



**10<sup>th</sup> International Black Sea Symposium**

**The Black Sea – Silk Road corridor:  
Building bridges of cooperation**

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**Athens, 6 - 7 March 2019**

**Royal Olympic Hotel**

28 - 34, Ath. Diakou Str.  
Metro Station 'Acropolis'

**AGENDA**

## Wednesday, 6 March 2019

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| 9.30 – 10.00  | <i>Registration</i>  |
| 10.00 – 10.20 | <b>Welcome Address</b>   |
|               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <b>Mr. Georgios MITRAKOS</b>, Director General, International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS)</li> <li>– <b>H.E. Ambassador Mr. Lucian FĂTU</b>, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of Romania to the Hellenic Republic</li> </ul>  |
| 10.20 – 10.40 | <b>Keynote Speech</b>  |
|               | <p style="color: #008080;"><b>The project "One belt, one road" in the context of the current political situation.</b></p> <p><b>Prof. Dr. Zahari ZAKHARIEV</b>, President of the Bulgaria National Association for the Belt and Road, President of the Slavyani Foundation</p>   |
| 10.40 – 12.00 | <b>Session I. Unlocking the tourism potential through synergies.</b>   |
|               | <p><i><b>Subject:</b> Exploring the marketing, promotion and destination management of existing travel destinations and new thematic routes in the Black Sea countries along the historic Silk Road routes.</i></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <b>Mr. Lysandros TSILIDIS</b>, President, Federation of Hellenic Associations of Travel &amp; Tourist Agencies (fedHATTA)</p> <p style="color: #008080;"><b>Unlocking the tourism potential through synergies: Experiences from the CPMR's initiatives, policies and projects work.</b></p> <p><i><b>Ms. Flora LEROY</b>, Project and Policy Officer, Intermediterranean Commission, Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR)</i></p> <p style="color: #008080;"><b>Facility for Blue Growth in the Black Sea - Cruise &amp; Tourism.</b></p> <p><i><b>Mr. Thanos SMANIS</b>, Environmental Consultant, Member of the Facility for Blue Growth in the Black Sea</i></p> <p style="color: #008080;"><b>Silk threads: Behind the intercultural dialogue National Tourism Strategy on product differentiation.</b></p> <p><i><b>Ms. Eftychia Christina AIVALIOTOU</b>, Dept. of Tourism Policy Planning</i><br/> <i><b>Mr. George KAKOUTIS</b>, Dept. of International &amp; European Affairs</i><br/> <i>Directorate of Strategic Planning, Ministry of Tourism of Greece</i></p> |

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|               | <p><b>Technology as a key to future tourism.</b><br/> <i>Dr. Vicky KATSONI, Associate Professor, Tourism Dept., University of West Attica, President of the International Association of Cultural and Digital Tourism (IACuDiT)</i></p> <p><b>Silk Road tourism synergies: Academia - business networking.</b><br/> <i>Dr. Stella KOSTOPOULOU, Associate Professor, President of the European Interdisciplinary Silk Road Tourism Centre, Institutional Coordinator for the Agreement AUTH-CASS (Beijing), Departmental ECTS/Erasmus Coordinator, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki</i></p> <p><b>Cultural Tourism vehicle for interconnectivity in the Balkans and Black Sea region.</b><br/> <i>Mr. Giannis BALAKAKIS, Chairman Balkan &amp; Black Sea Forum, President GeoRoutes, Greece</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Q &amp; A Session</b></p> |
| 12.00 – 12.30 | Coffee break   |
| 12.30 – 13.30 | <b>Session II. The Black Sea Region at the crossroads of the new Silk Road route.</b>  |
|               | <p><b><u>Subject:</u></b> <i>Regional dimension and outlook on the new Silk Road strategy.</i></p> <p><b><u>Moderator:</u></b> <i>Mr. Georgios MITRAKOS, Director General, International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS)</i></p> <p><b>Black Sea and the Silk Road-structure and paradigm.</b><br/> <i>Mr. Dan PETRE, Director General, Romanian Diplomatic Institute</i></p> <p><b>China's growing footprint in the Black Sea Region.</b><br/> <i>Dr. Jens BASTIAN, Independent Financial Sector Analyst &amp; Economic Consultant, Athens, Greece + Stuttgart, Germany</i></p> <p><b>China's interconnectivity model and Europe.</b><br/> <i>Dr. George TZOGOPOULOS, Senior Research Fellow, Centre international de formation européenne (CIFE)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Q &amp; A Session</b></p>  |
| 13.30 – 14.30 | Standing Lunch   |
| 14.30 – 16.00 | <b>Session III. Investment nexus along the Black Sea – Silk Road corridor.</b>   |
|               | <p><b><u>Subject:</u></b> <i>Assessment of the economic environment &amp; identification of challenges and perspectives for foreign direct investments in the wider Black Sea Region.</i></p>  |

