



Activities of the Black Sea Commission and its Advisory Groups

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Bucharest Convention (1)



Bucharest Convention (2)



Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution

- Was signed in **Bucharest** in April 1992;
- Ratified by all six Black Sea Countries in the beginning of **1994**;
- Its basic objective is to substantiate the general obligation of the Contracting Parties **to prevent, reduce and control the pollution in the Black Sea** in order to **protect and preserve the marine environment** and to **provide a legal framework for co-operation and concerted actions** to fulfil this obligation.

Bucharest Convention (3)



It has 4 thematic Protocols:

1. Protocol on the Protection of the Black Sea Marine Environment Against Pollution from **Land Based Sources (LBS Protocol)**;
2. Protocol on the Protection of the Black Sea Marine Environment Against Pollution by **Dumping**;
3. Protocol on Cooperation in Combating Pollution of the Black Sea Marine Environment by **Oil and Other Harmful Substances in Emergency Situations**;
4. The Black Sea **Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation Protocol (CBD Protocol)**.
 - **Strategic Action Plan (SAP)** on the Protection and Rehabilitation of the Black Sea – adopted in 1996 and amended in **2009**.

Bucharest Convention (4)



6 Advisory Groups

- The Advisory Groups to the Black Sea Commission are the **main source of expertise, information and support** in the implementation of the Black Sea Strategic Action Plan.
- 1. ESAS – Advisory Group on the Environmental **Safety Aspects of Shipping**;
- 2. PMA – Advisory Group on the **Pollution Monitoring and Assessment**;
- 3. LBS – Advisory Group on Control of **Pollution from Land Based Sources**;
- 4. ICZM – Advisory group on the Development of Common Methodologies for **Integrated Coastal Zone Management**;
- 5. CBD – Advisory Group on the **Conservation of Biological Diversity**;
- 6. FOMLR – Advisory Group on the Environmental Aspects of the **Management of Fisheries** and other Marine Living Resources.

Black Sea Commission

The Commission for the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution

Permanent Secretariat

Advisory Groups

AG ESAS	AG PMA	AG LBS	AG ICZM	AG CBD	AG FOMLR	AG IDE
Environmental Safety Aspects of Shipping (AG ESAS)	Pollution Monitoring and Assessment	Control of Pollution from Land Based Sources	Development of the Common Methodologies for Integrated Coastal Zone Management	Conservation of Biological Diversity	Environmental Aspects of Fisheries and Other Marine Living Resources Management	Information and Data Exchange

Regional Activity Centers

Environmental Safety Aspects of Shipping (AC ESAS), <u>Varna</u> , Bulgaria	Pollution Monitoring and Assessment (AC PMA), Odessa, Ukraine	Control of Pollution from Land Based Sources (AC LBS), Istanbul, Turkey	Development of Common Methodologies for Integrated Coastal Zone Management (AG ICZM), <u>Krasnodar</u> , Russian Federation	Conservation of Biological Diversity (AC CBD), <u>Batumi</u> , Georgia	Environmental Aspects of Fisheries and Other Marine Living Resources Management (AG FOMLR), <u>Constanta</u> , Romania	Information and Data Exchange (AC IDE), Permanent Secretariat, Istanbul, Turkey
						

National Focal Points

Bg, Ge, Ro, Ru, Tr, Ua	Ua, Bg, Ge, Ro, Ru, Tr	Tr, Bg, Ge, Ro, Ru, Ua	Ru, Bg, Ge, Ro, Tr, Ua	Ge, Bg, Ro, Ru, Tr, Ua	Ro, Bg, Ge, Ru, Tr, Ua	Bg, Ge, Ro, Ru, Tr, Ua
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Bucharest Convention (5)



Ongoing collaboration with relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), UN Agencies and International Financial Institutions (IFIs)

Mutual **Observer Relations** with 9 International and Public Organizations:

- UNEP;
- EU;
- GEF/UNDP;
- IMO;
- ICPDR;
- BSEC;
- ACCOBAMS;
- BSC-Port State Control MoU;
- Black Sea NGO Network.

