

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
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The event is co-funded under the CEI Cooperation Fund



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Welcome Address



H.E. Amb. Michael B. CHRISTIDES

Secretary General, BSEC PERMIS

Ambassador Michael B. Christides is the Secretary General of the *Permanent International Secretariat* (PERMIS) of the *Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation* (BSEC), headquartered in Istanbul, Turkey. Born in Thessaloniki, Greece in 1949, Ambassador CHRISTIDES joined the Hellenic MFA in 1976 as first in his Class and served with distinction until his retirement in August 2014. Among other assignments he served as Ambassador of Greece to Bulgaria, to Turkey and to Argentina and held senior posts in the Hellenic MFA. After his retirement Ambassador CHRISTIDES was elected by the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs as Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS, assuming his duties on 1 July 2015.



H.E. Mr. Neno DIMOV

Minister of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria

Born on September 20th 1964 in Sofia, H.E. Mr. Neno Dimov graduated the French Language School in Sofia and the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”. He holds a Master’s degree in Mathematics and a PhD in Physics and is fluent in French, English and Russian. From 2002 to 2010, he was a Research Assistant at the Institute of Geophysics, in the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Between 2001-2002 he was Director of the Programming and Information Directorate of the Executive Environment Agency. During his career, he has served as a member of the Management Board of the European Environment Agency and as Chief Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Water and Deputy Minister of Environment and Water. Currently, he is Executive Director of Iskabul JSC; part-time lecturer in the Faculty of Philosophy, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”; member of the Board of Directors of National Company Industrial Zones PLC; Chairman of the Management Board of the Institute for Right Policy. He has participated in more than twenty international conferences and

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projects and he is author of “Environment: from Environmentalism to Freedom” (2012) and of more than twenty scientific reports and publications. He is a Holder of the Order of the Kingdom of Sweden “Officer First Class” for contribution to the Bulgarian European integration. As of May 4th, 2017, he was elected Minister of Environment and Water by the 44th National Assembly.



Ms. Emilia KRALEVA

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria

Ms. Emilia Kraleva is Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria. Between 1988 – 1992 she was a member of the Foreign Policy Information Team of the Institute of International Relations and Foreign Policy to the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Since 1992, she has served in various posts of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in Bulgarian Embassies abroad. From 1998 to 2001 she served as Third/Second Secretary of the Regional cooperation and Western Balkans Department of the Southeast Europe Directorate. Between 2004 – 2006, she was Head of Section of the CFSP Department of the European Integration Directorate. From 2009 to 2012, she served as Department Head of CFSP, as the European Correspondent/Deputy Political Director, while being Minister-Plenipotentiary. In November 2016 she became Director General for Political Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria. Ms. Kraleva holds a Masters Degree in History from the University of Sofia St. Kliment Ohridski. In 1994 she studied at the Clingendael Institute of International Relations, The Hague. In 2000 and 2011, she attended the George Marshall European Center for Security Studies of the College of International and Security Studies in Germany. She speaks English, Greek, Russian and French. She has been awarded the Grand Cross of the Order of the Phoenix of the Hellenic Republic.



H.E. Mr. Asaf HAJIYEV

Secretary General, PABSEC

Born on 29 May 1951, H.E. Mr. Asaf Hajiyevev serves as the Secretary General of the PABSEC since 2015. He holds a BA and a PhD in Mathematics from the Lomonosov Moscow State University.

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He is a Doctor of Sciences from Bauman Moscow State Technical University, since 1992, as well as a Professor since 2001 and a full member of Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences since 2014. He also teaches as a visiting professor in foreign universities and holds honorary titles in four foreign academic institutes, namely the TWAS, Italy; the Moldova Academy of Sciences; the Mongolian National Academy of Sciences and the Sichuan University in Chengdu, China. Between 1996 and 2015 he was a member of the Azerbaijani Parliament (Milli Majlis) and he has been an elected member of the Political Council of the New Azerbaijan Party since 2012. Between 2002 – 2015 he served as Head of Delegation of the Milli Majlis to the PABSEC, while from 2011 to 2013 he was also the Vice-President of the PABSEC. From 2013 to 2015, he was the Head of the International Relations Department of the New Azerbaijan Party. He is a fluent speaker in English, Russian and Turkish.



