DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR

MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES
MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEA

REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Smart and Blue – new opportunities for the blue economy of the Black Sea

Supporting maritime business growth

24 March 2015, 08.45 – 17.30

Hotel Balkan, Sofia, Bulgaria

PROGRAMME[1]

(Working languages: BG, EN, RO, RU)

08.45 – 09.15 Registration

09.15 – 09.30 Opening remarks

- Mr Ivaylo Moskovski, Minister for Transport, Information Technology and Communications, Bulgaria

09.30 – 10.45 Political opportunities to enhance business growth

- Mr Karmenu Vella, EU Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
- Mrs Maria Magdalena Grigore, State Secretary in the Ministry of Transport, Romania
- Mrs Oksana Reiter, Deputy Minister for EU Integration, Ukraine
- Mr Tudor Ulianovschi, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and EU Integration, Moldova
- Mrs Ketevan Moistsrapeshvili, Governor of Guria Region, Georgia
- Ambassador Victor Tvircun, Secretary General, Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation
- Ms Natalia Budescu, Board Member of the Romanian NGDO Platform – FOND, Black Sea NGO Forum
- Mr. Mircea Stoian, County Councillor of Tulcea, CPMR Black Sea Regional Commission

10.45 – 11.15 Coffee break (Press corner)

11.15 – 13.00 **Panel 1:** Connecting business

Being the backbone of the blue economy, maritime transport is a source of innovation and can also be a key driver for associated economic activities such as coastal tourism, development of yachting and marinas, etc. It is also crucial for linking up economic activities on

[1] All sessions are meant to be plenary sessions.

land and at sea. How to integrate development of emerging areas of blue growth, creating necessary security for investments and ensuring environmental sustainability of maritime spatial planning are some of the challenges this panel will explore.

Moderation: Mr Peter Kirov, Maritime Administration Agency, Bulgaria

Panelists:

- Prof Francesco Musco, PhD, Iuav University of Venice, CORILA Member of governing board, Consortium for Managing Scientific Research on Venice Lagoon System
- Mr Teofil Ghierca, Head of department, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration, Romania
- Mr Gogita Gvenetadze, Transport Department, Ministry of Economy, Georgia
- Dr Yordan Gospodinov, Executive Director, Association of Fish Products Producers BG FISH
- Mr Oleksandr Ilko, Head of Department of Maritime complex, Odessa Regional Administration, Ukraine

Question and Answer session

13.00 – 14.30 Lunch break

14.30 – 16.00 **Panel 2:** Fishing for tourists

The fact that coastal tourism is the biggest maritime activity in terms of jobs, makes it also an engine of the blue economies across the Black Sea. Fishing, in turn, is still important in many areas. Both activities, however, clearly depend on a healthy marine environment. Clean seas are a crucial asset to strenghten fishing communities by providing other sources of income, such as pescatourism, and new touristic destinations can showcase the natural and cultural heritage. The panel will discuss innovative methods and ideas to use the Black Sea in a more sustainable manner.

Key note: Mrs Nikolina Angelkova, Minister for Tourism, Bulgaria

Moderation: Mrs Nikolina Angelkova, Minister for Tourism, Bulgaria

Panelists:

- Mrs Raluca Andreea Bumbac, FLAG Delta Manager, Romania
- Mr Mamuka Berdzenishvili, Deputy Chairman, Adjara Tourism and Resorts Department, Georgia
- Mrs Marika Gvianidze, Head of Wastewater Treatment Plant of Batumi, Georgia
- Dr Margarita Stancheva, Institute Oceanography, Bulgarian Academy of Science, Bulgaria
- Mr Aleksey Kuzov, Marketing and Insurance Department, UKRFERRY Shipping Company, Ukraine

Question and Answer session

16.00 – 16.20 Coffee break

16:20 – 17.50 **Panel 3:** Creating business opportunities

Recognising that appropriate governance and legislative structure offer ideal conditions for business incubation and development, maritime stakeholders and entrepreneurs need to be pro-active and flexible partners in the definition and planning of maritime strategies. Smart partnerships, maritime clusters and networks have the potential to increase competitiveness, promote maritime sectors, and enhance coordination between the business-research-government 'triangle' to spur innovation in transport, shipbuilding and blue energy explotation. This panel aims to explore how we can better employ human capacities to nurture a smart and blue economy in the Black Sea.

Moderation: Mrs Beate Gminder, Head of Unit, Integrated Maritime Policy in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, DG MARE, European Commission

Panelists:

- Mrs Ilze Atanassova, Marine cluster Bulgaria
- Mr Nayden Stanev, Manager, Black Sea Shells, Bulgaria
- Ms Laura Bobarnac, Head of Unit, Ministry of Regional Development (Management Authority, Black Sea Cross-Border Cooperation programme), Romania
- Dr Adrian Stanica, Scientific Director, GeoCoMar, Romania
- Mr Sergey Goncharenko, Deputy Director, Department of Economic cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russian Federation
- Mrs Daniela Tchonkova, Programme Coordinator, ARC Consulting, Enterprise Europe Network – Bulgaria

Question and Answer session

17.50 – 18.00 Way forward & Closing remarks

- Mr Hubert Gambs, Director, Mediterranean and Black Sea, DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission

18.00 – 19.00 Cocktail reception