Currently **deepening cooperation** with the Secretariats of European RSCs:

- HELCOM; UNEP/MAP; OSPAR.
- ▶ MoUs with ACCOBAMS (Conservation Plan for Black Sea Cetaceans), UN GFCM, UNIGE, IAEA etc.
- ▶ New joint initiatives with IMO and Tehran Convention on Ballast Water Management, Contingency Planning and other relevant projects with possible involvement of IFIs.

Bucharest Convention (6)



- ▶ Bucharest Convention was elaborated more than 20 years ago, latest version of BS SAP is dated 2009, some new challenges as **climate change, marine litter, marine noise, green economy, MSFD requirements** etc. were not reflected;
- ▶ Work to incorporate these considerations in the documents of the Bucharest Convention (**text of Convention, BS SAP, BSIMAP etc.**);
- ▶ Relevant chapters of **Black Sea SoE** and **SAPIR** include socio-economic aspects and new challenges.

Strategic Action Plan for the Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation of the Black Sea (2009) :

- ▶ *provides a **brief overview of the current status** of the Sea (Black Sea Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (BS TDA 2007) and progress of the original BS SAP 1996;*
- ▶ ***reorganizes the priorities and actions** therein considering the progress in the region and the current state of the environment;*
- ▶ *describes the **policy actions** required to meet the major environmental challenges now facing the Sea, and includes a **series of management targets***
- ▶ *recognizes the **same environment threats as those identified by the MSFD** (loss/degradation of biodiversity/habitats, contamination by dangerous substances/nutrients and impacts of climate change), however, sets **no environment targets, but only operational** according to four Ecosystem Quality Objectives.*

BS SAP 2009 (1)

Four Ecosystem Quality Objectives:

*1. Preserve commercial **marine living resources** through:*

- ▶ *Sustainable use of commercial fish stocks and other marine living resources*
- ▶ *Restore/rehabilitate stocks of commercial marine living resources*


*2. Conservation of Black Sea **Biodiversity and Habitats** through:*

- ▶ *Reduction of risk of extinction of threatened species*
- ▶ *Conservation of coastal and marine habitats and landscapes*
- ▶ *Reduction and management of human mediated species introductions*

*3. Reduce **eutrophication** through:*

- ▶ *Reduction of nutrients originating from land-based sources, including atmospheric emissions*

*4. Ensure **Good Water Quality** for Human Health, Recreational Use and Aquatic Biota through:*

- ▶ *Reduction of pollutants originating from land-based sources, including atmospheric emissions*
 - ▶ *Reduction of pollutants originating from shipping activities and offshore installations*
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BS SAP 2009 (2)



