



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES
MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEA
MARITIME POLICY MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEA

3rd Meeting of the IMP contact points in the Black Sea

Brussels, 27 October 2016

Summary of the discussions

The 3rd IMP contact points meeting was held to discuss the architecture of the *Facility for blue economy development in the Black Sea* and the avenues towards a focused *marine research work* in the sea basin. A concept note (see Annex 1) outlining the overarching project objectives and the expected results was circulated prior to the meeting to feed the discussions. Representatives of all coastal countries (incl. the Republic of Moldova) but Russia attended the meeting. The Secretary General of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) was present as well as various Commission Services and the European External Action Service. The list of participants is attached (see Annex 2)

The meeting followed up on a process that started in December 2015 to define a cooperation project on maritime affairs in the Black Sea and debate its modalities with the IMP contact points of the coastal countries (incl. the Republic of Moldova) and BSEC.

The following summary builds on the meeting agenda and summarises the take outs of the discussions under the respective agenda point.

1. Facility for blue economy development & maritime policy in the Black Sea

The Commission (DG MARE) introduced the draft project under the working title *Facility for blue economy development in the Black Sea* (thereafter *the Facility*) by way of a presentation detailing its rationale, objectives, work packages, timing and possible thematic areas to be dealt with. The policy context driving the EU action was explained and the opinion of representatives of the coastal countries on the draft architecture of *the Facility* and its modalities was sought.

The conclusions can be summarised as follows:

- The Participants agreed that to achieve something meaningful in the sea basin and address common challenges, countries should work together and BSEC must be part of the process.
- It was recognised that the added value of *the Facility* would be to strengthen the culture of cooperation, taking into account the capacities and aspirations of each coastal country.

- The thematic areas to be addressed by the Facility include coastal and maritime tourism, marine environment, transport, maritime education, fisheries/aquaculture. Among the horizontal (cross-cutting) areas marine knowledge, maritime spatial planning, climate change adaptation were highlighted.
- The Participants were invited to provide additional written comments as regards the architecture of the Facility, thematic areas and stakeholders to be involved by Friday, 11 November 2016.
- GE, MD, UA ~~and RO~~ expressed full support for *the Facility*. ~~RO and BG expressed general support and showed interest in the financial opportunities for project development with the non-EU countries.~~ TR demanded more information. BSEC PERMIS expressed interest to be involved in the process and take on responsibilities.
- GE, MD, UA recognised that action on maritime affairs supported by the Facility could have positive effect at regional level (e.g. economic, environmental) but also at national level, where the culture of cross-sectoral coordination is presently nurtured. This exercise could be a testing bed for other sectors at national level.
- The Commission underlined that *the Facility* will not bring additional funding but rather help raise awareness about existing funding schemes for marine/maritime sectors. Another aim is to help calibrate existing/future funds to match bottom-up development priorities and help stakeholders draft good project proposals.
- The Commission referred to the importance of a healthy and productive marine and coastal environment as a prerequisite for blue growth. The negative economic impacts of marine litter on fishing, shipping and tourism, was given as an example that could hinder growth. The timely implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the environmental pillar of the maritime policy, in all Black sea countries was encouraged, especially for the coastal countries sharing EU aspirations or being EU Member States. The *Facility* will be one of the numerous tools that could help achieve environmental compliance.
- The Commission highlighted the goal of *the Facility* to help drafting a common maritime agenda and identify common development priorities for marine research. The momentum stemming from the upcoming European Maritime Day (Bourgas 2018) and the EU Council Presidencies of Bulgaria (2018) and Romania (2019) must be used.
- *The Facility* will rely on the active support of the IMP contact points to guide the contractor at national level. Each country was invited to confirm the present contact point or nominate another person. The contact points will form a steering committee, together with the European Commission and BSEC.

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2. EU support for marine research in the Black Sea

The Commission (DG RTD) gave an overview of the cooperation in the marine research domain in the sea basins around the EU. Against the example of the Mediterranean BLUEMED initiative the importance of the bottom-up driven cooperation (led by the scientists and facilitated by the EU) on marine research was highlighted. The result is more Horizon2020 funding earmarked to support the BLUEMED and better calibrated

transnational and cross-border cooperation programmes to support marine research in the Mediterranean. A case was made for a similar effort in the Black Sea based on the initiative of the scientists from Romania, Bulgaria and Greece present at the meeting.

The debate on marine research involving mainly the present researchers can be summarised as follows:

- The Researchers informed about a vibrant network of scientists and researchers in Black Sea that cooperate well with each other and beyond borders.
- The Researchers also informed about a patchwork of projects on marine research which results are often lost after their completion. Funding is not always coherent and is lower in scale as regards other sea basins.
- The projects carried out so far accumulated a lot of knowledge and highlighted some topics where structured common action could be developed and contribute towards the sustainable development of coastal and marine areas such as effective natural resources management, use of environmental friendly technologies, marine litter, oil spills contingency planning, etc.
- The Researchers are ready to work, together with their colleagues in the sea basin, on a (bottom-up) strategic framework for marine research that will lay out research development priorities for the sea basin that could trigger funding by the EU and international donors.
- The Commission is ready to support a *mapping exercise* to systematise the work carried out in the research domain in the last few years and identify the positive synergies.
- Moreover, a series of *technical meetings* will also be supported to help finding consensus on the marine research development priorities within the wider research community in the Black Sea, before the kick-off of the above-mentioned Facility.
- To facilitate the process, the Countries were invited to nominate, as soon as possible, a maximum of 2 (two) representatives of the national research community to attend dedicated workshops on marine research in the first half of 2017 in Brussels and/or Istanbul. The objective of these meetings will be to support the mapping exercise, elaborate and agree on marine research development priorities.
- The work of *the Facility* and the efforts towards a strategic framework for marine research must build on the positive synergies created so far and support practical cooperation and project ideas with tangible results, in order to make growth felt by the coastal communities.