H.E. Mr. Karmenu VELLA

EU Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

H.E. Mr. Karmenu Vella is the European Commissioner for Environment, Fisheries and Maritime Affairs. He was born in Malta on June 1950. Mr. Vella graduated in Architecture and Civil Engineering, and later obtained a Master of Science in Tourism Management from the University of Sheffield. He was first elected to Parliament in 1976 and continued to be re-elected in the elections that followed for nine consecutive times. During his political career he has been appointed Minister for Public Works, Minister for Industry and Minister for Tourism, twice. Mr. Vella had also held various senior posts in the private sector.

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Keynote Speech



Mr. Bernhard FRIESS

Maritime Policy and Blue Economy Director, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission

Since January 2017, Mr. Bernhard Friess has been the Director of the Directorate "Maritime Policy and Blue Economy" of the European Commission's Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Directorate-General. Mr Friess studied Law at Munich University. His career with the European Commission included assignments in the areas Internal Market Policy, Competition Policy, Maritime Policy and Fisheries, and Education and Training.

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Session I: Interregional Cooperation & Institutional Approach



Moderator: H.E. Amb. Selim YENEL

First Deputy Secretary General, BSEC PERMIS

Born in Istanbul in 1956. His previous posts include the Turkish Delegation to the OECD, Paris, the Turkish Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan and the Turkish Delegation to the United Nations, New York. Between 1994 – 1999 he was at the Turkish Delegation to the European Union, Brussels. Upon his return to Ankara he continued to deal with EU Affairs. In 2005 he was appointed Ambassador to Vienna. Between 2009 - 2011 he was Deputy under Secretary at the MFA. Subsequently, Ambassador to the European Union (2011 – 2017). When he returned to Ankara he became Undersecretary of the Ministry for EU Affairs between 2017 – 2018. In 2019 he was appointed as First Deputy Secretary General of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation.



Ms. Iryna MAKARENKO

Pollution Monitoring and Assessment Officer, Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution

Ms. Iryna Makarenko works at the Permanent Secretariat of the Commission on the Protection of Black Sea Against Pollution (Bucharest Convention), an international intergovernmental organization based in Istanbul, Turkey, since December 2010. In April 2014, she was elected as PMA Officer. Before moving to Turkey she has worked as a diplomat in the Mission of Ukraine to the European Union in Brussels, being responsible for EU-Ukraine cooperation in the field of environment, transport, space, research and education. She was earlier employed as a Deputy Head of Office to Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine on European Integration and as a diplomat of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. She has a Master Degree in the field of Environmental and Energy Law obtained at the Faculty of Law of the Catholic University of Leuven (Kingdom of Belgium), Certificates on Water Law (University of Dundee, Scotland), Environmental Diplomacy (University of Geneva, Switzerland) and Regional Economics

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(University of Genoa, Italy). In April 2018, she was appointed as member of the Pool of Experts for the UN World Ocean Assessment II (WOA II) and she currently contributes to the process of drafting the Chapter XII of WOA II on Marine Litter.



Mr. Petar MARGIĆ

Director-General, Danube Commission

Capt. Petar Margic is the Director General of the Secretariat of the Danube Commission. He was born in Sisak, Croatia in 1953. From 1972 to 1978 he studied at the Faculty for International Trade in Zagreb and, from 1985 to 1988, at the Nautical Department of the Faculty of Maritime Studies in Rijeka. In June 2010 the Danube Commission awarded him the gold “Commemorative Medal for promoting the development of river navigation on the Danube”. For the first time in the history of the Danube Commission this medal was awarded to a person still in active service. He is a permanent member of the European Commission Expert Group “EC CEG on professional qualifications and training standards in inland navigation”, while from 2008 to 2013 he was also a permanent member of the “UNECE CEVNI Expert Group”. In 2015, he received the Doctor Honoris Causa honorary title of Nikola Y. Vaptsarov Naval Academy.