**Moderator:** Mr. Yiannis PAPANIKOLAOU, Economist, f. Director General of the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS)

**Economic Developments and Prospects for the Black Sea Region-Challenges and Opportunities.**

*Mr. Ghinea Arminio IORGA, Head, Policy and Strategy, Black Sea Trade & Development Bank (BSTDB)*

**New trends in development of Modern International Economic relations.**

*Amb. David APTSIAURI, Senior Fellow, Visiting Professor Levan Mikeladze Diplomatic Institute of Training and Research of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia*

**A common Special Economic Zone across Black Sea commercial & industrial ports.**

*Mr. Leonardo MANZARI, President, European Institute for EurAsian Dialogue, Italy*

**International Financial Institutions - Experience of the «Silk Road Countries.**

*Dr. Tetiana KANIEVA, Dean of Faculty of Finance and Banking, Kyiv National University of Trade and Economics, Ukraine*

**7 Key Ways to Exchange Cutting Edge Innovation in Financial Services.**

*Mr. David GYORI, CEO, Banking Reports Ltd London*

*Q & A Session*

## Thursday, 7 March 2019

9.30– 10.00

*Registration*

10.00 – 12.00

**Session IV. Exploring the Belt and Road Initiative.**

**Subject:** *The Belt and Road Initiative's business potential for the Black Sea countries, emphasizing on large-scale projects in connectivity, infrastructure and networks.*

**Moderator:** Mr. Dan PETRE, Director General, Romanian Diplomatic Institute

**The Belt and Road initiative: Another intra-European point of friction?**

*Amb. Michael B. CHRISTIDES, Secretary General, BSEC PERMIS*

**Belt and Road initiative: a view from Central Europe.**

*Mr. Márton UGRÓSDY, Director, Hungarian Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade*

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|               | <p><b>The Balkans &amp; Black Sea Region in the context of China’s “Belt &amp; Road Initiative”.</b></p> <p><i>Ms. Mary POTHITOS, LLB, F.Inst.Pa, Paralegal Maritime Services, Marine Claims Consultant/Trainer, Greece</i></p> <p><b>Cooperative Black Sea schemes on energy.</b></p> <p><i>Dr. Marika KARAGIANNI, Energy expert, University of Peloponnese, University of Thessaly, Greece</i></p> <p><b>Prospects of cooperation in the Black Sea Region in the context of the Belt and Road Initiative: Science, Education and Business.</b></p> <p><i>Mr. Anton AFANASYEV, Senior Researcher, Southern Federal University, Rostov-on-Don, Russia</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Q &amp; A Session</b></p> |
| 12.00 – 12.15 | Coffee break  |
| 12.15 – 12.30 | <b>Conclusions &amp; Perspectives</b>   |
|               | <p><b>Mr. Georgios MITRAKOS</b>, Director General, International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS)</p>   |



**International Centre for Black Sea Studies**  
 Building a Sustainable Future for the Black Sea Area

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