



The Black Sea NGO Forum 2011

6-8 October 2011, Bucharest, Romania

- draft agenda -

Day 1, Thursday 6 October

9.30 – 10.30 **Opening session**

Teodor Baconschi, Romanian Minister of Foreign Affairs
Günther Oettinger, European Commissioner for Energy (tbc)
Staffan Nilsson, European Economic and Social Committee (tbc)

10.30 – 11.00 *Press Conference / Coffee Break*

11.00 – 12.30 **The Black Sea Region in 2011. The State of Affairs**

Moderator: Dimitrios Triantaphyllou, Center for International and European Studies at Kadir Has University (Turkey)

Discussants: Suat Kiniklioglu, Member of Turkish Parliament (Turkey); Vasile Puscas, Babes-Bolyai University (Romania); Nicu Popescu, The European Council on Foreign Relations (UK); Andrei Kortunov, New Eurasia Foundation (Russia); Eftychia G. Bacopoulou, Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, Business Council (Greece); Alina Inayeh, Black Sea Trust (Bucharest);

12.30 – 14.00 *Lunch*

14.00 – 15.30 The European Neighborhood Policy, its Eastern dimension and regional cooperation at the Black Sea. What impact does civil society have in the programming process?

Moderator: Karen Fogg, Member of the Board of Directors of the Civil Society Development Foundation, Former Head of the European Commission Delegation to Bucharest and to Ankara

Discussants: Simon Stoker, Eurostep (Brussels); Martin Schuster, Aprodev (Brussels); Viorel Ursu, OSI (Brussels)

How effective has been the consultation with CSOs on the ENP mid-term review and the ENPI programming? What impact have CSOs' recommendations had on the final documents of the EC/ EEAS? What have been the challenges of the consultation process? Is there any coordination among various national processes?

15.30 – 16.00 Coffee break

16.00 – 17.30 The Black Sea Region's place in the European Union's regional cooperation

Moderator: Philipp Flury, DCAF Geneva (Switzerland)

Discussants: Representative of the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; H.E. Serge Smessow, Ambassador for the Eastern Partnership and the Black Sea, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Traian Ungureanu, MEP, European Parliament (Romania); Thierry Bechet, Head of Division Eastern Partnership, Regional Cooperation, OSCE, European External Action Service; Representative of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs (tbd); Andrey Zagorski, University of Moscow; Representative of the Turkish MFA (tbd).

19.00 – 21.00 Welcome Dinner



Day 2, Friday 7 October

9.30 – 13.00 **Parallel thematic panels (A):**

A.1 Where are the leaders? Civil Society Leadership for the Black Sea region

Moderator: Ivan Krastev, Centre for Liberal Strategies (Bulgaria)

Discussants: Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze, Open Ukraine Foundation (Ukraine); Filiz Bikmen, Sabanci Foundation (Turkey); Alina Mungiu-Pippidi, Romanian Academic Society (Romania); Prof. Dr. Joachim Rogall, Bosch Foundation (Germany) (tbd)

As civil society represents the most forward and key bond for the region, civil society leadership has the potential to transform the region. Over the past few years, a series of initiatives to create and support civil society leadership at national and regional level were carried out by NGOs in several Black Sea countries. Does civil society in the region grow and support leaders? What are the objectives of the existing initiatives? What is their impact? What else is needed? How can civil society leadership be developed in the region?

A.2 East meets South: Transitions to democracy

Moderator: Alina Inayeh, Black Sea Trust Bucharest

Discussants: Philippe Jahshan, Solidarite Laique (France); Ziad Abdel Samad, The Arab NGO Network for Development ANND (Lebanon); Ahmed Galai, Tunisian League for the defence of Human Rights (LTDH); Kamel Jendoubi, Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN), Farouk Mardam Bey (Journal of Palestine Studies)

2011 has seen a wave of “jasmine” revolutions across Northern Africa and the Middle East. Civil society has been at the forefront of the movements throughout the region. A difficult transition period to democracy is expected to follow, as it happened in the post-communist countries from Central and Eastern Europe. What has been the role of civil society in the democratic movements across Northern Africa and the Middle East? How can the experience of transition to democracy in post-communist countries serve to newly emerged democracies in Northern Africa and the Middle East? What prospects for East-South civil society cooperation does the new context offer? What are the priorities of civil society in Northern Africa and the Middle East and how do they connect to the ENP and other regional strategies?

A.3 Does social matter? Monitoring and advocacy in the social field

Moderator: Ancuta Vamesu, Civil Society Development Foundation (Romania)

Discussants: Roberto Bissio, Social Watch (Uruguay); Victoria Stoiciu, Friedrich Ebert Foundation (Romania); Svetlana A. Aslanyan, Center for the Development of Civil Society (Armenia); Kenan Aslanli, Public Finance Monitoring Center (Azerbaijan); Doina Crangasu, Caritas Confederation (Romania)

While for most of the Central and Eastern European countries the economic crisis hit at a moment of growth and successful political and social transformations, for many of the countries in the Black Sea region the crisis overlapped with the never ending transition process and incipient reforms. As the international community attention is generally set on macroeconomic and political changes, monitoring and advocacy in the field of social policies lies often at the bottom of agendas throughout the region. What are the existing initiatives and instruments to support monitoring and advocacy in the field of social policies in the region? How can they be strengthened? How can the coordination at regional level be increased?