Ms. Marta RUIZ

Associate Professional Secretary, Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM)

Ms. Marta Ruiz is Associate Professional Secretary of the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM), working on marine litter, underwater noise and alien species issues. Before joining HELCOM in May 2013 as project staff, Marta was in charge of the Technical Secretary of the Spanish Technological Platform for the Protection of the Coast and the Marine Environment (2011-13). She worked as a technical advisor on marine pollution issues both in the Spanish Ministry of Public Works (2010-11 & 2006-08) and in the private sector (2008-09). Both Marta’s MSc and PhD are in the field of marine sciences, as well as her postdoctoral stay at the Technical University of Crete (2004-2006).

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Prof. Michael SCOULLOS

Chairman, Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development

Mr. Michael Scoulllos is a Professor Emeritus of Environmental Chemistry at the University of Athens (UoA). He is the founder, and for many years, Director of the Laboratory of Environmental Chemistry, as well as Director of the UNESCO Chair and Network on “Management and Education for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean” (UoA). He is Chairman of the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE) and Coordinator of MEdIES and of the Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean (GWP-Med). From 1992 to 2018, he was a representative of the European Parliament in the Management Board and the Bureau of the European Environment Agency (EEA). Between 2016-2019, he was the Team Leader of the large EU Programme “Sustainable Water Integrated Management-Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism” (SWIM-H2020 SM). Amongst his achievements, he has been Chairman of the Greek National Commission of MAB/UNESCO and Chairman of the International Panel of Experts of the World Bank for the Red Sea – Dead Sea Conveyor. He is the author of many books and more than 500 scientific articles. He has been awarded the Gold Medal of the City of Paris; the *Simon Bolivar* medal of UNESCO; the Environmental Award of the Academy of Athens; Knight of St. John; Knight of the “National Order of Cedars”/ Lebanon; Honorary Citizen of the City of Elefsis, Greece etc.



Mr. Miguel GARCÍA-HERRAIZ

Deputy Secretary-General of the Union for the Mediterranean in charge of Water and Environment

Mr. Miguel García-Herraiz is the Deputy Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean, in charge of Water and Environment since July 2016. He is a Spanish career diplomat who has served the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the past twenty years, holding positions as Deputy Director General for International Affairs of Terrorism and Disarmament, and, lately, as Counsellor in charge of the relations between the European Union and Southern Mediterranean countries in the Permanent Mission of Spain to the European Union. He has also been First Secretary and Head of Consular section, in charge of the Spanish Cultural Centre in Nicaragua at the Embassy of Spain in Managua; Head of section for International Affairs of Terrorism; and Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Spain in Bucharest. Mr García-Herraiz has a wide

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experience in negotiations and has been involved in the drafting of all recent UfM Ministerial declarations as well the revision of the European Neighbourhood Policy prior to his appointment as Deputy Secretary General of the UfM.



Dr. Jenna Romness JAMBECK

Associate Professor, University of Georgia, National Geographic Explorer

Dr. Jenna Jambeck is an award-winning explorer, associate professor, and director at the University of Georgia. She has been conducting research on solid waste issues for over 20 years with related projects on marine debris since 2001. She also specializes in global waste management issues and plastic contamination. Her work on plastic waste inputs into the ocean, published in *Science* magazine, has been recognized by the global community and translated into policy discussions by the Global Ocean Commission, in testimony to U.S. Congress, in G7 and G20 Declarations, and the United Nations Environment Programme. She conducts public environmental diplomacy as an International Informational Speaker for the U.S., including multiple global programs of speaking events, meetings, presentations to governmental bodies, and media outreach around the world. In 2014, she sailed across the Atlantic Ocean with 13 other women in eXXpedition to sample land and open-ocean plastic and encourage women to enter STEM disciplines. She is co-developer of the mobile app Marine Debris Tracker, a tool that continues to facilitate a growing global citizen science initiative that has documented the location of over 1 million litter and marine debris items removed from our environment throughout the world.

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Session II: Increased Knowledge and Socio-Economic Impact



Moderator: Mr. Georgios MITRAKOS

Director General, International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS)

Mr. Georgios Mitrakos is the ICBSS Director General. He holds an MSc in Politics and Communication from the London School of Economics (L.S.E.) and a BSc in Political Science and Public Administration from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. Mr. Mitrakos has worked as Advisor at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic. He was also Special Advisor at the Ministry of Regional Development, Competitiveness and Shipping and the Ministry of State and Strategic Investments. Furthermore, he was a junior researcher at the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (B.S.E.C.).



