

DEBATE

“Opportunities for Regional Cooperation at the Black Sea”

26th June 2013

European Parliament, Brussels

- Altiero Spinelli Building -

(Conference Room - A5G315)

The debate “Opportunities for Regional Cooperation at the Black Sea” is an event organized by the Romanian NGDO Platform – FOND with the support of Mr Ioan Mircea PAȘCU, Vice-Chair, Committee on Foreign Affairs (European Parliament) and funded by the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Objectives:

1. Repositioning the Black Sea regional cooperation at the European level;
2. Promoting civil society’s cooperation initiatives in the Black Sea Region (Youth Cooperation Initiative, ChildPact - The Regional Coalition for Child Protection in the Wider Black Sea Area).

This initiative represents a follow-up to the 5th edition of the Black Sea NGO Forum (October 2012) and will also include the presentation of a research paper on the impact of the Forum’s first four editions (2008-2011).

The Black Sea NGO Forum was launched in 2008 by FOND, in collaboration with civil society organizations from the extended region of the Black Sea and with the support of the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Commission’s Representation to Romania and of the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation.

One of the main results of the Forum was to create an open space for debate, knowledge, mutual understanding, communication and cooperation among civil society representatives, governments and international organizations active in the extended region of the Black Sea, with a focus on sharing good practices in various domains and success stories of regional cooperation. Since its first edition, the Forum has reunited more than 600 participants from NGOs working in various activity areas, experts and government representatives from the region: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, the Republic of Moldova, Turkey, Ukraine, Romania and Russia.

Our vision is that the Black Sea represents a cooperation space rather than a barrier. There are numerous learned lessons and expertise that are worth sharing in order to produce real changes in the region.





AGENDA

“Opportunities for Regional Cooperation at the Black Sea”

Moderator: Olivia Baciu, President, The Romanian NGDO Platform – FOND

9.30 – 10.00 Registration of participants

10.00 – 11.00 Regional Cooperation at the Black Sea: opportunities and challenges

Ioan Mircea Pașcu, Vice-Chair, Committee on Foreign Affairs/ Shadow Rapporteur, Report 'An EU Strategy for the Black Sea', European Parliament

Traian Ungureanu, Member, Committee on Foreign Affairs / Rapporteur, Report 'An EU Strategy for the Black Sea', European Parliament - tbc

H.E. Mihnea Motoc, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Romania to the European Union - tbc

Gunnar Wiegand, Director of Russia, Eastern Neighbourhood, Central Asia and OSCE, European External Action Service - tbc

Monique Pariat, Director, Directorate Mediterranean and Black Sea, DG MARE, European Commission - tbc

11.00 – 11.15 Presentation of the research paper “The Impact of the Black Sea NGO Forum – after 4 editions (2008-2011)”

Alin-Codrat Teclu, PhD Candidate, University of Liege / FOND Research Associate

11.15 – 11.45 Regional Cooperation initiatives at the Black Sea

Mirela Oprea, General Secretary, ChildPact - The Regional Coalition for Child Protection in the Wider Black Sea Area, Romania

Eduard Mihalăș, President, National Youth Council of Moldova, Republic of Moldova

11.45 – 12.00 Future prospects for the Black Sea

Hrant Kostanyan, Research Associate Research, Centre for European Policy Studies tbc

12.00 – 12.30 Questions and Answers

