



Conference on blue economy in the Black Sea
Connecting the region through marine and maritime cooperation

15 September 2017, 08.45 – 18.00
Batumi, Georgia

DRAFT PROGRAMME¹²

(Working languages: EN, GE, RU)

- 08.30 – 09.15** Registration
- 09.15 – 09.30** Opening remarks
- Opening and welcome address by the Host City/Region
- 09.30 – 10.45** Sustainable blue growth: Leadership exchange
- Minister for Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia
 - Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia
 - Mr Karmenu Vella, EU Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
 - Ministers invited
 - Regional organisations

10.45 – 11.15 Coffee break (Press corner)

11.15 – 13.00 **Panel 1:** Increasing the competitiveness of the blue economy

Growth depends on good governance and investment. This session will discuss management practices for maritime administrations and focus on the resources available for the blue economy at national and regional scale. It will highlight successful investments in smart and sustainable solutions and explore how to stimulate investments.

Moderation: Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MARE),
European Commission

Question and answer session

13.00 – 14.30 Lunch break

Parallel session

14.30 – 16.00 **Panel 2a:** Save the sea

The panel will investigate the added value of increased knowledge about our sea (incl. sea bed) and mitigation of pressures and impacts on the marine environment for scientists and business.

¹ All sessions but Panel 2a and 2b are meant to be plenary sessions.

² Draft programme (stand: 19.04.2017)

The panel will stress the benefit for the marine environment. It will make the case for closer cooperation in the research domain towards adoption of a joint declaration in 2018.

Moderation: Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (RTD),
European Commission

Question and answer session

Parallel session

14.30 – 16.00 Panel 2b: Fish well

The panel will explore the next steps in the cooperation amongst riparian countries in the Black Sea region on fisheries issues, notably in the context of the GFCM and the implementation of its Mid-term Strategy (2017-2020) towards the sustainability of Mediterranean and Black Sea Fisheries. It will also take stock of the implementation of the Bucharest Declaration adopted in October 2016 which sets objectives aiming to establish a common and collaborative approach to cooperation amongst riparian countries in the Black Sea region with a view to promote the rational exploitation of marine living resources, the sustainable development of aquaculture and the mitigation of threats facing the marine environment and vulnerable species. In this respect focus will be given on on-going actions to improve the sustainability of resources, particularly with regard to scientific advice, sustainable small-scale fisheries, MCS, capacity building, as well as actions emanating from a Regional Plan of Action to fight IUU fishing.

Moderation: Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MARE),
European Commission

Question and answer session

16.00 – 16.20 Coffee break

16:20 – 17.50 Panel 3: Smart maritime infrastructures

The panel will focus on connectivity and build around the facets of maritime transport, making the case for smart infrastructures and planning. How to adapt existing infrastructures to increase attractiveness for business and ensure sustainability. The innovative technologies for green transportation and ports will be discussed as well as the skills necessary to embrace innovation.

Moderation: Maritime Transport Agency, Georgia

Question and answer session

17.50 – 18.00 Way forward & Closing remarks
Mr Bernhard Friess, Director, Maritime Policy and Blue Economy,
Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European
Commission

18.00 – 19.00 Cocktail reception