Dr. Dan VASILIU

Romanian National Institute for Research and Development of Marine Geology and Geoecology (GeoEcoMar)

Mr. Dan Vasiliu has been acting as Director of the Constanta branch of NIRD GeoEoMar, Nucharest, Romania since 2018. From 2006 to 2011 he was a researcher at the Chemistry Department of NIMDR Grigore Antipa in Constanta, Romania, while between 2011 and 2018 he led the Geochemistry Department of the NIRD GeoEcoMar. Mr. Vasiliu holds a Master Degree in Ecology and Environmental Protection and a PhD in Spatial-temporal distribution of chlorophyll a in the Romanian shelf water and its controlling factors. He is responsible for numerous national and international projects. He is an expert in water and sediment quality assessment in marine, fluvial and lacustrine environment and in MSFD. Additionally, he is interested in photosynthetic pigments and in primary productivity of aquatic ecosystems. He has worked as chief scientist in numerous oceanographic cruises and has presented more than 25 publications. He is a member of the Steering Committee of EurOcean, as well as a member of EurAqua.

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Dr. Violeta SLABAKOVA

Institute of Oceanology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Dr. Violeta Slabakova is an oceanographer at the Institute of Oceanology of Bulgarian Academy of Science. She obtained her Masters in Engineering from the Technical University of Varna. Her research interests are in the field of remote sensing and satellite oceanography, by means of both active and passive instruments, and in the exploitation of the synergy and integration of data coming from different space-borne instruments with in situ measurements. She has participated in several floating litter monitoring campaigns in the Black Sea and she is a member of the Technical Group on Marine Litter (EC MSFD TGML). As part of the MARine Litter, Eutrophication and Noise assessment tools (MARLEN) project, she has assessed the feasibility of using UAV based high resolution aerial images to detect and quantify beach litter.



Prof. Dr. Emil STANEV

Institute for Chemistry and Biology of the Marine Environment, Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg

Dr. Emil Stanev is professor for Coastal Oceanography at the University of Oldenburg and Coordinator of Unstructured-grid modelling at the Institute of Coastal Research, Helmholtz Zentrum Geesthacht, Germany. He got his PhD degree and his professorship in physical oceanography from the University of Sofia. His fields of expertise include physical oceanography, numerical modelling, hydrodynamics and sediment dynamics of coastal seas and estuaries, biogeochemical modelling, and ocean data assimilation. Dr. Stanev is associated editor of Ocean Modelling (Elsevier), Ocean Dynamics (Springer) and Continental Shelf Research (Elsevier) and member of many international science panels (e.g., CMEMS, EuroGOOS, EuroArgo and others). He is world leader in numerical modelling of coastal ocean and semi-enclosed seas with fundamental contributions to hydro and thermodynamics of the Black Sea, as well as to its biogeochemistry. Among his honors are the fellowships from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, ONRIFO, University of Washington etc. He was coordinator and WP leader of several EU and other international projects. He has more than 170 peer reviewed papers.

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Mr. Giuseppe RIVA

Director Mediterranean Region, Association of Plastics Manufacturers 'PlasticsEurope'

Born in 1948, Mr. Giuseppe Riva graduated in 1971 at the University of Milan in Industrial Chemistry. He has spent all his career in petrochemical and plastics business, in Research, Marketing, Sales and Strategic Departments of multinational companies, such as Montedison and Eni. Since January 2000 in Federchimica (the Italian Federation of Chemical Industry) as Director of Assobase, the Italian Association of Base Chemicals Products and of PlasticsEurope Italy, the Association of plastics manufacturers, coordinated by PlasticsEurope, the European Plastics Manufacturers Association. He is Director of the Mediterranean Region of PlasticsEurope. From 2001 to 2004 he has been Vice President of the Italian Chemical Society.



