

European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)

Recent Policy Developments in the wider Black Sea region

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EU – Partner Country relations in the wider Black Sea region

- Three processes, implemented mainly bilaterally
 - The pre-accession process (Turkey and the Western Balkans)
 - The European Neighbourhood Policy (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine)
 - The Strategic Partnership with Russia

The European Neighbourhood Policy

- Objective: Zone of prosperity, stability and security
- Close relations with our neighbours
- Partners:
 - East: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine
 - South: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, occupied Palestinian territory, Syria, Tunisia
- Builds on existing agreements, commitments and on-going processes (Association Agreements, Partnership and Co-operation Agreements, Multilateral Processes, etc.)

The ENP – Action Plans

- Key operational instruments
- Country-specific, political documents
- Jointly defining agenda on political, economic, justice, trade and sectoral issues (energy, transport, environment, RTD, information society, etc.) and people-to-people contacts
- Short & medium term priorities
- Guidance for assistance programming

The ENP Action Plans - Environment

Three pillars:

- Promotion of good environmental governance
- Environment sectors (air, water, waste, nature, industrial pollution etc.)
- Enhancing international and regional co-operation

European Neighbourhood Policy

Related regional and multilateral processes

- Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean
- Black Sea Synergy
- 'Eastern Partnership'?

The Black Sea Synergy (COM(2007) 160 final, 11.04.07)

Why a Black Sea Synergy?

- EU Enlargement of 2007 with Bulgaria and Romania
- Strategic location - junction of Europe, Central Asia and the Middle East
- A market with great development potential approaching 200 million inhabitants
- A hub for energy and transport flows
- Serious environment threats
- An area of confluence of different cultures
- A fragmented area with lack of shared vision about the region
- A heterogeneous zone, differences in the pace of economic reforms and quality of governance

Countries involved:

Six littoral states:

Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine.

Other regional actors (based on history and proximity):

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Moldova and Greece



The EU and the Black Sea Region

- In the past two decades the EU has become increasingly involved in the region:
 - in order to stimulate development and democratic and economic reforms
- Deeper EU involvement in Black Sea regional cooperation will
 - Complement bilateral efforts
 - Invigorate ongoing regional cooperation
 - Focus political attention at the regional level
 - Ensure greater coherence and policy guidance

Characteristics of Black Sea Synergy

- Based on the common interests of the EU and the countries of the region
- Active involvement of countries and regional bodies including through financing
- Concrete sector specific short and medium term tasks

The Black Sea Synergy - working modalities

- No new structures
- The main interlocutors are the Black Sea states
- The bulk of EU contribution continues to be provided through established programmes managed by the Commission
- Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) – a partner for dialogue at regional level
- Long-term measurable objectives. A lead country or organization should be identified
- Sectoral partnerships

The Black Sea Synergy - Environment

- Joint Statement of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the countries of the EU and of the wider Black Sea area, Kyiv, 14.2.2008:

"The Black Sea Synergy should contribute to better coordinating specific environmental programmes, notably those focusing on tasks relating to water quality...Should provide a framework for building capabilities to cooperate in combating climate change and managing natural and man-made disasters in the region"

- Declaration of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the BSEC on a BSEC-EU enhanced relationship, Kyiv, 14.2.2008:

"We consider BSEC-EU interaction as an integral part of overall European economic, scientific and environmental cooperation...We invite the EU to join the efforts of BSEC in the priority areas,...in enhancing environmental sustainability in the region, in preventing natural and man-made disasters"

The Black Sea Synergy - Environment

- The EU Marine Strategy. The need for work within the regional sea conventions, including the Black Sea Commission
- Promote the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements
- Building on the experience of the DABLAS Task Force
- Regional-level activities to combat climate change

EU Financial Support (1)

- Community financial support is available under the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)
 - National
 - Regional
 - Interregional
 - Cross-border programmes
- Neighbourhood Investment Facility (NIF) offers a vehicle for pooling grant resources from the Community and the MS
- Other external assistance instruments , such as thematic programmes, might also apply

EU Financial Support (2)

Geographical programmes:

- ✓ **Bilateral-Country Programmes 2007-2010 (examples)**
 - Azerbaijan € 30 M (transport, energy and environment)
 - Belarus € 5 M (environment)
 - Ukraine €45 M (environment)
- ✓ **Regional programmes 2007-2010 (example)**
 - ENPI East: € 56-78 M for environment and forestry
- ✓ **Interregional Programme (entire ENPI area)**
 - TAIEX: can address environment
 - Neighbourhood Investment Facility: environment is one priority sector, €250 M + MS contributions for ENPI East
- ✓ **Cross-Border Programme**
 - Environment can be priority area

Environment Thematic Programme (governed by DCI) 2007-2010

- € 12.3 M (climate change/biodiversity in ENPI region)
- € 9.2 M from DCI (EU Water Initiative and EU Energy Initiative)

Eastern Partnership

- The European Council of 19-20 June 2008 invited the Commission to prepare a proposal for the Eastern Partnership.
- The European Council conclusions of 1 Sept 2008:

The European Council notes with concern the impact which the current crisis is having on the whole of the region. The EU considers that it is more necessary than ever to support regional cooperation and step up its relations with its eastern neighbours, in particular through its Neighbourhood Policy, the development of the "Black Sea Synergy" initiative and an "Eastern Partnership".

- The working modalities are currently being developed. It is expected that the EP will contain an ambitious bilateral and multilateral dimension, building strongly on *acquis* convergence
- The Commission will submit proposals by December 2008

Thank you for your attention,

Further information:

http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/index_en.htm