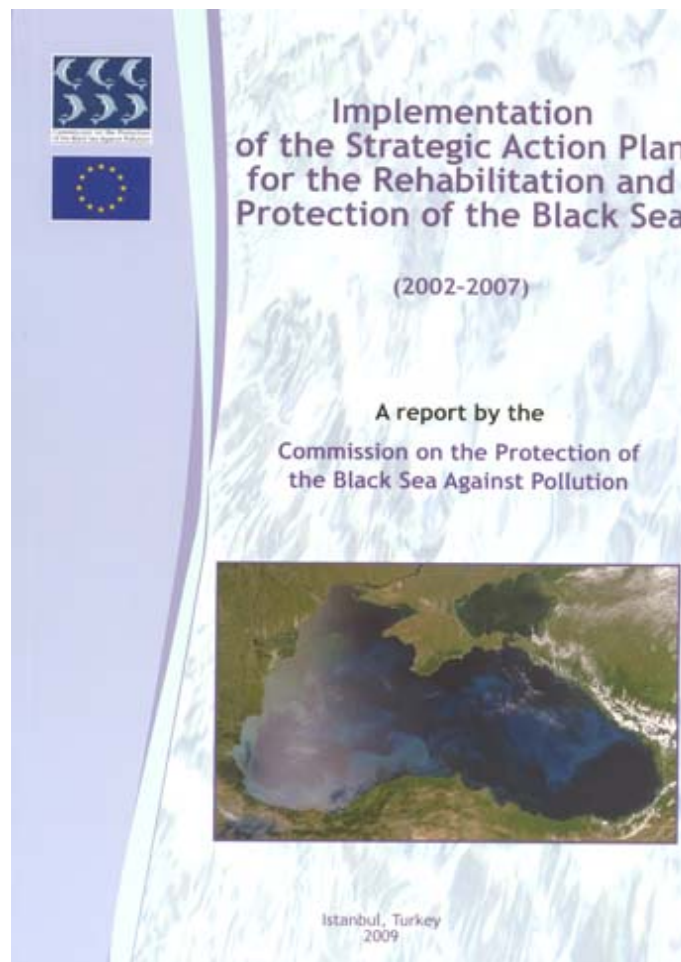
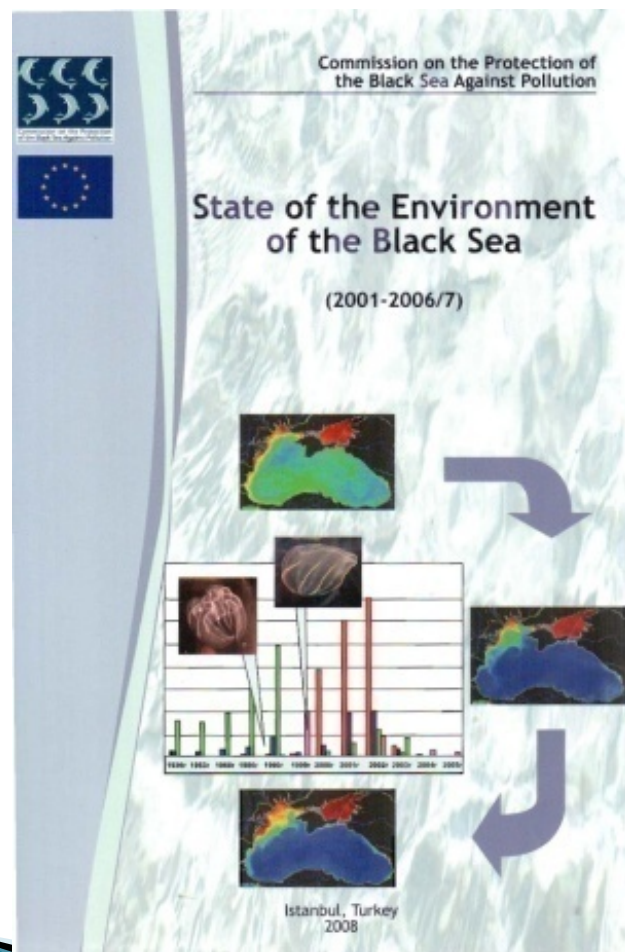
- ▶ **Major gaps:**
- ▶ **no definition of GES** and no targets to identify it;
- ▶ no requirements to specify environment targets and to develop classification schemes, although the need to elaborate regionally agreed criteria for assessment of environment. The **Regional Water/Sediment Quality Classification Methodology** has been drafted, however, it was not finalized and agreed at the regional level. The Methodology covers chemical parameters only;
- ▶ no specific target in relation to the complex environmental monitoring. At the regional level, the “METHODOLOGY FOR THE IDENTIFICATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL **HOT SPOTS** IN THE BLACK SEA REGION” was prepared, but not finalized and agreed for use in the BS region;
- ▶ separate targets aimed at improving the **monitoring of pressures** mainly (target no. 51);
- ▶ some of the targets mention the living resources and habitats monitoring development, however, **water/sediment/biota monitoring is not explicitly elucidated**;
- ▶ the same stands for **cetaceans monitoring** (population condition).

