



International Union of Black Sea NGOs

(Black Sea NGO Network)

Newsletter

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INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR BLACK SEA STUDIES (ICBSS) Policy Brief #18 October 2009

The Impact of the Current Economic and Financial Crisis on the Black Sea Region_

By Panayotis Gavras and Ghinea Arminio Iorga

The Black Sea Region was impacted severely by the advent of the September 2008 global financial and economic crisis. Access to financing disappeared, especially hitting economies that are dependent upon external financing flows. Timely government interventions averted financial collapse, but a sharp economic downturn followed, which for most countries has resulted since then in economic contraction and uncertainty concerning future performance. Black Sea countries are currently coping with the downturn, mostly individually, but recovery also depends on exogenous factors and developments, namely the situation internationally in general and within the eurozone in particular. Aside from increased official lending, there has been no direct support or cooperation at the regional and international level, nor has there been any support from the European Union's side. A full return to previous high growth appears unlikely, but medium-term prospects are good for resumed growth, even at lower levels.

http://icbss.org/images/pb_no18.pdf

TRIALOG Information Service (TIS)

The TRIALOG Information Service (TIS) is addressed to NGOs and individuals who are interested in development issues in the context of EU enlargement.

Read the TIS online at: <http://www.trialog.or.at/tis>

The TRIALOG project is funded by the European Union. The project was initiated in March 2000 for a duration of 3 years. A second phase was started in September 2003, now the project is in its third phase (2006-2009).

TRIALOG's overall objective: Strengthening development cooperation through the **full integration** of **development NGOs (NGDOs)** from **New EU Member States (NMS)** and **Accession Countries (AC)** into CONCORD and other European networks.

Conferences and Events

Eastern Partnership – Civil Society Forum. First Meeting in Brussels 16-17 November, 2009

Civil society and non-governmental organisations play a crucial role, within their societies, in providing policy input, following new initiatives and in holding governments accountable. They can be active actors in promoting democratic and market-oriented reforms based on shared values, i.e. respect for democracy and human rights, the rule of law, good governance, principles of market economy and sustainable development. These are also the values and objectives of the European Neighbourhood Policy, including the newly created Eastern Partnership.

The Eastern Partnership Summit in Prague on 7 May confirmed the European Commission proposal from December 2008 to establish, within the framework of this new initiative, the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (EaP CSF) “to promote contacts among Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and facilitate their dialogue with public authorities” in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

For more information about the EaP Civil Society Forum and the draft Recommendations of the four groups visit http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/eastern/civil_society/index_en.htm

Black Sea NGO Forum 2009 *NGOs in Times of Crisis* 29 – 31 October 2009

The 2nd edition of the Black Sea NGO Forum will take place in Bucharest, Romania, between 29 – 31 October 2009.

The Black Sea NGO Forum was launched in 2008 by the Romanian Federation of Development NGOs and its partners throughout the region with support from the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation in the framework of the Black Sea Synergy. It continues in 2009 in cooperation with the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Commission and the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation.



In 2008, the first edition of the Forum gathered over 100 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine, other European Union member states and important actors in the wider Black Sea Region.

For more information about Black Sea NGO Forum: NGOs in Times of Crisis please visit <http://www.blackseango.org/pagini/index.php>

Upcoming Conferences

The International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW), the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW), and the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) 2010 Joint World Conference on Social Work and Social Development

The title of the conference is: '2010 Joint World Conference on Social Work and Social Development: the Agenda'. We plan to orchestrate a global consultation process involving social workers and social development advocates at all levels and from all countries, to identify key issues for our cause, to develop our agenda, to enhance social protection, and to set our priorities for the second decade of the 21st century as we face up to the social crises of the 21st century.

Three international and eight local hosts will jointly organize the conference. This first ever consortium offers a unique platform for more than 2,000 professionals, academics, practitioners, social planners, policy makers and advocates from East and West to meet, exchange, and develop an action agenda for social work and social development in the next decade.

The conference will be held from 10th to 14th June 2010 at Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

For more information please visit <http://swsd2010.org/en/index.html>

Conference "Toward a New Transatlantic Strategy for the Wider Black Sea Region".

Center for SouthEast European Studies hosts conference "Toward a New Transatlantic Strategy for the Wider Black Sea Region". The event will take place in Sofia Bulgaria on November 30-December 1, 2009.

Source: <http://www.harvard-bssp.org/bssp/news>

Black Sea Peacebuilding Platform initiative brings together conflict resolution experts in Bucharest

On 28 – 31 October 2009, civil society conflict resolution experts from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine (including Nagorno-Karabakh and Transdnistria) met at UN House and at the Radisson Hotel in Bucharest. The 25 regional conflict experts met to discuss the initiative to build a permanent standing Black Sea Peacebuilding Platform.

For more information please visit <http://www.harvard-bssp.org/bssp/news/402>

BSEC and PABSEC Events and News

BSEC news:

- Bulgarian Chairmanship-in-office of the BSEC Organization November 2009 – May 2010

- The Twentieth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States was held in Yerevan on 16 April 2009. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Edward Nalbandian, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, and attended by all the BSEC Member States, Observer States, representatives of international organisations and the BSEC Related Bodies.



