



BLACK SEA SYNERGY

Diary of the international forum



International Conference Odessa – Istanbul 21-23 Oct.2007

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Kyiv Weekly

International Conference Odessa – Istanbul 21-23 Oct.2007

Black Sea Synergy: Approaches for a deeper cooperation

In cooperation with the Polish-Ukrainian Cooperation Foundation (PAUCI), the Odessa City Council and the Center for US-Ukrainian Relations (CUSUR), the Ukrainian Programme of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung organized the international conference "Black Sea Synergy" on October 21-23, 2007. On a ferry boat, going from Odessa (Ukraine) to Istanbul (Turkey), 100 conference guests from Ukraine and eight other countries discussed about the new Black Sea Strategy of the European Union and tried to take a stock of the previous and possible future measures of cooperation of the Black Sea states. The event was supported by the International Renaissance Foundation, the German Robert Bosch Stiftung and the Delegation of the European Commission in Ukraine.

One of the primary aims of this event was to bring together experts and key decision-makers from all Black Sea countries as well as from the European Union, in order to discuss possible future joint projects promoting Black Sea cooperation.

The Black Sea region, the bridge between Europe and Asia, has become very dynamic and is increasingly drawing more attention to it. As an energy and transport hub, including two new EU member states and the debate on Turkish EU accession lingering, the region plays an important role for the EU as well as Euro-Atlantic interests. The region's prospects to grow and thrive, however, are at risk. The development of the Black Sea region is hampered by, for example, frozen conflicts, young democracies and insufficient border controls nourishing illegal migration and organised crime. Yet the cooperation needed among the Black Sea states to tackle these obstacles is only in its infancy.

The «Black Sea Synergy» conference provided a space to voice critical views on these issues. 100 key experts and decision-makers offered an opportunity to develop new ideas on future European and transatlantic relations with the Black Sea region, stepping up conflict resolution and cooperation initiatives as well as dealing with energy security.

This paper assembles a set of distinctive statements of some conference speakers.

Compilation: André Drewelowsky, Maik Matthes, Yuliya Shelkovnikova



Nico Lange, *Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Ukraine, Director*

«I am very happy that this very special event finally is becoming reality... So we very glad that it taking place and we also very glad that it was possible to invite all the experts and all the politicians that showed up for this conference, as far as I informed this is the first time when basically all of the key experts in the feat of the Black Sea Cooperation and very important politicians from the region and from Ukraine and from neighbors of the Black Sea are together on a conference on this level to talk about concept of the Black Sea Synergy as it was thought by the European Commission in April of this year».



Jan Pieklo, *PAUCI, Director*

«I believe that during this conference we will be able to touch some of the very important issues and to find out some way for broadening cooperation. The situation right now is different that it was in 2006, because now we have two new member countries joining the European Union I mean Bulgaria and Romania, so it means that the border of EU is in the coast of Black Sea. This is completely new situation, and we have to deal with this situation, and in our conference we will try to talk about it».



Oleksandr Prokopenko, *Odessa City Council, Executive Secretary*

«Black Sea Region plays more and more important role in European and world policy. At last, all without exception, black sea countries have become the members of the Council of Europe. It will not be an exaggeration to say that the last 10-15 years Black Sea Region became not only the territory which is situated under the border of European space but as its sphere of interests. Today or tomorrow but Black Sea will be the internal sea of United Europe».

BLACK SEA SYNERGY

International conference Odessa – Istanbul 21-23 oct.2007

Day one: Sunday, 21 oct. 2007

17:00 Arrival in Odessa

17:00 Press Conference,
Project Presentation
(Odessa City Hall, Dumska Ploshcha 1)

Nico Lange, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Ukraine,
Director

Jan Pieklo, PAUCI, Director

Oleksandr Prokopenko, Odessa City Council,
Executive Secretary

18:00 Opening Ceremony

(Odessa City Hall, Dumska Ploshcha 1)

Nico Lange, KAS Ukraine

Jan Pieklo, PAUCI

Oleksandr Prokopenko, Odessa City Council,
Executive Secretary

18:30 Opening Discussion

(Odessa City Hall, Dumska Ploshcha 1)

Public Podium Discussion with Odessa auditorium

Moderation: **Volodymyr Dubovyk**, Center
for International Studies,

National Mechnikov University, Odessa

Ruprecht Polenz, Chairman

of the German Bundestag's Committee
on Foreign Affairs

Ian Boag, Head of the Delegation
of the European Commission to Ukraine

Andriy Veselovsky, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
of Ukraine Eduard Gurvits, Odessa City Mayor

20:00 Reception

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(Restaurant «Charlach-Red Sails»)

followed by: Odessa Night Walk

Day two: Monday, 22 Oct. 2007

07:00 Boarding, Border Formalities, Customs Control

(Odessa port, near Hotel «Odessa»)

