More Information

ec.europa.eu/external_relations/blacksea/

Delegations
of the European Commission

ec.europa.eu/external_relations/delegations
The Black Sea became the European Union’s easternmost frontier in 2007. This led the EU to increase its focus on a region that is becoming more and more important, sitting as it does at the crossroads of three worlds.

In addition to the three EU member States, Bulgaria, Greece and Romania, the region encompasses Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Turkey, and Ukraine.

The Black Sea region and the EU are important to each other and both have a strong interest in shaping a stable, secure, and prosperous future. The Black Sea region has a long and unique history that connects it to its neighbours. It also has vibrant and diverse populations, conscious of their rich past and keen to look resolutely at the future.

The Black Sea Synergy initiative was launched in Kiev in February 2008. It aims to promote and support schemes to address regional challenges with cooperative approaches. By pursuing these goals in a number of sectors, it will contribute to better mutual understanding among all Black Sea actors. Their stability, security, and prosperity depend on it.

The Black Sea Synergy is already implemented in such fields as communication technology, civil society, illegal migration and human trafficking. It will also focus on three sectors crucial to the Black Sea region: environment, transport, and energy. The Black Sea Synergy will look for opportunities in other sectors, like education, where there is the most potential for increasing exchanges.

Countries of the Black Sea region face many common challenges that none can tackle alone. The environment is one of them. Everyone is affected by the pollution in the Black Sea and only joint efforts can produce results. Other common challenges include transport and energy, or human flows.

Solutions must come from the region itself. The European Union is keen to work closely with the Black Sea States to boost their efforts to identify these solutions and put them into practice.

The Black Sea Synergy initiative is rooted in the European Neighbourhood Policy and its regional components. It complements existing instruments, such as the pre-accession policy for Turkey and the strategic partnership with Russia.

The EU is active in supporting cross-border activities in the Black Sea region. The multilateral components of the Eastern Partnership are also coming on stream, which will help the roll out of concrete schemes in fields such as border management, disaster preparedness, etc.

The EU is strongly committed to existing regional cooperative schemes, which it has supported for a number of years. These include the DABLAS Task Force and the Black Sea Commission in the field of environment, TRACECA in transport and INOGATE in energy. The European Commission has been an observer in the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) since 2007.