



Conference on blue economy in the Black Sea
Connecting the region through marine and maritime cooperation

15 September 2017, 08.45 – 18.00
Radisson Hotel, Batumi, Georgia

PROGRAMME¹

(Working languages: EN, GE, RU)

- 08.30 – 09.15** Registration
- 09.15 – 09.30** Welcome by the host region
- Dr Konstantin Megrelishvili, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance and Economy, Autonomous Republic of Ajara, Georgia
- 09.30 – 10.45** Sustainable blue growth: Leadership exchange
- Mr Giorgi Cherkezishvili, Deputy Minister, Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia
 - Mr Karmenu Vella, EU Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (video message)
 - Mr Ekaterine Grigalava, Deputy Minister, Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia
 - Mr Vasyl Poluyko, Deputy Minister, Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine
 - Mr Andriy Galushchak, State Secretary, Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine
 - Ms Maria Babukchieva, Head of River Basin Management Department, Ministry of environment and Water of Bulgaria
 - Ambassador Michael B. Christides, Secretary General of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)
 - Ms Christiana Kalogirou, Regional Governor of North Aegean (Greece), President of the Balkan & Black Sea Commission of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR)
- Closing intervention: Mr Bernhard Friess, Director, Maritime Policy and Blue Economy, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission
- 10.45 – 11.15** Coffee break (Press corner)

¹ All sessions but Panel 2b and 3b were plenary sessions.

11.15 – 13.00

Panel 1: Increasing the competitiveness of the blue economy

Growth depends on good governance and investment. This session will discuss management practices for maritime administrations and focus on the resources available for the blue economy at national and regional scale. It will highlight successful investments in smart and sustainable solutions and explore how to stimulate investments.

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

Speakers:

- Ms Laura Bobarnac, Deputy Head, Joint Managing Authority, Ministry of Regional Development of Romania
- Mr Andrzej Cieslak, Consultant, Maritime Office in Gdynia, Poland
- Dr Ingela Isaksson, Project Manager, Baltic SCOPE, Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management
- Ms Martina Maria Paola Rossi, Manager, Maritime Technology Cluster FVG, Italy
- Mr Antonio Castillo, Head of Office in Chisinau, European Investment Bank
- Mr Nils Jansons, Deputy Head of Division for Eastern Partnership, regional cooperation & OSCE, European External Action Service
- Dr Andrei D. Lappo, General director, Scientific and Research Institute of Maritime Spatial Planning "Ermak Northwest", Russia

Question and answer session

13.00 – 14.30

Lunch break

Parallel session

14.30 – 16.00

Panel 2a: Save the sea

The panel will investigate the added value of increased knowledge about our sea (incl. sea bed) and mitigation of pressures and impacts on the marine environment for scientists and business. The panel will stress the benefit for the marine environment. It will make the case for closer cooperation in the research domain towards adoption of a joint declaration in 2018.

Moderation: Ms Sieglinde Gruber, Head of Unit, Marine Research Unit, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (RTD), European Commission

Speakers:

- Dr Adrian Stanica, Chairman of the Scientific Council of National Research and Development Institute for Marine Geology and Geoecology (GeoEcoMar), Romania
- Prof Snejana Momcheva, Director, Institute of Oceanology, Bulgarian Academy of Science (IO BAS)
- Ms Sophie Benbow, Marine Programme Manager – Eurasia, Fauna & Flora International



- Ms Mariam Makarova, Head of Water Division, Integrated Management Department, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia
- Ms Olesya Petrovych, Chief specialist, Department of Econet and Protected Areas, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine
- Dr Jaroslav Slobodnik, Team Leader, EU/UNDP project "Improving Environmental Monitoring in the Black Sea" (EMBLAS-II)
- Mr Gilles Lericolais, Director, Management of European and International affairs, French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea (IFREMER)