Progress (3)



- ▶ new text of the Black Sea Integrated **Monitoring and Assessment Program** - BSIMAP for years 2014-2019 (drafted within EU MSFD Project, main approaches are harmonized, but still based on monitoring parameters in BSIMAP and BS SAP 2009)
- ▶ First Report on the Implementation of the (amended) BS SAP (2009) - **SAPIR**
- ▶ “State of the Black Sea Environment” Report – **SoE**

SoE and SAPIR (4)



Draft BSIMAP 2015-2020 (8)



- ▶ **Draft Black Sea Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Program (2015-2020):**
- ▶ is foreseen in Article XV of the Bucharest Convention;
- ▶ based on **national monitoring programs** financed by the Black Sea states and **thematic scientific surveys** carried out in the frames of different projects, financed by national authorities and/or donors (UNEP, UNDP/GEF, EC, UN FAO and others);
- ▶ employs the **DPSIRR** (Drivers, Pressures, State, Impact, Response, Recovery) model;
- ▶ **choice of parameters to monitor** is related to the SoE and SAPIR reports.

BSIMAP 2015-2020 (10)



- ▶ It is planned that after adoption by BSC, **the document will be further improved and filled in with necessary supporting documents** (guidelines, manuals, indicators etc.) and will be subject for cooperation with project and partners, as well as used for fundraising purposes;
- ▶ During the 30th BSC Regular Meeting the Black Sea Commission adopted the following **resolution**:
- ▶ **“The Commission requested the BSC PS to further elaborate the content of the Black Sea Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Program (framework guidelines).**
- ▶ **The BSC PS will circulate to the Commission the consolidated version of the draft BSIMAP by 10th December, 2014.**
- ▶ **After receiving comments (by 1st February, 2015) the revised version of the draft BSIMAP will be submitted to BSC (by 10th February, 2015) and adopted as framework guidelines by written procedure by 31st March, 2015”.**

BSIMAP 2015-2020 (11)



- ▶ The program **slowly outdated, enormous amount of versions and comments, double-check compliance with MSFD requirements, recent developments, as well as add some missing information** (such as Marine Litter and Marine Noise guidelines etc.);
- ▶ Joint meetings (with EMBLAS and IRIS-SES) in Istanbul **PMA/CBD/LBS/FOMLR AGs**;
- ▶ **Short format of reporting agreed**, incorporated some indicators agreed by consensus (E-TRIX, BEAST, H-Shannon 95 (biomass), Landings per unit of effort etc.), also compatible with EU MSFD and GFCM requirements;
- ▶ Work on incorporation of deliverables of **relevant projects** (B2B, MSFD, IRIS-SES, PERSEUS, MISIS, EMBLAS etc.)

Draft BSIMAP 2015-2020 (12)



► Content

- List of abbreviations
- Preamble
- Definitions
- Legal Basis
- Assessments
 - Black Sea Environmental Monitoring Program
 - Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC)
 - Black Sea Information System (BSIS)
 - Timeframe for Implementation of the Black Sea Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Program for years 2015-2020
- Annex 1 **Black Sea Regional Monitoring Program**
- Annex 2 Relevant data-bases for possible future harmonization with BSIS
- Annex 3 Proposed organizational scheme and time-table for preparation of the assessment reports
- Annex 4 **BSIMAP Reporting format** (to be added when revised by the BSC and Advisory Groups (AGs))
- Annex 5 List of the Black Sea Guidelines and Manuals
- Annex 6 List of Black Sea priority substances
- Annex 7 Environmental Quality Standards for Priority Substances and certain other pollutants
- Annex 8 Substances subject to review for possible identification as priority substances or priority hazardous substances
- Annex 9 Priority thematic studies to be implemented in 2015-2020. Subjects for international and national research projects
- Annex 10 **BSC - ICPDR Reporting format**

Draft BSIMAP 2015-2020 (13)