10:00 Conference Opening

(conference hall on the ship «Yuzhnaya Palmyra», Odessa port)

Steering Committee

10:15 Key Note Speech from the European Commission

Janos Herman, European Commission,
DG External Relations (RELEX), Principal Adviser DGA2

10:30 Panel 1:

**EU-Policies in the Black Sea Region,
European Neighbourhood Policy and Turkish Accession**

Moderation: **Jan Pieklo**, PAUCI

Ian Boag, Head of the Delegation

of the European Commission to Ukraine

Fabrizio Tassinari, Assistant Professor of Political Science
at Copenhagen University, Associate Research Fellow
at the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS)
in Brussels

Rainer Lindner, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik

Traian Hristea, Ambassador of Romania to Ukraine

12:15 Panel 2:

Black Sea Business – Trade Cooperation and Integration

Moderation: **Maria Wagrowska**, Center
for International Relations, Warsaw

Panayotis Gavras, Black Sea Trade & Development
Bank, Policy and Strategy Department, Greece

Valeriy Korol,

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Program of the forum

Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

14:00 Lunch Break

15:00 Ship Departure from Odessa

**15:30 Panel 3:
Energy Supply Security**

Moderation: **Krzysztof Bobinski**, President of Poland-EU Foundation

Andre Mernier, Secretary General of the Energy Charter Secretariat

Olexandr Shevchenko, Ukrtransnafta JSC, Deputy Head of the International Department

**17:15 Panel 4:
Security and Frozen Conflicts in Wider Black Sea Region**

Moderation: **Oleksandr Sushko**, Center for Peace, Conversion and Foreign Policy

Levon Zourabian, International Crisis Group

Mihail Ionescu, Partnership for Peace Greater Black Sea Regional Working Group, Institute for Political Studies in Defense and Military History, Bucharest

20:00 Evening of the Nations

Day three: Tuesday, 23 Oct. 2007

09:00 Common Breakfast/Brunch

10:00 Morning Debates: Views from Black Sea Countries
Moderated Talk Show with Country Representatives

Moderation: **Thomas de Waal**, Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR), London

Ramaz Kvatadze, Executive Director of the GeorgianResearch

Program of the forum

and Educational Networking Association GRENA

Gayane Novikova, Director of the Center for Strategic Analysis, Yerevan

Yasar Yakis, Former Turkish Foreign Minister, Chairman of the EU Committee in the Turkish Parliament

Eden Mamut, Black Sea Universities Network – Center for Advanced Engineering Sciences, Romania

12:15 The Final Word: Black Sea Synergy

Moderation: **Nico Lange**, KAS Ukraine

Ruprecht Polenz, Chairman of the German Bundestag's Committee on Foreign Affairs

Janos Herman, European Commission, DG External Relations (RELEX), Principal Adviser DGA2

James Sherr, Conflict Studies Research Centre, Defence Academy of the United Kingdom

14:30 Snacks, Break

15:30 Arrival in Istanbul, Deboarding

Official end of the conference.

Friday, 26 Oct. 2007

12:00 Ship Departure from Istanbul port

Saturday, 27 Oct. 2007

13:00 Arrival in Odessa, Deboarding



Volodymyr Dubovyk

Center for International Studies, National Mechnikov University:

«Black Sea region's countries have already exerted efforts to solve many problems which are crucial for all of them. But evidently these efforts of only Black Sea countries are deficiently to make real progress for solving all of the problems. That is why this region needs external players such as the USA, NATO and of course the EU».

Ruprecht Polenz

Chairman of the German Bundestag's Committee on Foreign Affairs:

«The Black Sea is a key region for Europe in regard to energy supplies. Furthermore, it is of strategic importance as a crossroad from east to west and north to south, and possible conflicts in the region could have an impact on member states of the European Union. So the goals must be security and stability in the region. The EU-policy towards the Black Sea region is about developing economy, democracy, the rule of law and civil society. Moreover, goals are to tackle organized crime and environmental issues. All parties have to act together so that the impact is bigger, which means a common policy towards the region is necessary».



Ian Boag

Head of the Delegation of the European Commission to Ukraine:

«It was a very creative idea to organize this conference so soon after the commission produced its papers. The word synergy is a rarely curious one. What we are proposing in a synergy – as the word implies – is to build on what already exists, trying to bring this in a coherent whole. Now the European Union by its nature supports regional groupings around the world. Any group of countries that show a desire to get together and work together sooner or later get the support of the European Union. A previous president of the European Commission said that regional groups are the best way to deal with globalization».

