

Regional Stakeholder Seminar on Blue Economy “Towards a Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea”

**19 March 2019
Istanbul, Turkey**

Venue: Hilton Istanbul Maslak
(Maslak Mahallesi, Büyükdere Cd. No:233, 34485 Sarıyer/İstanbul, Türkiye)

Draft Agenda¹

09.00-09.30 Registration

09.30 – 09.50 Welcome Addresses

- Mr Christos Economou, Head of Unit, Sea basin strategies, Maritime Regional Cooperation and Maritime Security, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE), European Commission

09.50 – 10.50 Plenary opening session

The plenary session will focus on the benefits of regional marine and maritime cooperation in the Black Sea. It will highlight the added value of cooperation initiatives for addressing common challenges, enabling project development and channelling funding and investment for the blue economy in the Black Sea. An example of such initiatives is the Common Maritime Agenda and the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda for the Black Sea, which are both currently in the making.

Invited speakers:

- Permanent International Secretariat of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation
- Black Sea Trade and Development Bank
- World Bank
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania
- European Commission

¹ Provisional Agenda, 20 February 2019

10.50 – 11.10 Coffee Break

11.10 – 12.50 Morning Parallel Workshop Discussions

Workshop 1. Seizing the opportunities of research and innovation for a thriving blue economy in the Black Sea

This panel aims to discuss how science and up-to-date research infrastructures can help safeguarding and improving the sustainable economic development of the Black Sea. Questions such as how to promote technological adaptation and new business models and encourage greater business-research cooperation across the Black Sea will be at the heart of the discussions.

Workshop 2. Maritime connectivity in the digital era: an engine for blue economy

Discussion will be focus on the challenges and opportunities related to innovative logistics and sustainable infrastructures, the adoption of international quality and safety standards, as well as the promotion of inter-regional and multi-modal connectivity. This panel will try to identify the most effective actions to enhance the maritime connectivity of the future across the region.

Workshop 3. An attractive Black Sea region: sustainable coastal and maritime tourism

This session will aim to identify ways to boost an innovative and sustainable form of coastal and maritime tourism, while providing for the protection of the region's ecosystem. It will be focusing on exchanging ideas on actions to promote innovative tourism products and services which will raise the sector's profile, achieve a more global popularity of the region while at the same time promote synergies with in-land offers as well as other related sectors (pescatourism, etc.).

12.50 – 13.50 Lunch break

13.50 – 15.30 Afternoon Parallel Workshop Discussions

Workshop 4. Healthy marine environment and fight against plastic pollution

The panel will explore practical solutions to ensure an effective ecosystem observation, monitoring and forecasting services in the Black Sea. It will also aim at discussing pragmatic avenues to reduce marine litter and stimulate recycling practices. This session, amongst others, will seek to explore ways to protect fragile marine environment without hampering economic development close to the coast and to support effective actions to reduce marine litter and maritime pollution.

Workshop 5. Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture

This panel will focus on aquaculture and fisheries which are key sectors for the blue economy in the Black Sea. Discussion should focus on the actions and projects needed to boost innovation, adaptation and diversification in the sectors. This will include, for example, discussions on how to promote innovative circular economy approaches and innovative technological developments – such as multi-platform use and environmentally-friendly

practices for aquaculture – as well as boosting innovation towards marine biotech and diversification of catches, while ensuring sanitary security for regional practices.

Workshop 6. Blue skills and blue careers of the future

The discussions in this panel will centre on the opportunities to shape an attractive maritime career curriculum in the Black Sea region aligned to the industry needs as well as debate ideas about how to encourage cross-regional exchange programmes for maritime experts and boost blue careers.

15.30 – 15.50 Coffee Break

15.50 – 16.30 Wrap-up of the Workshop discussions (in plenary)

- Mr Michael Rupp, Team Leader Connectivity in the Eastern Neighbourhood including Black Sea cooperation, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), European Commission

16.30 – 16.40 Closing remarks