- ▶ **EcoQO 1** Preserve commercial marine living resources
- ▶ **EcoQO 1b** Sustainable use of commercial fish stocks and other marine living resources
- ▶ **Descriptor** - populations of all commercially exploited fish and shellfish are within safe biological limits, exhibiting a population age and size distribution that is indicative of a healthy stock
- ▶ **Interim Target** - Increasing trends in the stocks of commercial predator species
- ▶ **Ultimate Target** -Reduction of fishing mortality
- ▶ **Preparatory actions** - Revise Annex 2 and Annex 4 to the Black Sea Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation Protocol; Harmonize data collection and stock assessment methodologies; Agree on indicators (develop and/or apply); Relate pressures/impacts; Others (to be specified by the FOMLR AG)
- ▶ **Additional monitoring and data/information collection** – Aquaculture; Harmonized Total Allowable Catches (TACs); Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishery (IUU); Use of destructive equipment; Maximum sustainable yield; Non-compliance with regulations (admissible size, fishing-free zones and periods etc.); Restructuring of fishing fleet; Development of control and compliance road map (i.e. VMS); Others (to be specified by the FOMLR AG)
- ▶ **Data Products** - Criteria for assessments, indicators, trends, manuals, guidelines, etc.

Challenges:



- ▶ Existing **differences in legal documents**:
 - ▶ - different set of indicators BS SAP, BSIMAP, MSFD, reporting templates etc.;
 - ▶ - difference in legal terms (i.e. no definition of GES in the Black Sea basin), approaches to marine assessment (Regular Process and MSFD descriptors);
- ▶ Some **terms and definitions** were never introduced in BSC documents:
 - ▶ - cross-cutting nature (marine litter, noise etc.);
 - ▶ - new terms (climate change, green economy, blue growth etc.);
 - ▶ - lack of manuals, methodologies, guidelines etc. for proper assessment;
- ▶ **BSIMAP and reports (SoE and BS SAP) were not adopted**:
 - ▶ - amendments to BS SAP 2009 are delayed, Ministerial Meeting postponed;
 - ▶ - BG and RO must already report under the MSFD;
 - ▶ - consensus on every issue (Article 17 Bucharest Convention), incl. assessment outlines and approaches;
 - ▶ - lack of funds;
- ▶ Only 2 countries are EU members, **MSFD is not legally binding**.
- ▶ Deliverables of Projects and initiatives are **not always sustained**, uneven geographical coverage; political situation in the region.
- ▶ Lack of **interaction and cooperation with RSCs**.

Conclusions:



- ▶ The **soonest adoption and implementation** of the draft BSIMAP 2015-2020 will allow to **unify the set of core indicators and compliance** with national, regional and international requirements (BS national legislation, MSFD provisions, BS SAP 2009 etc.);
- ▶ Help to **avoid ambiguities of the integrated monitoring** in BS countries, **amend the BS SAP 2009** and possibly text of Bucharest Convention, **assist Ukraine, Georgia and Turkey in approximation** to the European environmental legislation;
- ▶ Meanwhile MSFD-related Projects play their crucial role in **assisting BG and RO in reporting** under MSFD requirements; **unification of approaches** between the regional seas and cooperation with RSC Secretariats, application of **best practices**, as well as introduction of **new tools for marine assessment** in the Black Sea;
- ▶ At the same time proper **sustainability of project deliverables** should be ensured.



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EU-BSC relations:

- ▶ *EU members in the BS basin (Romania and Bulgaria)*
- ▶ *Mutual observer status since 2001*
- ▶ *Projects (direct and FP7 Projects)*
- ▶ *Indirect cooperation (ICPDR etc.)*
- ▶ *Wish of EU to become a party to Bucharest Convention*

Mutual observer status:

- *the EU here is represented by the EC DG Environment;*
- *the observer status was granted at the 7th Regular BSC Meeting in May, 2001;*
- *Commissions are able to be present and to contribute at each other's meetings and activities;*
- *no particular Memoranda of Understanding signed between the two Commissions, in terms of the implementation of joint activities, but a Grant Agreement or a Contribution Agreement is always signed for each and every project.*



