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## Launch of the Black Sea SRIA Implementation Plan

### What is next for the Black Sea research and innovation cooperation?

Hosted by **MEP Marian-Jean MARINESCU**, SEArICA member

Co-organised by the [Black Sea CONNECT](#) Project and the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation ([DG RTD](#)), with the support of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions ([CPMR](#)) and its Balkan & Black Sea Commission ([BBSC](#))

**European Parliament, Brussels**

**(A3E-2 room)**

**04 May 2023, 14:00 - 16:00 CEST**

Despite all the setbacks, scientists, innovators and research stakeholders have continued to develop their shared vision and plans for a healthy, resilient and productive Black Sea through the development of the Black Sea Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA). Guided by the principles established in the Burgas Vision Paper, the Horizon 2020-funded Black Sea CONNECT Coordination and Support Action held rounds of SRIA consultations and a range of activities for the last four years in the Black Sea and internationally, targeting national, regional and international actors, initiatives, projects and policies, in order to provide direct input to the development of the SRIA and its Implementation Plan.

This event, hosted and chaired by **MEP Marian-Jean MARINESCU** in the framework of the SEArICA Intergroup, will be the occasion to launch the **Black Sea SRIA Implementation Plan** to set the foundational work for protecting unique habitats of the Black Sea while supporting the development of sea-based sectors, which will then boost the blue economy and help create more jobs. The Implementation Plan includes specifically designed research and innovation actions, actions to build vital support systems and innovative research infrastructure, actions to enhance education, and to build, develop and strengthen capacity. The Implementation Plan of the SRIA, as scientific pillar of the Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea, calls upon participants from academia, funding organisations, industry, policy, and society to take these strategic joint actions forward, in order to address the fundamental challenges of the Black Sea and promote sustainable blue economy. Policy-makers, Black Sea scientists and Black Sea Young Ambassadors, citizens as well as the next generation Black Sea youth and entrepreneurs and investors, all have a role to play as future change makers for the Black Sea.

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## AGENDA

### Presential event

*Working language: English*

14:00 - 14:10 **Opening by MEP Mr Marian-Jean MARINESCU**, Member of the European Parliament and Member of the Seas, Rivers, Islands & Coastal Areas (SEARICA) Intergroup

14:10 - 15:10 **Benefits of implementing the Black Sea SRIA Implementation Plan at Black Sea and national level**  
(Moderator: **Mr Barış SALİHOĞLU - Black Sea CONNECT**)

#### Introductory words

**Ms Delilah AL KHUDHAIRY**, Director Maritime Policy and Blue Economy, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE), European Commission

**Ms Elisabetta BALZI**, Head of Unit Healthy Ocean and Seas, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD), European Commission

**Mr Mehmet Tevfik ZEYREK**, Vice-Rector, Middle East Technical University (METU) (Türkiye)

#### Presentation of the Black Sea SRIA Implementation Plan

**Mr Barış SALİHOĞLU**, Black Sea CONNECT Coordinator

Influence of Black Sea SRIA Implementation Plan preparation and implementation at national level – national perspectives from:

- **Mr Milen BALTOV**, Burgas Free University, with the mandate of Ministry of Education and Science (Bulgaria)
- **Ms Tea TARIELASHVILI**, Ministry of Education and Science (Georgia)
- **Mr Sveatoslav POSTORONCĂ**, Moldovan Office for Science and Technology in Brussels (Republic of Moldova)
- **Mr Viorel VULTURESCU**, Ministry of Education and Research (Romania)
- **Mr Mustafa YÜCEL**, Middle East Technical University, with the mandate of Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (Türkiye)
- **Mr Igor TARANOV**, Ministry of Education and Science (Ukraine)

## Reactions from regional organisations

**Ambassador Lazăr COMĂNESCU**, Secretary General, Permanent International Secretariat (PERMIS), Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)

**Ms Irina MAKARENKO**, Pollution Monitoring and Assessment Officer, Permanent Secretariat of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Black Sea Commission)

**Mr Mihai HULENI**, Vice-President of Tulcea County Council (Romania), Balkan & Black Sea Commission (BBSC) of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR)

15:10 - 15:25

**Black Sea Young Ambassadors as future change-makers for the Black Sea**  
(Moderator: **Mr Vangelis PAPATHANASIOU**)

### Black Sea Young Ambassadors

- **Ms Sofia SADOGURSKA** (Ukraine)
- **Ms Selma MENABIT** (Romania)
- **Ms Marika MAKHARADZE** (Georgia)
- **Ms Aliona ISAC** (Republic of Moldova)
- **Ms Remina ALEKSIEVA** (Bulgaria)
- **Ms Destan ÖZTÜRK** (Türkiye)

15:25 - 15:40

**What next for the Black Sea cooperation?**  
(Moderator: **Mr Barış SALİHOĞLU - Black Sea CONNECT**)

**Mr Christos ECONOMOU**, Head of Unit Sea-basin Strategies, Maritime Regional Cooperation and Maritime Security (DG MARE), European Commission

**Ms Margherita CAPPELLETTO**, Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (SBEP)

15:40 - 15:50

**Debate with participants**

15:50 - 16:00

**Closing of the event and conclusions by Ms Delilah AL KHUDHAIRY**, Director Maritime Policy and Blue Economy, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE), European Commission

# INTERGROUP SEAS, RIVERS, ISLANDS AND COASTAL AREAS



16:30 - 20:00

**Reception hosted by METU-Institute of Marine Sciences (IMS) (Türkiye)**  
Renaissance Brussels Hotel - Rue du Parnasse 19, 1050 Bruxelles  
*(by invitation only)*

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