



Progress towards **Black Sea** Marine litter assessments

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Bucharest Convention (1)



Bucharest Convention (2)



Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution

- Was signed in **Bucharest** in April 1992;
- Ratified by all six Black Sea Countries in the beginning of **1994**;
- Its basic objective is to substantiate the general obligation of the Contracting Parties **to prevent, reduce and control the pollution in the Black Sea** in order to **protect and preserve the marine environment** and to **provide a legal framework for co-operation and concerted actions** to fulfil this obligation.

Bucharest Convention (3)



It has 4 thematic Protocols:

1. Protocol on the Protection of the Black Sea Marine Environment Against Pollution from **Land Based Sources (LBS Protocol)**;
2. Protocol on the Protection of the Black Sea Marine Environment Against Pollution by **Dumping**;
3. Protocol on Cooperation in Combating Pollution of the Black Sea Marine Environment by **Oil and Other Harmful Substances in Emergency Situations**;
4. The Black Sea **Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation Protocol (CBD Protocol)**.
 - **Strategic Action Plan (SAP)** on the Protection and Rehabilitation of the Black Sea – adopted in 1996 and amended in **2009**.

Bucharest Convention (4)



The Commission for the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution

Permanent Secretariat

Advisory Groups

AG ESAS	AG PMA	AG LBS	AG ICZM	AG CBD	AG FOMLR	AG IDE
Environmental Safety Aspects of Shipping (AG ESAS)	Pollution Monitoring and Assessment	Control of Pollution from Land Based Sources	Development of the Common Methodologies for Integrated Coastal Zone Management	Conservation of Biological Diversity	Environmental Aspects of Fisheries and Other Marine Living Resources Management	Information and Data Exchange

Regional Activity Centers

Environmental Safety Aspects of Shipping (AC ESAS), <u>Varna</u> , Bulgaria	Pollution Monitoring and Assessment (AC PMA), Odessa, Ukraine	Control of Pollution from Land Based Sources (AC LBS), Istanbul, Turkey	Development of Common Methodologies for Integrated Coastal Zone Management (AG ICZM), <u>Krasnodar</u> , Russian Federation	Conservation of Biological Diversity (AC CBD), <u>Batumi</u> , Georgia	Environmental Aspects of Fisheries and Other Marine Living Resources Management (AG FOMLR), <u>Constanta</u> , Romania	Information and Data Exchange (AC IDE), Permanent Secretariat, Istanbul, Turkey
						

National Focal Points

Bg, Ge, Ro, Ru, Tr, Ua	Ua, Bg, Ge, Ro, Ru, Tr	Tr, Bg, Ge, Ro, Ru, Ua	Ru, Bg, Ge, Ro, Tr, Ua	Ge, Bg, Ro, Ru, Tr, Ua	Ro, Bg, Ge, Ru, Tr, Ua	Bg, Ge, Ro, Ru, Tr, Ua
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Bucharest Convention (5)



6 Advisory Groups

- The Advisory Groups to the Black Sea Commission are the **main source of expertise, information and support** in the implementation of the Black Sea Strategic Action Plan.
- 1. ESAS - Advisory Group on the Environmental **Safety Aspects of Shipping**;
- 2. PMA - Advisory Group on the **Pollution Monitoring and Assessment**;
- 3. LBS - Advisory Group on Control of **Pollution from Land Based Sources**;
- 4. ICZM - Advisory group on the Development of Common Methodologies for **Integrated Coastal Zone Management**;
- 5. CBD - Advisory Group on the **Conservation of Biological Diversity**;
- 6. FOMLR - Advisory Group on the Environmental Aspects of the **Management of Fisheries** and other Marine Living Resources.

General information on ML in the Black Sea:



- ▶ **increased population** in the coastal areas
- ▶ transboundary problem due to the **enclosed sea basin** with dynamic current system
- ▶ **non biodegradable nature** of large portion of ML - not only aesthetical problem, may damage the living organisms and threaten the biodiversity
- ▶ very **limited data** on amounts of marine litter
- ▶ results of the local surveys - **disposable packaging and short life or single use plastic goods** are predominant
- ▶ **sources** mostly are: municipal waste/sewage and badly managed landfills, marine transport and ports, recreational activities in coastal areas, IUU fishing activities.