Areas of cooperation with EU through various projects:

- ▶ *Cooperation in the development of the EU Marine Strategy;*
- ▶ *Support to the BSC in the implementation of the EU Marine Strategy;*
- ▶ *Collaboration in the harmonization with the related EU Directives (WFD and MSFD) in the Black Sea region;*
- ▶ *Gap analysis of the implementation of the BS SAP (2009);*
- ▶ *Black Sea component of the DABLAS Investment Projects Database;*
- ▶ *MONINFO Project: Environmental Monitoring of the Black Sea Basin and Monitoring and Information Systems for Reducing Oil Pollution and EU Marine Strategy Project;*
- ▶ *Relevant EU FP7 Projects.*



European Commission

- ▶ *The EC Grant Agreement “Support to the BSC for the Implementation of the MSFD” was finalized;*
- ▶ *Finalizing the deliverables of the joint project within HELCOM-BSC Cooperation “Baltic2Black: Environmental monitoring of the Black Sea for nutrients”;*
- ▶ *Currently finalized implementing of some other European projects, i.e. PEGASO Project “People for Ecosystem based Governance in Assessing Sustainable development of Oceans and coasts”;*
- ▶ *became members of Advisory Boards in the FP7 Projects, such as PERSEUS, COCONET, CREAM, DEVOTES, STAGES, MARLISCO, MISIS, EMBLAS etc.*
- ▶ *Negotiate with the EC and UNEP on the possibility to sign the MoU on the Marine Litter.*

THE EU MARINE STRATEGY PROJECT:

During 2009-2011 significant activities supported by the EC were carried out with the aim of:

- ▶ *Development of a common understanding of Good Environmental Status (GES);*
- ▶ *Development of a monitoring program, further harmonization of standards, methodologies and monitoring strategies*
- ▶ *Further development of management targets, including those defined in the SAP;*
- ▶ *Further development of the program of measures (reduction of eutrophication, reduction of pollutants, originating from land based sources, conservation of Black Sea biodiversity and habitats, sustainable use of commercial fisheries, addressing climate change, reduction of pollution from shipping activities and offshore installations, ballast water management etc.);*
- ▶ *Improving the coherence between EU member and non member states in the Black Sea.*

HELCOM-BSC cooperation on nutrients:

- ▶ *Among all transboundary environmental problems, eutrophication has been paid due attention. The **HELCOM tool HEAT**, employed for the Baltic Sea to assess eutrophication status, was proposed for use in the Black Sea as well, being adjusted to the availability of Black Sea data. This is a step toward harmonization of assessments, however, the **BSC still assesses the feasibility and relevance of usage of HEAT tool in the region.***
- ▶ *An **important deliverable** of the HELCOM-BSC Baltic2Black Project is the research on the “**APPLICABILITY OF USAGE OF SATELLITE CHLOROPHYLL DATA FOR EUTROPHICATION INDICATORS IN THE BLACK SEA**” carried out by experts within the Project.*

MISIS Project:

The *priority needs* in harmonization are as follows:

- ▶ *Setting of reference/threshold values*
- ▶ *Complex monitoring and consequent assessments, including loads and marine litter*
- ▶ *Joint implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy principles at a regional level (not only in BG and RO)*
- ▶ *Harmonization of surveys-at sea (fishery-related), data collection, stock assessments (target species)*
- ▶ *GES identification and relevant indicators development, in line with the MSFD Descriptors*
- ▶ *MPAs identification, designation and related monitoring*

Indirect cooperation: ICPDR

One of our main partners, we also have *mutual observer status* since 2001 and we *implement the MoU* between our Commissions.

