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## Marine Litter in the Danube and the Black Sea region: concrete proposals from the regions

Hosted by **MEP Carmen AVRAM**, SEARica Vice-Chair responsible for the Danube and the Black Sea, and co-organised by the **Balkan and Black Sea Commission of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR BBSC)** and the **International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS)**

**Thursday 4 November 2021 from 11:00 to 13:30 (CET)**

The online conference, hosted and chaired by **MEP Carmen AVRAM**, will take the form of a moderated exchange with key regional, political, and private stakeholders from the Danube and Black Sea regions. The online meeting will also seek to promote inter-basin and knowledge exchange by presenting key takeaways and best practice from other sea basins of Europe. The aim of the event is to discuss and come up with tailored and concrete proposals to tackle marine litter in the region.

The event will offer different stakeholders from the wider Black Sea region and beyond the opportunity to share their experience and exchange ideas with representatives from the European institutions and encourage multi-lateral cooperation in the framework of different EU initiatives and programmes implemented in the area.

The conference will aim at providing a dialogue platform amongst EU, regional and national policy-makers and key stakeholders, to encourage a debate that will allow for the better understanding of the challenges, as faced by stakeholders on the ground, and the different opportunities that derive from the various EU policies, strategies and initiatives in this diverse but fragile region.

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## Agenda

*The online conference will be chaired and moderated by **Ms Carmen AVRAM**,  
SEArICA Vice-Chair responsible for the Danube and the Black Sea*

Welcome by **Ms Carmen AVRAM**, Member of the European Parliament, Vice-Chair of the SEArICA Intergroup, responsible for the Danube and the Black Sea

### *Regional mechanisms and perspectives*

- **Danube Day**, by **Mr Ivan ZAVADSKY**, Executive Secretary of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)
- **International Black Sea Action Day**, by **Ms Irina MAKARENKO**, Pollution Monitoring and Assessment Officer, Permanent Secretariat, Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Black Sea Commission)
- **Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea**, by the 2021 Turkish Coordination, **Mr Yunus Emre ÖZIGCI** and **Mr Bartu ÜNLÜ**, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Turkey)
- **Black Sea Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)** by **Professor Dr Baris SALIHOGLU**, [Black Sea CONNECT Project](#) Coordinator, Middle East Technical University - Institute of Marine Sciences (METU-IMS) (Turkey)
- Safe use of Waste and Environmental Protection, by **Professor Ioannis KALAVROUZOTIS**, President of the Regional Council of Research & Innovation of the Region of Western Greece, CPMR Balkan and Black Sea Commission Member Region
- Inter-basin best practice exchange: Reflections and future steps based on the results of the [CPMR North Sea Commission's "Waste Free Rivers" event](#), by **Ms Zita PELS**, Regional Minister from Noord-Holland (The Netherlands), Member of the CPMR North Sea Commission
- [EU4Ocean coalition](#), by **Ms Olga MASHKINA**, EU4 Ocean Coordinator, ACTeon (France)
- Tech solutions from the private sector, by **Mr Bernard MERKX**, Co-founder, Waste Free Oceans

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## *Skills for prevention of marine litter*

- **Professor Dr Taner ALBAYRAK**, Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences Department of Maritime Business Management, Piri Reis University (Turkey), **Black Sea Association of Maritime Institutions (BSAMI)**
- **Plastic Pirates citizen science project**, by **Mr Dennis BRENNECKE**, Scientist at Kiel Science Factory (Germany)

## *Regional projects*

- Transnational River Cleanup Handguide – how a Hungarian trash boat race went viral, by a representative of **PLASTIC Cup** initiative, by **Mr Gary HANKÓ**, Project Manager, and Managing Director of the Hungarian Association of Environmental Enterprises
- **BLACK SEA REACT! Project**, by **Ms Georgia CHANTZI**, Research and Policy Development Manager, International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS)
- **EU/UNDP Project 'EU4EMBLAS'**, by **Ms Maria POGOJEVA**, Marine Litter Expert
- **Black Sea Young Ambassadors** represented by **Ms Gizem AKKUS**, Ph.D. Candidate at Middle East Technical University - Institute of Marine Sciences (METU-IMS) (Turkey)

## Reactions by:

- **HORIZON Ocean, Seas and Waters Mission and lighthouse projects** by **Ms Roberta ZOBBI**, Senior Expert - Maritime Policy - Research and Innovation, Maritime innovation, Marine Knowledge and Investment Unit, Maritime Policy and Blue Economy, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE), European Commission
- **Mr Michail Georgios PAPADOYANNAKIS**, Senior Expert, Marine Environment and Water Industry Unit, Directorate-General for Environment (DG ENV), European Commission
- **Ms Michaela HAUF**, Team Leader - sector connectivity, energy efficiency, environment and climate change, Neighbourhood East and Institution Building - Georgia, Moldova, Economic Investment Plan Unit, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), European Commission
- **Mr Balázs HORVÁTH**, EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) Priority Area 4 (Water Quality) Coordinator, General Directorate of Water Management, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Hungary)
- **Ms Laura BOBARNAC**, Head of Unit of the Directorate MA European Territorial Cooperation Programmes, Managing Authority, ENI CBC Black Sea Basin Joint Operational Programme 2014-2020, Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration (Romania)

# INTERGROUP SEAS, RIVERS, ISLANDS AND COASTAL AREAS



Open discussion

Closing remarks by:

- **Ms Carmen AVRAM**, Member of the European Parliament, Vice-Chair of the SEArICA Intergroup, responsible for the Danube and the Black Sea



Contacts:

- **Ms Cristina GANAPINI**, Policy Analyst, CPMR: [cristina.ganapini@crpm.org](mailto:cristina.ganapini@crpm.org)
- **Mr Stavros KALOGNOMOS**, BBSC Executive Secretary, CPMR: [stavros.kalognomos@crpm.org](mailto:stavros.kalognomos@crpm.org)
- **Ms Georgia CHANTZI**, Research and Policy Development Manager, ICBSS: [gchantzi@icbss.org](mailto:gchantzi@icbss.org)
- **Mr Sabin CIORNEA**, Assistant to MEP Carmen Avram: [sabin.ciornea@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:sabin.ciornea@europarl.europa.eu)
- **Ms Silvia Ana Nicoleta TOMESCU**, Assistant to MEP Carmen Avram: [silviaanicoleta.tomescu@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:silviaanicoleta.tomescu@europarl.europa.eu)