Andriy Veselovsky

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine:

«The potential for conflicts or misunderstandings is high in the region. One of the reasons is the fact of frozen conflicts. The Black Sea is the point where the three mightiest empires once existed – Ottoman Empire, Austro-Hungarian Empire and Russian Empire. Those empires are gone for 80 or 90 years, but the wounds cannot be healed quickly.

What do we citizens of Ukraine see in this conference and in this Black Sea Synergy Initiative? First of all, the opportunity to present Ukrainian interests to high level international experts and to show that Ukraine is not only geographically situated in Europe, but that it also wants to be politically and economically integrated in Europe – as a full EU member. EU membership will give us new standards in all spheres of our life».





Janos Herman

*European Commission, DG External Relations (RELEX),
Principal Adviser DGA2:*

«The Black Sea region has its own personality because of its specific history. The region is strategically significant through its importance in the field of transit and its concerns about the lack of coordination between the Black Sea countries. The most important obstacles are the frozen conflicts in the region».

Fabrizio Tassinari

Assistant Professor of Political Science at Copenhagen University, Associate Research Fellow at the Centre for European Policy Studies in Brussels:

«My impression is that the EU policies concerning the accession of Turkey (EU enlargement), the neighbourhood policy and the strategic partnership with Russia face one and the same problem, connected with the meaning of the word *conditionality*, which is one of the passwords the EU likes and frequently uses. I mean the incentives that are attached to specific reforms in each of the countries concerned. I think that in these three policies the EU is slowly and perhaps unwillingly losing the core meaning of 'conditionality'. For example, Turkey: the problem is that the enlargement process is open-ended. The negotiating framework between Turkey and the EU is constructed in a way that we may not know how this will turn out in the end. This weakens the very strong message that the membership perspective is meant to send».



Rainer Lindner

Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik:

«What does Black Sea cooperation mean for Ukraine? I think first of all it means energy and energy security. The Black Sea region becomes more and more important for Ukraine as well as for all transit countries. The second is neighbourhood policy issues. The EU Black Sea Strategy shows that Ukraine now becomes more than only a neighbourhood country for the European Union. And the third is relationship with Russia».

Maria Wagrowska

Centre for International Relations, Warsaw:

«I am not jealous, but I say that we in central Europe follow the new political and economic role of the Black Sea region. We see a huge interest in the dynamic development and cooperation. And it is really amazing that the region shows a new political and economic variety which will become a new potential in future».



Valeriy Korol

Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry:

«Today the capabilities of small and medium enterprises in Ukraine are not used even 20%. More than 300,000,000 people live in the Black Sea region, so if we pay attention to this fact, it is obvious that there is a big potential of industrial power and a big part of the world market».

Direct speech



Panayotis Gavras

Black Sea Trade & Development Bank, Policy and Strategy Department, Greece:

«Trade among Black Sea countries has grown slightly over 350% in value – likely inflated in dollar terms by factors such as increased energy prices and the decline in the value of the dollar. As a share of GDP, and partly due to the overall economic growth, the increase has been more modest, as intra-Black Sea region trade has risen from 6% of GDP to approximately 8.2% of GDP. Similarly, intra-Black Sea region trade as a share of total trade turnover has increased moderately from 13% to 16%. Thus, while there is a trend of growing trade among Black Sea countries, it is gradual and more or less steady».



Krzysztof Bobinski

President of Poland-EU Foundation:

«Energy security is such an important topic that every conference has its session, and someone better and someone valuable. I think we are extremely lucky to have a such very good panelist today to discuss this issue».

Andre Mernier

Secretary General of the Energy Charter Secretariat:

«Investment is certainly a very important aspect of energy security. All the problems we have now in this century are because of the lack of investment in the 1990s. So the first pillar of energy security is investment, the second is securing these investments, and the last is disputing settlements».



Participants speak



Olexandr Shevchenko

Ukrtransnafta JSC Deputy Head, International Department:

«The Odessa-Brody project is potentially important to Russia because it provides new perspectives. It is also interesting for Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan because it opens new opportunities to penetrate the EU market, and it is important for Turkey because it increases the relevance of Bosphorus transit».

Mihail Ionescu

PfP Greater Black Sea Regional Working Group, Institute for Political Studies in Defense and Military History, Bucharest NN, United States Institute of Peace

«The security environment in the Greater Black Sea region is complex, multi-leveled and heterogeneous. Neither Moldova nor Georgia or Azerbaijan managed to resolve their 'frozen conflicts' until now (the only exception being Adjaria). There are two explanations for the frozen conflicts: either they are real ethno-religious (identity) conflicts within a state, with a transnational dimension and foreign support, or they are artificially created disputes by a foreign state. The best way to solve these conflicts is negotiating. There should be multilateral involvement of local and external actors».



