development Plan that will also consider the key issues and actions defined in this declaration.

Also recalling the concerns and commitments made in their previous Batumi, Sochi and Sofia meetings, the professional organizations of architects from the Black Sea region represented at the FABSR meeting in Istanbul now undertake the responsibility to publicly disseminate the Istanbul Declaration and to follow its progress and implementation. With this declaration, the FABSR members commit themselves to develop their own collaboration and communication network in the FABSR for the benefit of the overall Black Sea region. The FABSR members also express their continuing interest for taking active part in the common work related to their shared issues and concerns, as well as for the establishment of coordinated action in the regional management and development.

Signed by authorized representatives of:

22 / 02 / 2008

BULGARIA

22 / 02 / 2008

GEORGIA

22 / 02 / 2008

ROMANIA

22 / 02 / 2008

RUSSIA

22 / 02 / 2008

TURKEY

22 / 02 / 2008

UKRAINE

22 / 02 / 2008

ARMENIA

*(excused for the meeting)*

22 / 02 / 2008

AZERBAIJAN

*(excused for the meeting)*