3. Follow-up/Next steps

- The Commission intends to publish the tender for the Facility for blue economy development (*the Facility*) early 2017.
- The next meeting of the IMP contact points will be convened following the successful selection of the contractor/consultant to carry the action.

- The discussions on the marine research strategic agenda will be held in parallel to the selection of the contractor/consultant for *the Facility*, in the first half of 2017. The Countries are invited to nominate a maximum of 2 (two) representatives of the national research community and share them as soon as possible with the Commission (Mrs Sieglinde GRUBER, Head of Unit, sieglinde.gruber@ec.europa.eu) to allow a swift organisation of the aforementioned workshops.

Concept note

Facility for blue economy development in the Black Sea

The idea of the Facility for blue economy development stems from the results of the scoping mission carried out in the Black Sea countries in 2014 and 2015. The project concept resulted from the scoping mission was presented at the last IMP contact points meeting in December 2015 and received unanimous support. The European Commission thus moved into the project definition phase, taking into account the remarks and suggestions of the countries and BSEC. To this end, DG MARE, in coordination with fellow Commission Services, prepared a draft project meant to be tendered beginning of 2017. The project carries the working title *Facility for blue economy development in the Black Sea*. At the meeting on 27 October, we would like to get you acquainted with the overarching project objectives, discuss with you the timing and the expected results of the work and note down your interest in participating in this project.

The overall objective of the Facility is to improve governance in maritime affairs in the Black Sea and facilitate the formulation of a common agenda for the development of the blue economy in the Black Sea, including a marine research and innovation agenda.

The above overall objective will be pursued by a set of specific objectives and underlying actions such as:

- Awareness raising about the benefits of further integration of sea-related policies/sectors & capacity building thereto via dedicated workshops at national & regional level;

Expected results: identification of key stakeholders in the administrations, identification (help defining) of priorities in the maritime domain at national level and gaps for cooperation; formulation of a development agenda around few cooperation domains.

- Establishing a structured dialogue via support to the Working Group on Blue economy (steered by the European Commission), support to the annual Stakeholder conference, comprehensive communication campaign;

Expected Results: setting up of a structured dialogue on maritime affairs based on existing institutions/bodies), formulation of a common maritime agenda and marine research and innovation agenda, content for the annual conferences on blue economy, visibility of the cooperation effort.

- Building up knowledge and project definition project via studies in areas of mutual interest and definition of projects with cross-border dimension;

Expected results: concrete projects defined, based on pre-studied areas (such as tourism, research, environment, skills development); comprehensive database collecting knowledge gathered in course of the project structured around key subjects (e.g. existing marine and maritime agreements, state of maritime affairs at national level and regional level, gaps and potentials, funding sources).

Once the projects are defined, fund alignment will be pursued through existing and new calls and financial instruments. In this way, bottom-up projects will be encouraged, ownership reinforced and continuity of the effort ensured. Regional bodies will be engaged as much as possible in the process with view of transferring certain actions for their management in the future.

The setting up of the Facility should be considered as a first phase (2 first years) of a longer process towards strengthening dialogue and cooperation frameworks on maritime affairs in the region and advancing blue economy development through concrete projects and consistent application of integrated maritime policy approaches in the coastal countries of the sea basin.

The *geographical area* to be covered includes the following countries in the Black Sea region: Bulgaria, Romania, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Russia, Georgia and Turkey, and excluding the volatile regions.



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

List of presence

Title: Meeting of the Integrated Maritime Policy contact points in the Black Sea

Date: 27/10/2016

N° of participants:

Country	Name	Position
Ukraine	Nazar Bobitski	Counsellor, Mission of Ukraine to the EU
Georgia	Gizo Chelidze	Head of the Division of Sustainable Development and EU Integration Policy, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia
Ukraine	Vsevolod Chentsov	Director, Directorate for EU Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
BSEC	Michael B. Christides	Secretary General of the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat
Moldova	Andrei Ciornii	Deputy head, law Department
Moldova	Viorica Colta	Consultant, Department of international relations and European integration
Turkey	Bariş Elmener	Counsellor, Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the EU

Georgia	David Javakhadze	Deputy Head of Transport and Logistics, Development Policy Department, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia
Romania	Nicole Mot	First Secretary, Permanent Representation of Romania to the EU
Ukraine	Oleksandr Sorochyk	Mission of Ukraine to the EU
Bulgaria	Stefan Stanchev	Transport attaché, Permanent Representation of Bulgaria to the EU
Moldova	Vladimir Dotu	Second Secretary, Mission of the Republic of Moldova to the EU
BSEC	Nicholas Emirzas	Executive Manager, BSEC Permanent International Secretariat
EU	Christos Economou	Head of Unit, DG MARE (Chair)
EU	Sieglinde Gruber	Head of Unit, DG RTD
EU	Svetoslav Stoyanov	Policy Officer, DG MARE
EU	Luca Marangoni	Policy Officer, DG MARE
EU	Franco Biagi	Senior Expert, Marine Science, DG MARE
EU	Daniel Strugariu	Policy Officer, DG RTD
EU	Stephen Sadler	Policy Officer, DG RTD
EU	Sandro Nuncio	Policy Officer, DG MOVE
EU	Michail Papadoyannakis	Policy Officer, DG ENV
EU	Anamaria-Lucretia Molcutescu	European External Action Service (EEAS)
Observers		

Romania	Adrian Stanica	Scientific Director, GeoEcoMar
Bulgaria	Violin Raykov	Deputy Director, Institute for Oceanology
Greece	Evangelos Papathanassiou	Research Director, HCMR Greece