Dr. Mustafa YÜCEL

Associate Professor, Vice Director METU-IMS, ODTU Erdemli Kampusu

Dr. Mustafa Yücel is an enthusiast of multidisciplinary exploration of our seas and particularly fascinated by deep-sea since his first submarine dive in 2007. Specifically, he is an expert of Black Sea oceanography and currently he is actively contributing to the preparation of a new Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda for the Black Sea. He has obtained a B.S. degree from Middle East Technical University (METU), Ankara in 2005. He has completed a PhD in Oceanography in the group of Prof. George Luther, University of Delaware (USA). Between 2010 and 2012 Mustafa performed postdoctoral studies in France, at the University Pierre and Marie Curie. Then, until April 2015 he worked as a postdoctoral scientist in Germany in GEOMAR – Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel. Since April 2015 Dr. Yücel has been appointed as a Faculty Member in METU Institute of Marine Sciences in Turkey and currently is the Vice Director of the institute responsible for research coordination and international collaborations. He is studying biogeochemical cycles in our seas, geochemical drivers of seafloor ecosystems and development of novel chemical sensors to study the dynamic environmental processes in situ. Since 2008 he has authored over 30 international publications. Dr. Yücel has also participated in 11 international ocean expeditions (in Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, Mediterranean, Black Sea and the Baltic Sea) and 5 submersible dives to the ocean floor.

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Session III: A European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy



Moderator: Mr. Anton PEYCHEV

Expert, Waste Management Directorate, Ministry of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria

Mr. Anton Peychev graduated from the University of National and World Economy. As a long-time employee of the Ministry of Environment and Water, he works in the areas of extended producer responsibility systems, focusing on the management of packaging waste and waste electrical and electronic equipment. Over the last three years, he has been actively involved in Bulgaria's participation in the negotiating process on the EU waste management legislation as a part of the "Circular Economy" package, as well as with the directive on the reduction of the impact of single use plastic products.



Mr. Maris STULGIS

Policy Officer, DG MARE, European Commission

Mr. Maris Stulgis graduated from the Technical Institute of Fishing Industry and Fishery Research, Kaliningrad, Russia (1987-1993), obtaining a University level Diploma in Water Bioresources and Aquaculture. From 1994 to 2005, he has worked in the Latvian public sector - Marine and Inland Waters Administration, under the Ministry of the Environment, where he started as senior inspector and was later promoted to head of unit and deputy director. His main business areas are development of environmental protection; pollution prevention and fisheries control policies, including alignment of Latvian national legislation with EU acquis. From 16/10/2005 to 31/12/2016, he worked in different fisheries-related units of DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MARE) of the European Commission. In particular, Maris has dealt with fisheries control policy development and implementation, development of fisheries data policy and new control technologies as well as the coordination of a group of EU inspectors, monitoring implementation of EU fisheries legislation in the EU Member States.

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Mr. Mustafa AYDIN

Regional Cooperation and Marine Information Expert, European Environmental Agency

Mr. Mustafa Aydin graduated from the Istanbul Technical University as a city and regional planner in 2000. He has a master's degree on regional planning and he continues his PhD study at the Earth Systems Sciences department of Middle East Technical University. He has worked at the Ministry of Environment of Turkey as an Environmental Expert for ten years, particularly on planning related environmental management tools; strategic environmental assessment, marine spatial planning and integrated coastal zone management (ICZM). He has coordinated UN and EU funded environmental projects in Turkey. He has executed several National Focal Point responsibilities for the Black Sea Commission and the UNEP MAP PAP/RAC on ICZM and has organized several Coast Day events in Turkey. He started his work at the Ministry for European Union Affairs of Turkey in 2011. He was responsible from the harmonization of Turkish environmental legislation with the EU Acquis. He was a national expert in professional training (NEPT) in 2012 at DG MARE, Brussels. Since 2017, he is working as an expert at the European Environment Agency, Copenhagen, and his particular areas of responsibility are Black Sea regional cooperation and marine litter.



