

# International High-level Conference

## Inter-basin Cooperation on Marine Litter: a focus on the Danube River and the Black Sea

Thursday, 4 April 2019

SOFIA HOTEL BALKAN  
Sofia, Republic of Bulgaria

Organised by:



Expert Partner: Ministry of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria



With the support of the Bulgarian BSEC  
Chairmanship-in-Office



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<b>Wednesday 3 April 2019</b>	
<b>19.30 – 21.30</b>	<b>Official Welcome Dinner offered by PABSEC (upon invitation only)</b>
<b>Thursday 4 April 2019</b>	
<b>9.00 – 9.30</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>9.30 – 10.00</b>	<b>Welcome Address</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>H.E. Amb. Michael B. CHRISTIDES</b>, Secretary General, BSEC PERMIS</li> <li>- <b>H.E. Mr. Neno DIMOV</b>, Minister of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria</li> <li>- <b>H.E. Mrs. Emilia KRALEVA</b>, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria, Bulgarian BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office</li> <li>- <b>H.E. Mr. Asaf HAJIYEV</b>, Secretary General, PABSEC</li> <li>- <b>H.E. Mr. Karmenu VELLA</b>, EU Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (video message)</li> </ul>
<b>10.00 – 10.20</b>	<b>Keynote Speech</b>
	<p><b>How Europe fights litter in our seas.</b></p> <p><b>Mr. Bernhard FRIESS</b>, Maritime Policy and Blue Economy Director, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission</p>
<b>10.20 – 11.45</b>	<b>Session I: Interregional cooperation &amp; institutional approach.</b>
	<p><b>Subject: Policy framework and Joint Action Plans to support the policy- and decision-making in tackling marine litter.</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <b>H.E. Amb. Selim YENEL</b>, First Deputy Secretary General, BSEC PERMIS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Black Sea Commission: developments in marine litter management in the Black Sea Region.</b> <b>Ms. Iryna MAKARENKO</b>, Pollution Monitoring and Assessment Officer, Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution</li> <li>- <b>Ship waste management on the Danube CDNI and DC Recommendation. Possible accession DC members to CDNI. Activities of the main stakeholders.</b> <b>Mr. Petar MARGIĆ</b>, Director-General, Danube Commission</li> <li>- <b>HELCOM regional action plan: the Baltic Sea experience.</b> <b>Ms. Marta RUIZ</b>, Associate Professional Secretary, Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Combating marine litter in the Mediterranean: the role of MIO-ECSDE.</i> <b>Prof. Michael SCULLOS</b>, Chairman, Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development</li> <li>- <i>A circular economy approach for combating plastic litter in the Mediterranean.</i> <b>Mr. Miguel GARCÍA-HERRAIZ</b>, Deputy Secretary-General of the Union for the Mediterranean in charge of Water and Environment</li> <li>- <i>A global intervention framework for reducing plastic waste inputs into the ocean.</i> <b>Dr. Jenna Romness JAMBECK</b>, Associate Professor of Environmental Engineering, University of Georgia, National Geographic Explorer</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Q &amp; A Session</b></p>
<b>11.45 – 12.00</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>12.00 – 13.15</b>	<b>Session II: Increased knowledge and socio-economic impact.</b>
	<p><b>Subject: Sharing scientific knowledge and comparable data to contribute to targeted and coordinated actions.</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Mr. Georgios MITRAKOS</b>, Director General, International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Recent research on the microplastic pollution in the Danube River-Danube Delta-Black Sea macro-geosystem.</i> <b>Dr. Dan VASILIU</b>, Romanian National Institute for Research and Development of Marine Geology and Geoecology (GeoEcoMar)</li> <li>- <i>Floating litter monitoring in the Bulgarian part of the Black Sea.</i> <b>Dr. Violeta SLABAKOVA</b>, Institute of Oceanology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences</li> <li>- <i>Citizen science and increased knowledge on marine litters: from the global and regional to the Black Sea Region.</i> <b>Prof. Dr. Emil STANEV</b>, Institute for Chemistry and Biology of the Marine Environment, Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg</li> <li>- <i>Plastics industry tackling plastic waste.</i> <b>Mr. Giuseppe RIVA</b>, Director Mediterranean Region, Association of Plastics Manufacturers ‘PlasticsEurope’</li> <li>- <i>Research gaps and priority actions on marine litter and pollution in the emerging new Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda of the Black Sea.</i> <b>Dr. Mustafa YÜCEL</b>, Associate Professor, Vice Director METU-IMS, ODTU Erdemli Kampusu</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Q &amp; A Session</b></p>