The Ministers and the Heads of the delegations of the BSEC Member States in their statements focused on two main themes – joining efforts to possibly mitigate the negative consequences of the global economic and financial crisis, and measures to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the BSEC.

- The Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States appointed Ukraine as the Country-Coordinator of the Working Groups on Institutional Renewal and Good Governance as of 1 May 2009 for a two-year period. The next Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Institutional Renewal and Good Governance will be held in 27-28 October, 2009, in Istanbul.

- The Twenty-First Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States was held in Baku on 22 October 2009. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and attended by all the BSEC Member States, Observer States, representatives of international organisations and the BSEC Related Bodies.



The Ministers adopted the following text with regard to the PABSEC activities: “The Council took note of the following PABSEC documents adopted by the 33rd Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly held in Bucharest on 11-13 June 2009:

- *Recommendation 107/2009 on “Development of the Sea Transport in the BSEC Member States: problems and prospects”;*
- *Recommendation 108/2009 on “Migration in BSEC Member States: Legal Aspects”;*
- *Recommendation 109/2009 on “Migration in the BSEC Member States – Social and Cultural Aspects”;*
- *Recommendation 110/2009 on “The need to protect children from commercial exploitation in the BSEC Member States”.*

Source: www.pabsec.org

PABSEC news:

- Thirty-Third General Assembly, 11-13 June 2009, Bucharest.

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) held the Thirty-Third Plenary Session of its General Assembly on 11-13 June in Bucharest.

The Plenary Session had the main topic of the General Debate “Strategies and policies aiming to diminish the consequences of the economic and financial crisis in the BSEC Member States”.

The Assembly conducted debates on the Reports and Recommendations drafted by the PABSEC specialized Committees during their spring meetings. The Report on “Development of sea transport in the Black Sea Region: Problems and Prospects” was presented by Mr. Resat Dogru (Turkey), Member of the PABSEC Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee. Mr. Paata Davitaia (Georgia), Member of the PABSEC Legal and Political Affairs Committee, presented the Report on “Migration in the BSEC Member States - legal aspects”. The Report of the PABSEC Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee on “Migration in the BSEC Member States – social and cultural aspects” was presented by Mr. Alexander Bednov (Russia). Also, the Recommendation on “The need to protect children from commercial exploitation in the BSEC Member States” was presented by Mr. Mehmet Cicek (Turkey), Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

The Assembly adopted Recommendations on these subjects addressed to the Parliaments and Governments of the Member States and to the Organization of the BSEC.

- The PABSEC will hold the Thirty-Fourth Plenary Session of its’ General Assembly on 23-25 November 2009 in Moscow.
- The Thirty-Third Meeting of the **Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee** will be held on 22 October 2009 in Thessaloniki. The main subject on the Agenda will be “Shaping ecological consciousness and behavior in the BSEC Member States”. The Thirty-Fourth Meeting of the Committee will be held on 7-8 April 2010 in Moscow. The main subject on the Agenda will be “Protecting women against violence in the BSEC Member States”.
- The Thirty-Third Meeting of the **Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee** will be held in Thessaloniki on 21 October 2009. The main topic of the agenda will be “Water resources management in the Black Sea region”. The Thirty-Fourth Meeting of the Committee will be held in Chisinau on 17-18 March 2010. The main topic of the agenda will be “Food Security in the BSEC Member States”.
- The Thirty-Fourth Meeting of the the **Legal and Political Affairs Committee** will take place on 13-14 October 2009 in Kyiv. The main item on the Agenda will be “Rational Management of Natural Resources in the Black Sea Region: Enhancement of the Legislative Framework”. The Thirty-Fifth Meeting of the Committee will take place on 21-22 April 2009 in Tirana. The main item on the Agenda will be “The Legal Framework for Regulation of Civil Aviation in the BSEC Member States”.

For more information about BSEC and PABSEC events please visit <http://www.pabsec.org/news.asp>

<http://www.bsec-organization.org/bsecnews/BlackSeaNews/Downloads/November%202009%20No%2021.pdf>

Publications

Stribis, Ioannis and Dimitrios Karabelas, comp. *The BSEC at Fifteen: Key Documents, 1992-2007*. Athens: International Centre for Black Sea Studies, 2007.

Published by the International Centre for Black Sea Studies and Printed in Athens (Greece) by Ktimes 2 design & advertising.

The book is available for download in electronic version from the ICBSS' webpage under http://icbss.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=30&Itemid=44

Celac, Sergiu, ed. *Black Sea Economic Cooperation: Fifteen Years of Regional Activity, 1992-2007, Views by Foreign Ministers & Heads of BSEC Institutions*. Athens: International Centre for Black Sea Studies, 2007.

Published by the International Centre for Black Sea Studies and Printed in Athens (Greece) by Lyhnia.

The book is available for download in electronic version from the ICBSS' webpage under http://icbss.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=30&Itemid=44

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Newsletter Editor: Hrachya Amiryan – Secretary General.
Garegin Nzhdeh 42, Yerevan 0026, Republic of Armenia,
Fax: + 374 10 444-792;
Tel: + 374 10 444-792; + 374 10 444-793; +374 10 444-761
E-mail: csf@ngo.mission.am
URL: www.bsngon.com

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