



# *International Union of Black Sea NGOs*

*(Black Sea NGO Network)*

## *Newsletter*

*6<sup>th</sup> Edition, July 2010*

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### *NGOs participation in the parliamentary hearings on "The Demographic Development of Russia and role in the process of civil society".*

Parliamentary hearings were organized by the Federation Council Commission on development of civil society institutions (Chairman B. Spiegel). NGOs that help the elderly, were represented only by the Regional Public Foundation of Aged People Assistance "Dobroe Delo" (Good Deed) and, accordingly by the coalition "The Rights of Elderly".

At the opening of hearings Chairman of Federation Council of Federal Assembly of Russian Federation Sergei Mironov said that the problems of demography in the country are very complex: reduced workforce, a growing number of citizens over 60 years old, increasing costs for pensions etc. Since 1990, there has been a continuous trend of population decline. A positive factor is the increase in the growth of fertility. Necessary measures include: improving the quality of life, improving the quality of housing, including the building as much as possible of so-called "social housing". Also a balanced regional demographic policy is needed. All this requires the active participation of civil society.

Then followed a rather heated debate of scientists from the fields of demography, population, economy, as well as numerous representatives of children's and women's NGOs. The discussions lasted over 5 hours.

Below are very brief of speaking notes of the coordinator of the coalition "The Right of Elderly" E. Karyukhin. During his speech, leading the hearing B. Spiegel suggested the coalition create an expert group on ageing at the Commission. After the speech, proposals of the "Dobroe Delo" Foundation on the development of volunteerism and philanthropy, including the area of elderly assistance, were presented to the Chairman of the Commission.

The hearing concluded with the decision to undertake a detailed analysis of the proposals of civil society organizations.

We are confident that the decision to establish an expert group on ageing, with the participation of the Coalition "The right of the elderly", increases the capacity of NGOs to help the elderly, represent the interests of the elderly, as well as the interests of the organizations.

Eduard Karyukhin,  
President

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*Brief abstracts of the presentation:*

1) The ageing of the nation has a number of socio – economic consequences. Some of them are:

- Labor shortage
- Social support for the elderly and care of the elderly

For 1), measures can be:

- Increasing the period of retirement (step by step), along with measures to improve health, prevention of ill health and enhancing quality of life.
- Removing barriers to employment of older and old people, presence of retraining programs.

For 2):

- Support for social NGOs to help the elderly: grant competitions, direct state support, facilitate the registration of social NGOs, reporting, elimination of barriers in their work. Creating grant programs in the Ministry of Health and Social Development for social NGOs, including NGOs helping the elderly.

Creating a government program to promote volunteering as a source of social capital, including labor and other resources. Comprehensive promotion of charity.

### ***Human Rights Watch: World Report 2010***

This 20th annual World Report summarizes human rights conditions in more than 90 countries and territories worldwide. It reflects extensive investigative work undertaken in 2009 by Human Rights Watch staff, usually in close partnership with human rights activists in the country in question.

Every government is at times tempted to violate human rights, but the global human rights movement has made sure that abuse carries a price. Still, some governments cannot resist trying to minimize that price by attacking human rights defenders, organizations, and institutions. The aim is to silence the messenger, to deflect pressure, to lessen the cost of committing human rights violations.

These efforts have yet to succeed, but the campaign is dangerous. Human Rights Watch calls on governmental supporters of human rights to help defend the defenders by identifying and countering these reactionary efforts. A strong defense of human rights depends on the vitality of the human rights movement now under assault.

To view and/or download the HRW World Report 2010, please visit the following URL:

<http://www.hrw.org/world-report-2010>

## ***Information Services and Newsletters***

### ***TRIALOG Information Service (TIS)***

The TRIIALOG 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 TRIIALOG 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. The project is now in its third phase (2006-2009).

The TRIIALOG's overall objective is to strengthen 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.

### ***Black Sea Peacebuilding Platform Newsletter***

The 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the Black Sea Peacebuilding Platform Newsletter is available at

<http://www.patrir.ro/images/stories/DPO/bsppi%20newsletter%20issue%201%20july%202010-2.pdf>

More information about the Black Sea Peacebuilding Platform is available at

<http://www.patrir.ro/index.php/ro/country-programmes/black-sea-region/13-about-bsr#BSPP>

### ***Black Sea News Update***

Black Sea News Update (BSNU) is a fortnightly brief of political and economic developments covering the Black Sea region. It is produced by the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS), a think tank aiming to foster regional cooperation in the Black Sea area and one of the initiators of the Commission on the Black Sea.

Black Sea News Update No 26

[http://www.blackseacom.eu/fileadmin/user\\_upload/BSNU/bsnu\\_26.pdf](http://www.blackseacom.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/BSNU/bsnu_26.pdf)

And Black Sea News Update No 27

[http://www.blackseacom.eu/fileadmin/user\\_upload/BSNU/bsnu\\_27.pdf](http://www.blackseacom.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/BSNU/bsnu_27.pdf)

## ***Publications***

### ***Migration in the Black Sea Region: An Overview 2008***

Description: Migration Profiles provide a means to identify information gaps and to develop strategies to enhance data collection and data-sharing through the analysis of information and data available on immigration, emigration, irregular migration, labour market conditions, skills shortages, diasporas and remittances, refugees and asylum seekers, victims of trafficking, return migration, policies associated with these and so on. Recognizing the importance of Migration Profiles, IOM Budapest developed the project “Black Sea Consultative Process on Migration Management”, funded from the IOM’s 1035 Facility in September 2007. The project was implemented jointly with Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), based in Istanbul, and the IOM Geneva Research and Publication Units.

[http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/free/Regional\\_Overview\\_Black\\_Sea.pdf](http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/free/Regional_Overview_Black_Sea.pdf)

***“A 2020 Vision for the Black Sea Region”***  
*A report by the Commission on the Black Sea.*

On May 17, 2010, the Commission on the Black Sea launched its final report “A 2020 Vision for the Black Sea Region”. For download the PDF version:

[http://www.blackseacom.eu/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Paper/A%202020%20Vision%20for%20the%20Black%20Sea.pdf](http://www.blackseacom.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/Paper/A%202020%20Vision%20for%20the%20Black%20Sea.pdf)

The Commission on the Black Sea is a civil society initiative, jointly developed and launched in January 2009 by the German Bertelsmann Stiftung, Gütersloh; the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation (BST - GMFUS), Bucharest; the Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey (TEPAV), Ankara; and the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS), Athens.

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