The Danube – Black Sea Joint Technical Working Group was established between our Commissions. The main objectives are the following:

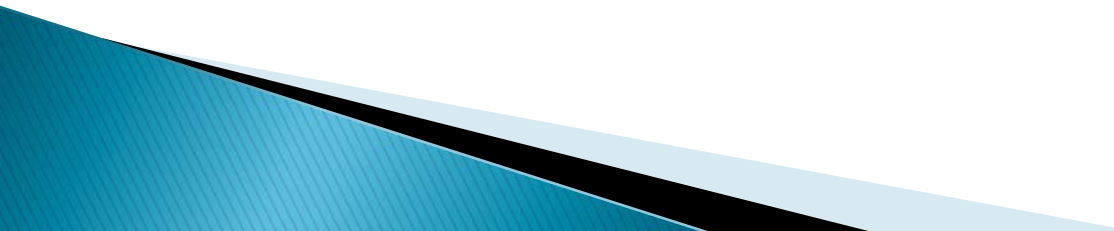
- ▶ *Information Exchange* between ICPDR and the Black Sea Commission (including Marine Directive Reporting);
- ▶ Exchange of *data on loads of pollution from the Danube* to the Black Sea as provided by the Transnational Monitoring Network of the ICPDR (set of parameters agreed);
- ▶ Exchange of data on indicators for the *assessment of the ecological status of the Black Sea* (reporting format and method of analysis for the data, because both Romania and Bulgaria have designated coastal water bodies, monitoring and assessment of these water bodies has been carried out in connection with the obligations under the WFD);
- ▶ *Harmonizing of the assessment methodologies* for point and diffuse pollution (based on the ICPDR experience on the Emission inventories, Hot Spots analysis and review of ranking methodologies).

Intention of EU to become a member to Bucharest Convention:

- ▶ *The Bucharest Convention has never foreseen the possibility to take on board the **Regional Economic Integration Organizations (REIO)** such as the European Union (EU).*
- ▶ *After the latest EU enlargement in 2007, the EU reached the Black Sea through its new members, **Romania and Bulgaria**.*
- ▶ *The **proposal to consider the accession of EU** as an equal Contracting Party came from Romania and Bulgaria and was presented at the 13th Regular Meeting of the Black Sea Commission followed by the submission to the Depository of the Bucharest Convention during the Ministerial Meeting/Diplomatic Conference held in Sofia back to April, 2009.*
- ▶ *the European Community (EC) is a Party to the regional water and sea conventions relating to the **Danube River, Baltic Sea, the Mediterranean and the North East Atlantic**, by virtue of certain procedural provisions contained in such conventions. In the case of Bucharest Convention **some amendments to the official text** of the Convention are needed.*

Interaction of BSC documents and related EU legislation:

The **provisions of the MSFD** related to the:

- ▶ The **Black Sea** as such
 - ▶ Regional Seas Conventions (incl. **Bucharest Convention**)
 - ▶ Comparison or coherence with **international organizations or agreements**
 - ▶ **Transboundary impacts** on marine environment
 - ▶ Relations with **third countries**
- 

Conclusions:

- ▶ The problem of *comparative analysis and adherence to the regional environmental conventions* ratified by these countries and the EU legislation, let alone the improvement of the synergy between them, are on the agenda today;
- ▶ Compliance to such legislative instruments as Environmental Conventions in this region, considering the process of integration of Ukraine, Georgia and Turkey to the European Union and Bulgaria and Romania's recent membership in the EU, will facilitate the *unification of environmental legislation and implementation of EU legislation in the region*;
- ▶ EU could contribute to the introduction of *integrated management approach* (as in WFD) and *Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedure* (as in EIA Directive and related provisions of Espoo Convention) for the Black Sea countries;

Conclusions:

- ▶ Further involvement of the EU in the activity of two regional Commissions (the ICPDR and Black Sea Commission) could assist them to *unify the approaches related to the technical indicators of the pollution and to refresh the activities under the MoU between the Commissions signed in 2001, since the level of their current interaction is not very well coordinated and active;*
- ▶ The *lack of joint projects* implemented by the European Commission in the Black Sea region *makes it completely impossible to secure the proper implementation of European Black Sea Strategy on-the-spot.*



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