



Address by the Deputy Director of the Romanian Intelligence Service, Colonel Cristian BIZADEA, during the opening ceremony of the fourth edition of the international program

"Security in the Black Sea Region. Shared Challenges, Sustainable future"

29th of May, 2017

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Romanian Intelligence Service, I have the honor of welcoming you here today in the fourth edition of the international training program, *Security in the Black Sea Region. Shared Challenges, Sustainable Future*.

What brought us together today is the understanding that we need to work together in order to reach a higher level of mutual comprehension when it comes to our shared security challenges.

I am happy to be amongst you, excellent lecturers, renowned practitioners and long-time experts in the field of security, friends and traditional partners. I would like to thank our colleagues from Harvard University for their continuous support in organizing this most-relevant event. We highly appreciate the contribution of our colleagues from the National Intelligence University in the development of Black Sea Region frameworks.

I would also like to express my gratitude towards the Romanian Presidency and our national partners for their dedication to our common efforts of projecting and building up a more secure Black Sea Region. As a nation, we are working in constant partnership. We function as a one strategic body. We

base this construct on enabling fundamental domestic preconditions, such as reaching and using the same language or having common grounds in understanding national and regional security issues.

Education and training represent instruments leading to that outcome, so I would like to thank Mr. Opreșor - Presidential Advisor, Mr. Micula, Secretary of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and general Nicolae-Ionel CIUCĂ, the Chief of Staff of the Romanian Armed Forces, for standing by our side in this program and for finding the time to be here today. Also, this event would not have been possible without Director HELLVIG. I would like to thank all, on behalf of the National Intelligence Academy, for being such a strong advocate of both our initiatives and our traditional cooperation projects.

Throughout the years, the SBSR training program has proven its value to all partners and participants, by providing a forum for sharing and debating different perspectives, interests and collective ambitions regarding the Black Sea Region. I am one of them. The various roles I have had in SBSR, those of observer, participant and now host, have allowed me to ascertain the evolution of topics, of participants' expertise and engagement as well as an increase in the concreteness of results. Since our main objective is to increase the level of pragmatism of our work, this edition introduces a new format, focused on an interactive and practical approach. It is my personal belief that only through genuine exchange of expertise can we reach our goal of providing significant and relevant decision making grounds.

This is why I encourage you to continue the 16-year old tradition of working together, to leave your mark in the toolkit of policymaking strategies and to build a sustainable future.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I conclude my foreword hoping that I have raised your interest and presented you with a challenge, for I am confident that, through this program, we are taking yet another important step in ensuring the security of the Black Sea Region, a strategic objective at a national, regional and global level.

Thank you for your attention!