

**TULCEA DECLARATION:  
THE BLACK SEA COAST, A SUSTAINABLE PLACE FOR EVERYBODY**

**ADOPTED AT THE 8<sup>TH</sup> MEETING  
OF THE FORUM OF ARCHITECTS OF THE BLACK SEA REGION (FABSR)  
TULCEA, ROMANIA, 16 OCTOBER 2010**

Architects representing the professional organisations from Bulgaria, Romania, Russia and Turkey gathered in the FABSR meeting in Tulcea-Romania under the theme of 'Sustainable Development of the Black Sea Coaster Cultural Landscape'. This meeting was realized in such a period where there are various problems such as climate change, poverty, discrimination and political conflicts in the region and the world. The effects of globalisation have a tendency to create uniform human beings and living environments without identity and deprived of natural resources. In such a context, FABSR meeting participants call for peace and justice in the region, where all cultures are equally respected and peace is maintained. We need to work together to make a sustainable use of natural resources.

**Following their discussion of actual issues in the Black Sea region, FABSR members reaffirm the following general beliefs:**

**1. Architecture and communities:** Architecture is the living expression of peoples' culture and part of their identity. Architecture is an instrument of measuring the life quality and the environmental standards. Architecture gives the structured physical shape, visually perceptible of the planned environment in which communities live, develop and interaction. As a privileged component, the public space ensures the framework to meet the cultural, socialisation and educational needs of groups and communities.

**2. Landscape and communities:** Landscape is also a key element of individual and social well-being and quality of life, and plays an important part in human fulfilment and in reinforcement of communities' identity. It has an important public interest role in the cultural, ecological, environmental and social fields and constitutes a favourable resource for economic activities, particularly tourism. Nature is not only a range of values to be displayed, admired and consumed; it is our own vital environment, resource and nest, it is the reflection of our being as much as we reflect the nature surrounding us.

**3. Sustainability of heritage and growth:** In any policy for spatial development - coastal areas make no exception -, building and development of sustainable communities and settlements shall hold a central place; it is a process where architecture and planning play a crucial role. It is important to exploit all expertise, creativity and innovation in the architectural profession, but intellectual, collaborative and ethical conduct shall also be encouraged as meaningful virtues.

In order to be part of the sustainable development, quality architectural standards and rationality in the exploitation of resources shall be increased and promoted, local conditions and people's needs must be considered. Adoption of an integrative approach must go beyond the professional toolkit of the architect or planner; sharing and contributing to policies of the public administration of coastal communities give architects a social meaning, ensure the feedback and supply the visions.

**Reiterating the principles and commitments of the past meetings of FASBR, we foresee future threats, challenges and opportunities. We commit ourselves to objectives and targets that will help integrate quality architecture and responsible planning in the life and aspirations of cities and villages of the Black Sea Region, such as:**

- **reconstruction/repair of the damaged physical space**, spoiled natural environment and destroyed cultural landscape of the coastal areas
  - harmonise the architectural production with the actions/interventions of strengthening of collapsing cliffs, stopping of eroded beaches and soils, stopping the biodiversity depletion, reducing up to eliminating industrial waste and garbage storage areas, reconstruction of traditional plantations and fauna habitats
  
- **networking of cultural landmarks in the coastal area** – Black Sea bordering countries' organisations are welcomed to develop common (bilateral, trilateral, multilateral) projects regarding architecture and cultural landscape
  - each country can propose buildings/institutions/public space functioning as meeting points in a network hosting project reunions, communication of architecture, exhibitions, experiments and research in architecture
  
- **strengthening the regional/local specificity in architecture and landscape**, by promoting and adopting integrative instruments of protection of cultural built, mobile and immaterial heritage
  - reintroducing into the urban interventions local building materials, vegetation species, handcraft workshops/schools, decorative patterns, ethos, etc.
  
- **building pilot programmes** meant to design, corroborate and implement coherent regulations and standards in the territorial or urban planning of coastal areas
  - creating professional groups and networks advancing comprehensive guidelines for building rules, urban and territorial planning within the region
  
- **reinventing the public space in the coastal areas** and inventorying the political, architectural, planning, environmental and social tools enabling accessibility of population and visitors/tourists to these places, towards a continuous "public belt" of the Black Sea in the future
  - structuring the region map by interdisciplinary layers of soft and hard infrastructure, such as: cultural institutions and venues, archaeological sites, listed historical monuments, protected natural reservations/areas, roads, railways, tourist ports, airports, sport and recreation centres, resorts, etc.

- **bringing more credibility and efficiency into the culture of networking** of professional groups and organisations from the Black Sea Region  
introducing managerial means: permanent monitoring and reporting, sharing, establishing tasks and responsibilities.

**With this declaration, FASBR members commit themselves to develop a Black Sea Architectural Policy that will set architectural objectives and priorities for regional policy in the Black Sea.** FASBR calls the central and local administrations, universities and research centers, professional and cultural organizations, governmental and non-governmental organizations in the Black Sea to take into consideration the concerns and suggestions mentioned in this declaration and to contribute to the development of a regional architectural policy.

Signed on 16 October 2010 in Tulcea, Romania by authorized representatives of:

Armenia  
*(excused for the meeting)*

Azerbaijan  
*(excused for the meeting)*

Bulgaria

Georgia  
*(excused for the meeting)*

Romania

Russia

Turkey

Ukraine  
*(excused for the meeting)*