Mr. Thanos SMANIS

Environmental Consultant, Member of the Facility for Blue Growth in the Black Sea

Mr. Thanos Smanis, an Ecosystems Management PhD candidate, accumulates vast experience of more than 14 years (2005-2019) as Environmental and Climate Change Consultant, Technical Project Manager and Researcher. He has been involved in the preparation, appraisal and supervision of a number of projects in the area of applied conservation science, either through working with research institutes and environmental organizations or from the implementation of integrated species and habitats conservation projects, such as numerous Life projects. He was involved as collaborative researcher and consultant in numerous EU, ACP, ENPI projects during his collaboration with various institutes, research centers and companies. He is specialized in ecosystem-based approaches and adaptation to climate change with a specific emphasis on climate change mainstreaming of degraded ecosystems emphasized on policy

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development/dialogue/capacity building. The last years through his involvement as climate change and environmental expert in three high-level **EU Blue Economy policy projects**, all related to **Blue Growth**, he specialized in Blue Economy and Integrated Maritime Policy aspects and he is in close collaboration with the National Focal Points of Black Sea Countries. At the same time he is a member at the European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST). Finally he has participated in and coordinated a lot of EU funded projects; with great ability to create integrated partnerships and work at national and international level in close collaboration with National Focal Points and Maritime Stakeholders, establish synergies and collaboration between countries for Blue Growth projects (ex. EMFF) and supporting maritime business development opportunities.



Ms. Emma GILEVA

Board member & Official Representative, Black Sea NGO Network

Ms. Emma Gileva is the official representative of the Black Sea NGO Network (BSNN), a non-profit public benefit association registered in Varna, Bulgaria. She is responsible for regional management of the network, comprising of environmental and sustainability NGOs from the six littoral countries of the Black Sea. Her experience in coordination of activities, projects and programmes and the communication with experts, scientists and institutions has helped identify marine litter as an issue of primary public concern in the region. For over six years now, BSNN has been involved in projects related to marine litter issues, focused on addressing decision makers, cross sectoral communication, stakeholder involvement, public awareness raising and promoting adaptive policies on marine litter reduction. Ms. Gileva, who has also experience in journalism and publishing, writes articles and communication material on marine issues.



Prof. Dr. Tatsiana SAVITSKAYA

Physical Chemistry Dept., Vice-Dean for Science, Faculty of Chemistry, Belarusian State University

Dr. Tatsiana Savitskaya is a lecturer of author's courses, on topics such as Colloid chemistry; Surface active substances chemistry; Water chemical regimes at NPP; Introduction to green chemistry: Green technologies in chemical industry; Management in pharmaceutical industry.

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She supervises diplomas, MPhils and PhD dissertations of BSU and foreign students. Furthermore, she is known for introducing innovative method of teaching, namely problem solving and cooperative learning, lectures in podcasting and video methodological support for labs. She also organizes national and international youth scientific and educational events (Forums on Water Issues, Science History Days). She also teaches at the International programme “The Baltic University Programme”, while she participates in the EaP GREEN programme in Belarus as an expert of UNIDO on RECP. Her area of scientific interests includes physicochemistry of natural polymers and their composites; rheology of solutions and dispersions; processing of polymer solutions into fibbers, films, membranes by green technologies; design and production of edible films and coatings based on natural polysaccharides for food packaging. She has published more than 150 scientific articles, has acquired 19 author's invention certificates and 4 Eurasian patents, Moreover, she has presented a monograph, titled “Biodegradable composites based on natural polysaccharides”, 2018, Minsk, BSU.

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Session IV: Improved Monitoring and Coordinated Actions



Moderator: Ms. Iryna MAKARENKO

Pollution Monitoring and Assessment Officer, Commission for the Protection of Black Sea Against Pollution



Dr. Jaroslav SLOBODNIK

EU/UNDP EMBLAS-II Project Team Leader

Dr. Jaroslav Slobodnik is the Director of the Environmental Institute in Kos, Slovakia. He has an extensive experience in the implementation of the EU water legislation within numerous international projects. Among his specializations are integrated river basin management and development of monitoring strategies. In the Black Sea region he was a Team Leader of the EU/UNDP EMBLAS-II and, since 2018, its follow up EMBLAS-Plus project. Since 2001 he was Technical Coordinator of the four basin-wide Joint Danube Surveys, organized every six years by the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR). As a member of the advisory panel to the DG Environment of the European Commission, he was involved in drafting institutional reform proposals of the Drinking Water Directive and Water Reuse Regulation. Since 2010, he is a Topic leader on the Assessment of Chemical Pollution issues in the River Basin Management Plans of all EU Member States. Since 2008 he is Chairman of the NORMAN Association, a 'science-to-policy' network of more than 80 organizations in Europe and North America, dealing with emerging substances and related issues, such as microplastics.