A.4 Child protection policies and cooperation in focus

Moderator: Mirela Oprea, World Vision International (Romania)

Discussants: Nabil Seidov, Azerbaijan NGO Alliance for Children's Rights; Bogdan Simion / Daniela Gheorghe, The Romanian Federation of NGOs for Children – FONPC; Zino Kore, Albanian BKTF Coalition; Mariana Ianachevici, NGO Alliance in the Field of Child and Family Social Protection of the Republic of Moldova – APSCF.

Too many children in the Black Sea region are trafficked, exploited or abandoned in crumbling institutions. Caring for children is not only a human concern: gaps in child protection systems cause profound challenges for long-term prosperity and inclusive growth. Civil society organisations and coalitions can have a fundamental role in calling governments and other national and international stakeholders to develop, fund and implement appropriate national laws, policies, regulations and services for the vulnerable children living in our region.

What are the existing NGO coalitions for children's rights and protection? Do they need to be reinforced? Should we think about regional level coordination at a time when the European Union, one of the biggest influencers in the region, intends to reinforce its partnership with the region's 'societies'?

11.00-11.30 Coffee break

13.00 – 14.30 Lunch

14.30 – 17.30 **Parallel thematic panels (B):**

B.1 Democratization in the Black Sea region: the renewed great expectations

Moderator: Ilona Mihaies, Euroregional Center for Democracy (Romania)

Discussants: Lilia Shibanova, GOLOS (Russian Federation); Hans-Peter Niedermeier, Hanns Seidel Foundation (Germany); Barry Kolodkin, UNDP Athens; Eka Siradze-Delaunay, International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (Georgia); Representative of the EEAS (Division on Human Rights and Democracy) (tbd); Vitaliy Teslenko, Committee of Voters of Ukraine (tbd);

A vibrant civil society is essential for democracy and civil society organizations are natural allies in supporting and triggering reform. Both the ENP review and recent political developments demonstrate a need to move beyond partnerships with governments towards partnerships between societies. These are, however, issues that require more agile support mechanisms and higher levels of human resources than the usual co-operation programs. The need for stronger values-based activities to support and sustain democratic transformation and a broader outreach to civil society and population is visible in the Black Sea region.

What changes are to be expected? What are the challenges for civil society? What are NGOs priorities and needs? What are the most recent lessons learnt? How can NGOs prepare, cooperate and strengthen their work throughout the region?

B.2 Policy thinking for policy shaping in the Black Sea region

Moderator: Igor Rekunov, Expert European projects (Russian Federation)

Discussants: Jeff Lovitt, PASOS; Representative of CEPS (Brussels); Cristian Ghinea, Romanian Center for European Policy (Romania); Traian Chebeleu, Black Sea University Network (Turkey); Ghia Nodia, Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy and Development (Georgia);

Is there a community of policy thinking in the Black Sea region? How effective are think tanks or higher education/ other forms of advocacy in the region in influencing and shaping national or regional policies? What is the impact of ideas generated by think tanks/ advocacy in the region in reaching the agenda of the major capitals of the world [Bruxelles, Washington, Moscow, Berlin, Paris, London]? What else is needed?

B.3 Education is the key?

Moderator: Gabriela Alexandrescu, Save the Children (Romania)

Discussants: Nurdan Şahin, Education Volunteers Foundation of Turkey; Leslie Hawke, Ovidiu Rom Foundation (Romania/USA);

What is the level of priority that Governments and international actors/donors give to youth and education in the region? Do existing cooperation programs have a positive compact? What else is needed? What good practices should be promoted at regional level?

B.4 Towards a Green Black Sea region

Moderator: Niculae Idu, Head of EC Representation in Romania

Discussants: Ahmet Kideys, Permanent Secretariat to the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Turkey); Irene Lucius, WWF (Brussels); Iris Kempe, Heinrich Böll Foundation (Georgia); Maria Gileva, Black Sea NGO Network (Bulgaria); Raluca Fisher, Green Report (Romania);

16.00-16.20 *Coffee break*

18.00 – 19.00 **Visit to the Romanian Parliament**

19.00 – 21.00 *Dinner*



Day 3, Saturday 8 October

9.30 – 11.00 **Donors and institutional actors' perspectives on the region**

Moderator: Holger Dix, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (tbc)

Discussants: Nadia Diuk, European Endowment for Democracy; Iulia Hertzog, Black Sea Joint Operational Programme; Representative of USAID (tbd); Representative of Sida (tbd); Merrill Sovner, Open Society Institute (US);

11.00 – 11.30 *Coffee break*

11.30 – 13.00 **Conclusions and reports from the panels. Closing remarks**

13.00 – 14.30 *Lunch*

14.30 *Departure of the participants*