Direct speech



Thomas de Waal

Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR), London:

«In the year 2014 the Olympic Games are coming to the Black Sea – to Sochy – and it is also worth thinking about initiatives to make that not just Russian Olympic Games. Obviously it will be Russian Olympic Games, but also a Black Sea project».

Ramaz Kvatadze

Executive Director of the Georgian Research and Educational Networking Association GRENA:

«The European Commission puts a lot of effort into developing information technology for research and education. The main goal is to foster cooperation and to provide advanced techniques for the development of research and education, not only in European countries, but worldwide. There are two major activities in this field: the first is the well known development of the Pan-European Research Network (GANT), and all countries which belong geographically to Europe are connected with a very high-speed fibre optic network. Another field of interest is the development of distributing computing infrastructure».



Participants speak



Gayane Novikova

Director of the Center for Strategic Analysis, Yerevan

«Only in the long-term perspective, in case if the states of the Wider Black Sea region overcome all or majority of their challenges, they will be able to change their marginal status in the Wider Europe to the status of a politically and economically self-efficient region. Otherwise, the states of the region will preserve their peripheral status with all consequences in the economical, social and cultural spheres».

Yasar Yakis

Former Turkish Foreign Minister, Chairman of the EU Committee in the Turkish Parliament:

«If we draw a north/south line in the eastern Black Sea, 70 % of the world energy sources lie east of this line and the major consumer countries west of this line. EU received in 2006 from the Russian Federation 400 million metric ton of oil equivalent of hydrocarbon or almost 1/3 of the consumption of EU-25. Current trends indicate that the EU will import 70 % of its energy in 2030 compared to 50 % now».



Direct speech

Traian Hristea

Ambassador of Romania to Ukraine

«I hope for mutual support and cooperation of the Black Sea states in increasing efficiency of the existing formats and better capitalizing the complementarities of the regional structure, each component being judged based on its added value: implementing the follow-up projects within the Black Sea Forum for Dialogue and Partnership; closer consultation among the BSEC member states; closer consultation and cooperation on the establishment of the BS Euro-Region. Further we should promote the development of a EU Black Sea Dimension. I am looking forward to the launch of the Synergy in 2008 in Ukraine»



Eden Mamut

Black Sea Universities Net-work - Center for Advanced Engineering Sciences, Romania:

«Usually when we talk about energy security we talk about the Black Sea region only as transit region for energy. In reality we do not emphasize enough, that the Black Sea region is a region with about 330 million people and they are consuming energy. So the energy subject for the Black Sea region is not only the transport aspect, which is a very important aspect, which has many connections and ties from politics to strategic and other aspects. But the energy subject is also a problem of development of sustainable energy for the Black Sea region».

Participants speak



James Sherr

Conflict Studies Research Centre, Defence. Academy of the United Kingdom:

«Black Sea Synergy is a path breaking initiative on the part of EU. However like all of the most serious initiatives of the EU it is starting modestly. The question is: Is it going to end modestly or is it going to have a major impact? It will end modestly, but constructively, if we define synergy as simply a synergy between programs and networks that already exist in the region. That type of synergy can in time produce serious and visible changes here. But let's not forget the risk. The risk is, that such a synergy could in a short time mainly benefit the class of people, that are involved already in programs and networks, and not societies and ordinary people and the destiny of countries. The synergy will have a major impact, if that what we seek is a synergy between external imposes and internal changes, and particularly in those countries that must overcome the soviet legacy in order to realize the objectives and aspirations».



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Picture story



Picture story



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Delegation of the
European Commission to Ukraine

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Mykhaila Kotsyubynskoho Str., 9,
of. 16, Kyiv, Ukraine
Tel./fax: (380 44) 390-7012/13
e-mail: pauci@pauci.kiev.ua
Internet:www.pauci.org

Editors:
Yuliya Shelkovnikova,
André Drewelowsky,
Maik Matthes.

**Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung,
Auslandsbüro Ukraine**

Shovkovychna vul. 10/4
01021 Kiev / Ukraine
Tel./Fax: (+ 38 044) 492 74 43
Tel./Fax: (+ 38 044) 253 75 04
e-mail: office@adenauer.kiev.ua
Internet: www.kas.de/Ukraine

Photographer:
Serhiy Stetsenko

Design and imposition :

Advertising agency «Sammit»,
Natasha Makarovska

CUSUR

(Center for US-Ukrainian Relations)

43 St. Mark's Place
New York, NY, 10003
Tel: 212-473-0839
Fax: 212-473-2180
e-mail: contact@cusur.org
Internet: www.cusur.org

Odessa City Hall

65004, Odessa,
Dumska Ploshcha, 1
Tel: (8-0482) 35-30-11
Fax: (8-0482) 35-12-92
e-mail: sovet@cityhall.odessa.ua

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