13.15– 14.15	<b>Light lunch</b>
14.15 – 15.45	<b>Session III: A European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy.</b>
	<p><b>Subject: The strategy addresses the challenges posed by plastics throughout the value chain and taking into account their entire life-cycle.</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Mr. Anton PEYCHEV</b>, Expert, Waste Management Directorate, Ministry of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Marine litter in the EU policy context.</b> <b>Mr. Maris STULGIS</b>, Policy Officer Maritime innovation, investments and knowledge, DG MARE, European Commission</li> <li>- <b>EU plastics strategy and its relevance towards marine litter.</b> <b>Mr. Mustafa AYDIN</b>, Regional Cooperation and Marine Information Expert, European Environment Agency</li> <li>- <b>Facility for Blue Growth in the Black Sea - Marine Litter.</b> <b>Mr. Thanos SMANIS</b>, Environmental Consultant, Member of the Facility for Blue Growth in the Black Sea</li> <li>- <b>Fisheries and plastics challenge – from marine litter to sustainable business solutions.</b> <b>Ms. Emma GILEVA</b>, Board member &amp; Official Representative, Black Sea NGO Network</li> <li>- <b>Edible films and coating as an alternative for non biodegradable plastic bags.</b> <b>Prof. Dr. Tatsiana SAVITSKAYA</b>, Physical Chemistry Dept., Vice-Dean for Science, Faculty of Chemistry, Belarusian State University</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Q &amp; A Session</b></p>
15.45 – 16.00	<b>Coffee Break</b>
16.00 – 17.00	<b>Session IV: Improved monitoring and coordinated actions.</b>
	<p><b>Subject: Coordinated schemes and best practices to manage human activities generating marine litter in the Danube River and the Black Sea.</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Ms. Iryna MAKARENKO</b>, Pollution Monitoring and Assessment Officer, Commission for the Protection of Black Sea Against Pollution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Improving monitoring of the marine and riverine floating litter in the Black Sea region – towards evidence-based decision making.</b> <b>Dr. Jaroslav SLOBODNIK</b>, EU/UNDP EMBLAS-Plus Project Team Leader</li> <li>- <b>DeFishGear Project. Strategy of marine litter in Adriatic Region.</b> <b>Prof. Assoc. Dr. Jerina KOLITARI</b>, Dept. of Aquaculture and Fishery, Agricultural University of Tirana, Aquaculture and Fishery Laboratory, Durrës</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>The CPMR experience from across Europe.</i> <b>Mr. Stavros KALOGNOMOS</b>, Executive Secretary, Balkan and Black Sea Commission, Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR)</li> <li>- <i>Marine litter monitoring - Priorities and challenges.</i> <b>Ms. Miroslava ROBINSON</b>, Head of Marine Water Protection Department, Black Sea Region Directorate, Ministry of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria</li> <li>- <i>Public engagement - the way to improve monitoring and prevent marine litter pollution.</i> <b>Ms. Mihaela CANDEA MIREA</b>, Director executive, ONG Mare Nostrum Constanta</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Q &amp; A Session</b></p>
<b>17.15 – 17.30</b>	<b>Conclusions &amp; Perspectives</b>
	<b>H.E. Amb. Selim YENEL</b> , First Deputy Secretary General, BSEC PERMIS