Question and answer session

Parallel session
14.30 – 16.00

Panel 2b: Fish well

The panel will explore the next steps in the cooperation amongst riparian countries in the Black Sea region on fisheries issues, notably in the context of the GFCM and the implementation of its Mid-term Strategy (2017-2020) towards the sustainability of Mediterranean and Black Sea Fisheries. It will also take stock of the implementation of the Bucharest Declaration adopted in October 2016 which sets objectives aiming to establish a common and collaborative approach to cooperation amongst riparian countries in the Black Sea region with a view to promote the rational exploitation of marine living resources, the sustainable development of aquaculture and the mitigation of threats facing the marine environment and vulnerable species. In this respect focus will be given on on-going actions to improve the sustainability of resources, particularly with regard to scientific advice, sustainable small-scale fisheries, MCS, capacity building, as well as actions emanating from a Regional Plan of Action to fight IUU fishing.

Moderation: Mr Stelios Mitolidis, Deputy Head of Unit, Fisheries Management Mediterranean and Black Sea, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MARE), European Commission

Speakers:

- Prof Bayram Ozturk, Director – Turkish Marine Research Foundation, Faculty of Fisheries, Istanbul University
- Ms Irina Lomashvili, Chief Specialist, Biodiversity and Forestry policy Department, Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia
- Ms Maia Chkhobadze, Head of the Biodiversity Control Service, Environmental Supervising Department, Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia
- Mr Miguel Bernal, Fishery Resources Officer, Secretariat of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)
- Mr Pascal Savouret, Executive Director, European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA)
- Ms Elena Cardas, European Affairs Advisor, Association for Sustainable Development "Prut – Dunăre" Galati – FLAG Galati (Romania)

Question and answer session

16.00 – 16.20

Coffee break

Parallel session

16:20 – 17:50

Panel 3a: Smart maritime infrastructures

The panel will focus on connectivity and build around the facets of maritime transport, making the case for smart infrastructures and planning. How to adapt existing infrastructures to increase attractiveness for business and ensure sustainability. The innovative technologies for green transportation and ports will be discussed as well as the skills necessary to embrace innovation.

Moderation: Capt. Mamuka Akhaladze, Director, Maritime Transport Agency of Georgia

Speakers:

- Dr Laura Alexandrov, Senior Researcher, National Institute for Marine Research and Development "Grigore Antipa", Romania
- Mr Levan Akhvlediani, Chief Executive Officer, Anaklia Development Consortium (ADC), Georgia
- Ms Irina Zapatrina, Chairman of the Board, Ukrainian Public-Private Partnership Development Support Center
- Mr Georgios Christofi, Head of Environment & Capacity Building Unit. European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA)

Question and answer session

Parallel session

16:20 – 17:50

Panel 3b: Towards improved environmental monitoring of the Black Sea

The panel will focus on the strengthening of bilateral cooperation between Georgia and Ukraine for the Black Sea protection, development of environmental monitoring following the requirements of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive; new methods and findings of the Joint Black Sea surveys conducted in 2016 -2017 in frame of the EU-UNDP funded project "Improving Environmental Monitoring in the Black Sea" (EMBLAS II) as well as public involvement.

Moderation: Ms Tamar Bagratia, Head of National Environmental Agency, Georgia

Speakers:

- Ms Ekaterine Grigalava, Deputy Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia
- Mr Vasyl Poluyko, Deputy Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine
- Dr Jaroslav Slobodnik, Team Leader of the EMBLAS II project
- Mrs Marine Arabidze, Head of the Department of Environmental Pollution Monitoring, National Environmental Agency, Georgia
- Dr Viktor Komorin, Director of Ukrainian Scientific Research Institute of Ecology of the Sea, Ukraine
- Dr Eugen Dykyi, Deputy Director of Ukrainian Scientific Research Institute of Ecology of the Sea, Ukraine
- Ms Olena Marushevska, PR expert of the EMBLAS II project

Question and answers session



- 17.50 – 18.00** Way forward & Closing remarks
- Mr Bernhard Friess, Director, Maritime Policy and Blue Economy, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission
- 18.00 – 19.00** Cocktail reception