



**Black Sea Conference on
Regional Integration and Inclusive Growth
February 23-24, 2009**

PROGRAM OUTLINE

Day 1

- 7:00 - 9:00 Breakfast
- 8:00 – 9:00 **Registration**
- 9:00 – 9:30 **Opening Session: Welcome and Introduction**
1. Miltiadis Varvitsiotis, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Greece.
2. Luca Barbone, Sector Director, World Bank.
- 9:30 – 11:00 **Plenary Session 1: The Regional Economy: Challenges and Opportunities**
Chair: Luca Barbone, Sector Director, World Bank.
Speakers:
1. *EU Eastern Partnership -- Challenges and Opportunities*, János Herman, Principal Adviser for Regional Cooperation and Deputy Political Director, DG RELEX.
2. *Restoring Flexibility in the Financial Food Chain: the Black Sea Region and the Challenge of Access to Financing*, Andrey Kondakov, Vice President, Black Sea Trade and Development Bank.
3. *Global crisis: the Link between Economic Crisis and Regional Integration, Implications for the Black Sea Region*, George P. Zantias Professor of Economics, Athens University of Economics and Business, Greece.
- 11:00 - 11:30 Coffee break
- 11:30 – 1:00 **Plenary Session 2: Regional Integration**
Chair: Head of Armenian Country Delegation
1. *Ireland's Experience with Regional Integration*. Alan Dukes, Former Minister of Finance, Ireland.
2. *Economic Geography and Integration*. Indermit Gill, Chief Economist, Europe and Central Asia Region, World Bank.
3. *Financial Crisis and Growth*, Ralph de Hass, Sr. Economist, EBRD.
- 1:00 - 2:00 Lunch

2:00 – 3:30 *Break-Out Session I*

1. Promoting Trade and Foreign Direct Investment

Chair: Head of Azerbaijani Country Delegation – Mr. Nasib Nasibli, MP, Azerbaijan

- a. *Trade Policy in Black Sea Countries*, Oleh Havrylyshyn, Former Deputy Director of the IMF's European II Department.
- b. *New Approaches to Export Diversification and Growth*, Paul Brenton, Senior Economist, World Bank.
- c. *Ukraine's Approach to Regional Integration Efforts – WTO, EU FTA and CIS FTA*, Igor Burakovsky, Director, Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting, Ukraine.
- d. *Reaching the Full Potential of Intra-Regional Trade through Partnerships: the Example of the UNDP Black Sea Trade and Investment Promotion Program (BSTIP)*, Giuseppe Belsito, Program Manager, UNDP, Athens.

2. Doing Business Better - Creating Jobs through SME development

Chair: Head of Bulgarian Country Delegation - Elena Poptodorova, Ambassador, Bulgaria

- a. *Facilitating Agglomeration Economies: What Governments Can Do For Metropolis and Cities to Better Serve Businesses*, Chorching Goh, Senior Economist, World Bank.
- b. *Investment Climate Reform in Turkey and Impacts on FDI*, Cavit Dagdas, Deputy Under-Secretary of the Treasury, Government of Turkey.
- c. *National Business Agenda / World Economic Crisis and its challenges for Azerbaijan*, Sabit Bagirov, President, Entrepreneurship Development Funds, Azerbaijan.

3. Connecting the Region: Infrastructure and Logistics

Chair: Head of Georgian Country Delegation - Irakli Gachechiladze, Deputy Minister of Economy, Georgia

- a. *Promoting Establishment of RIEO in BSEC Countries*, Dimitrios Mavrakakis, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.
- b. *Georgia – Fiscal Reform and Infrastructure Development*, Aleksis Aleksishvili, Former Minister of Finance, Georgia.
- c. Lazlo Borbely, former Minister of Regional Development & Public Works, Head of the Foreign Affairs Chambers Committee Romania.

3:30 - 4:00 Coffee break

4:00 – 5:30 Report back to the Plenary on Break-Out Sessions I
Chair: Head of Armenian Country Delegation

5:30 – 7:00 Cocktail reception

Day 2

7:00 - 9:00 Breakfast

9:00 – 10:30 **Plenary Session 3: Social Convergence or Divergence?**

Chair: Head of Moldovan Country Delegation – Natalia Catrinescu, Chief of the Directorate of Policy Coordination and External Assistance of Government Apparatus, Moldova

1. *Highlights of the 2009 Joint Report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion*, Walter Wolf, Policy Advisor, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, European Commission.
2. *Income and living Standards in the Black Sea Countries*, Luca Barbone, Sector Director, World Bank.
3. *Black Sea and Central Asia Economic Outlook (BSECAO)*, Kiichiro Fukasaku, Head of Regional Desks, OECD Development Centre.

10:30 - 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 – 12:30 *Break Out Session II*

1. Poverty and Social Inclusion

Chair: Head of Romanian Country Delegation - Ioan Ianos, University of Bucharest, Romania

- a. *Labor Market Reforms for Job Creation and Competitiveness*, Gordon Betcherman, Sector Manager, World Bank.
- b. *Social Convergence, Inclusion and Poverty Reduction in Armenia*, Vahram Avanesyan, Director, Avag Solutions, Armenia.
- c. *Protecting the Poor During Crises*, Daria Popova, Institute for Social Policy, Russia.
- d. *Social Cohesion in Times of Crisis*, Viorica Dumbrăveanu, Deputy Minister of Social Protection, Family and Child, Moldova.

2. Access to Justice

Chair: Head of Russian Country Delegation – Mikhail Dmitriev, Ex-Deputy Minister of Economy, Russia

- a. *Innovations in Access to Justice*, Ms. Vassi Ilieva, Chair of the National Bureau of Legal Access, Bulgaria.
- b. *Challenges in Improving Access to Justice*, Olga Sidorovich, Director, Institute of Law and Public Policy, Moscow.
- c. *Trends and Successes in Improving Access to Justice*, Pim Albers, Special Advisor, European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice, Council of Europe.

3. Climate Change and the Poor

Chair: Head of Turkish Country Delegation - Cavit Dagdas Deputy Undersecretary, Under Secretariat of Treasury, Turkey

- a. *Climate Change and Income Distribution*. Antonio Estache, European Center for Advanced Research in Economics and Statistics, Universite Libre de Bruxelles (ECARES).
- b. *Confronting the Impacts of Climate Change: Bulgaria's Experience*, Petko Kovatchev, Director, Green Policy Institute, Bulgaria.
- c. *Managing Climate Change in Least Developed countries*, Theodoros Skylakakis, Secretary General for International Economic Relations and Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece.

- 12:30 – 2:00 LUNCH
Keynote Speaker - Deputy-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Greece.
- 2:00 – 3:30 Report back to the Plenary on Break-Out Sessions 2
Chair: Head of Moldovan Country Delegation - Natalia Catrinescu, Chief of the Directorate of Policy Coordination and External Assistance of Government Apparatus, Moldova
- 3:30 - 4:00 Coffee break
- 4:00 – 5:30 **Plenary Session 4: Opportunities for Regional Integration and Inclusive Growth**
Chair: Head of Ukrainian Delegation - Valery Piatnytskyi, Deputy Minister of Economy, Ukraine
- Report from Country Delegations on lessons to be carried home
- 5:30 – 6:00 Closing Remarks, Luca Barbone, Sector Director, World Bank.