Prof. Assoc. Dr. Jerina KOLITARI

Dept. of Aquaculture and Fishery, Agricultural University of Tirana,
Aquaculture and Fishery Laboratory, Durrës, Albania

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Ms. Jerina Kolutari is a member of the Academic staff and a Senior researcher in the Aquaculture and Fishery Laboratory of Durres, a section of the Aquaculture & Fishery Management Department in the University of Tirana. During her career, she has worked as an agricultural, fishery and environmental specialist, teaching and researching on the aforementioned fields, while from 2009 to 2016 she was a Coordinator of the Aquaculture and Fisheries Laboratory, in the University of Tirana. She holds an MSc and a PhD in the fishery field from the Department of Aquaculture & Fishery Management of the Agricultural University of Tirana, while she constantly enriches her field of expertise, through her participation in FAO's and other relevant organizations' courses and programs. She has a significant amount of scientific publications and has participated in several scientific projects. She is fluent in Albanian, English and Italian.



Mr. Stavros KALOGNOMOS

Executive Secretary, Balkan and Black Sea Commission, Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR)

Mr. Stavros Kalognomos has been working for the General Secretariat of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) since 2013 and is the Executive Secretary of its Balkan and Black Sea Commission (BBSC) since 2018. The CPMR brings together some 160 Regions from 25 States from the European Union and beyond and is present in the Balkans through its Balkan and Black Sea Commission. In his duties as Executive Secretary, Mr Kalognomos follows up the EU Macro-Regional Strategies in the wider Black Sea area (EUSAIR, EUSDR), the Black Sea Synergy and the Eastern Partnership and promotes collaboration between BBSC members and other stakeholders in this Geographical Commission's key areas of interest. He fosters relations between the CPMR and BSEC by strengthening the sectoral dialogue partnership between the two organisations and implementing their Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2017. He is the coordinator of the Adriatic Ionian Network of Universities, Regions, Chambers of Commerce and Cities (AI-NURECC Initiative), a project financed by the European Commission and aiming to enhance the Local and Regional Authorities' appropriation of the Adriatic-Ionian Macroregional Strategy's main objectives and opportunities. He holds a BA in International and European Studies from Panteion University (Greece) and an MA in European Policies from Rennes I University (France).



Ms. Miroslava ROBINSON

Head of Marine Water Protection Department, Black Sea Region Directorate, Ministry of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria

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Ms. Miroslava Robinson is the Head of the Department of Marine waters protection and monitoring, Black Sea Basin Directorate, Varna, Bulgaria. She graduated from the Naval Academy 'Nikola Vaptsarov', Varna, with a Master's degree in Oceanology and Applied Geophysics. She started her career in the Bulgarian NAVY, Hydrographic Office, Department "Hydrology and Meteorology". She was involved in the survey and research of the Bulgarian sector of the Black Sea, monitoring and real-time data collection, hydrological and meteorological data analyses and forecasts. After spending nearly a decade in the NAVY she moved to the private sector developing her business management and organizational skills, returning to the public sector in 2017. Miroslava Robinson is currently responsible for the implementation of integrated water management in the territorial area of the Black Sea Basin district, specifically the Bulgarian part of the Black Sea according to the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56/EO. Her main responsibilities are anthropogenic pressures and impact analyses, ecological status, definition of ecological targets, programmes of measures and monitoring programmes. At the same time she is studying for a second master's degree at 'Konstantin Preslavsky' University, Shumen in Ecological Biotechnology and Food Control.



Ms. Mihaela CANDEA MIREA

Director executive, ONG Mare Nostrum Constanta

Ms. Candea Mirea has a long lasting involvement in the environmental nonprofit sector and brings some previous experience in central administration. Also, her continuous dedication for improving helped her achieving the Project Management Professional certificate that will create an even more professional work environment at her place of work. In her activity in Mare Nostrum she focused her attention on issues related to Black Sea ecosystem conservation such as: cetacean conservation, marine litter data collection and education for sustainable development. Also she works closely with the Black Sea Advisory Council, being part of the secretariat. Her publications are both public and teachers dedicated or scientific articles, holding a B.S. in biology and a M.S. in Project Management.

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