ML-related documents:



- **Bucharest Convention** itself
- **LBS Protocol (in force), Dumping Protocol:** three lists of hazardous substances and matter annexed to the Convention and these Protocols include plastic marine litter
- The **new LBS Protocol** agreed upon in 2009, but which has not yet entered into force, includes a clear **definition of marine litter** (adopting the UNEP definition)
- **Black Sea Strategic Action Plan (2009)** incorporated the recommendations on fighting with marine litter, and presented a series of **management targets** (short-term and mid-term “management targets” with a medium priority)
- The Contracting Parties are urged to: “**Amend national waste strategies and/or national coastal zone management plans with the aim of coastal and marine litter minimization**” and “**develop regional and national marine litter monitoring and assessment methodologies**”

ML-related documents (cont.):



- ▶ Marine litter is only mentioned as **one of the descriptors as well as parameter of discharges** under the EcoQO #4 of the BS SAP (2009).
- ▶ **Currently BSC works on:**
- ▶ First Report on the Implementation of the (amended) BS SAP (2009) - **SAPIR**
- ▶ “State of the Black Sea Environment” Report - **SoE Report**
- ▶ The methodology of ML assessment (together with the assessment of the marine noise) is to be further developed as soon as the **updated BSIMAP for 2015-2020** will be adopted by the Black Sea Commission hopefully on 20th November, 2014 during 30th BSC Regular Meeting.
- ▶ New text of the Black Sea Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Program (BSIMAP) for years 2015-2020 has been drafted in the framework of the EU funded project “Support to the Black Sea Commission for the Implementation of the MSFD”:
 - addressing urgent need to elaborate on the methodology for requirements of assessment and monitoring of ML specifically in the Black Sea and to develop the set of indicators for marine litter to be included in these both Reports;
 - the main approaches of the updated draft BSIMAP are harmonized with the MSFD, at the same time, the main source of monitoring is the one of BS SAP 2009.

BS Marine Litter (1)



- ▶ **Developments on regional level:**
- ▶ In 2005, the **Regional Activity on Marine Litter**, supported by UNEP, was launched
- ▶ During the following 3 years the **two relevant Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)** between the BSC Permanent Secretariat and UNEP (Nairobi) were implemented
- ▶ **2007 Report on Marine Litter in the Black Sea** (incl. the text of the Draft Marine Litter Action Plan for the Black Sea)
- ▶ **Recommendation for updating the BS SAP**, on methodologies, monitoring and assessment, increased public awareness on marine litter in the Black Sea

BS Marine Litter (2)



- ▶ **Developments on regional level:**
- ▶ **Advisory Groups activities** under the BSC umbrella (LBS, ICZM and FOMLR), in 2006 - Special session on Marine Litter during the PMA AG meeting
- ▶ **Work with observers and various partners** in the Black Sea region, including RSCs and international organizations, such as the Danube Commission, IMO, UN GFCM etc.
- ▶ **Partner or sub-contractor in a range of EU-funded projects** (Advisory Board of MARLISCO, CLEANSEA, MSFD Project, PERSEUS, STAGES, IRIS-SES etc.)
- ▶ BSC LBS AG at its last meeting on 15th October, 2014 **recommended to BCS to apply for UNEP Global Initiative on Marine Litter**, which will be presented at upcoming BSC Regular Meeting on 20th November, 2014.

Conclusions:



- ▶ The **Black Sea Commission:**
- ▶ Takes steps to promote regional cooperation on ML, inter alia, by incorporating it into its Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Program (**BSIMAP**) for 2015-2020, applying for participation in the **UNEP Global Initiative on ML** etc.;
- ▶ Welcomes the **success of HELCOM, OSPAR and UNEP/MAP** in addressing the issue of ML on regional level;
- ▶ Wishing to **benefit from HELCOM, OSPAR and UNEP/MAP** experience and deepen cooperation on the ML issue;
- ▶ Seeks for assistance on **drafting the ML Action Plan for the Black Sea region**, as well as **chapters “Marine litter”** of BS SAPIR and BS State of Environment (SoE) Reports.



*Thank you for your kind
attention!*

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