



EUROPEAN UNION



# EU MISSIONS

RESTORE OUR OCEAN & WATERS



**Concrete solutions for our greatest challenges**

## MISSION “RESTORE OUR OCEAN AND WATERS BY 2030”

*From the Danube source to Black Sea – Healthy Waters and healthy life*  
**15 October 2024**

**Burgas Free University, Burgas, Bulgaria**

Conference website: [https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/events/upcoming-events/danube-source-black-sea-healthy-waters-and-healthy-life-2024-10-15\\_en](https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/events/upcoming-events/danube-source-black-sea-healthy-waters-and-healthy-life-2024-10-15_en)

### DRAFT PROGRAMME

(version 13 September 2024)

#### 14 October

14:00 – 18:15: Side event organised by EcoDaLLi (invitation only)

#### 15 October: Moderator: **Florence Ranson**

08:30 – 09:15 Registration and welcome coffee

09:15 – 10:10 Welcome & Opening remarks

**Milen Baltov**, Rector of the Burgas Free University

**Dimitar Nikolov**, Mayor of Burgas

#### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

- **Iliana Ivanova**, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth (video message)
- **Peter Dimitrov**, Minister of Environment and Waters of Bulgaria (tbc)
- **Other Ministers tbc**
- **Kestutis Sadauskas**, Deputy Director-General and Mission Manager, DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission
- **Veronica Manfredi**, Director Zero Pollution, DG Environment, European Commission (tbc)
- **Pascal Lamy**, Mission Board chair, & **Geneviève Pons**, Director General, Europe – Jacques Delors (joint video message)

**10:10-11:10**

**Panel discussion 1: *Mission Ocean & Waters in the Danube and Black Sea lighthouse***

**PANELLISTS:**

- **Nadja Schlichenmaier**, coordinator EcoDalli project, Danube living labs, Steinbeis Europa (Germany)
- **Helmut Habersack**, coordinator Danube4all project, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (Austria)
- **Boian Koulov**, DaWetRest project, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (Bulgaria)
- **[name tbc]** SpongeWorks project [tbc]
- **Boris Liptak**, Slovak environment agency, signatory of the Mission Charter (Slovakia)
- **Julian Nichersu**, Scientific Director, Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development, Charter actions (Romania)

**11:10-11:30 Coffee break**

**11:30-12:30**

**Panel discussion 2: *Together with a variety of projects and initiatives***

**PANELLISTS**

- **Adrian Stanica**, coordinator DOORS project, Romanian National Institute of Marine Geology and Geoecology - GeoEcoMar (Romania)
- **[name tbc]** REST-COAST
- **Radostina Tzenova**, EMPOWERUS, Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation (Bulgaria)
- **Baris Salihoglu**, coordinator BRIDGE-BS, Black Sea accelerator, Institute of Marine Sciences, Middle-East Technical University (Türkiye)
- **Margarita Stancheva**, SP4BIO project, Center for Coastal & Marine Studies (CCMS), BLUE CONNECT
- **[name tbc]** Black Sea Universities Network and 4BIZ project
- **Ariane Blum**, Chief Executive Officer Water4All partnership

**12:30-13:45 Networking lunch**

**13:45-14:45**

**Panel discussion 3: What do we need for a resilient Danube and Black Sea**

**PANELLISTS**

- **Julian Popov**, Adviser, Ministry of Environment and Water (Bulgaria)
- **Márton Pesel**, EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), General Directorate of Water Management of Hungary
- **[name tbc]**, Black Sea CMA Assistance Mechanism
- **[name tbc]**, Black Sea Operational Network of Funders, Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership, Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalization (Romania)
- **Birgit Vogel**, Executive Secretary International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)
- **Barna Kovacs**, BIOEAST Secretary General, Permanent Representation of Hungary to the European Union

**14:45 - 15:15**

**Panel discussion 4: Young people as changemakers for the Danube and Black Sea**

**PANELLISTS**

- **[name tbc]**, CMA National Hub of Ukraine & Blue Rivers, Ukraine
- **Nikola Bobchev**, Black Sea Young Ambassador
- **Gabriela Radkova & Dimitar Uzunov**, Danube Youth Council
- **[name tbc]**, Plastic Pirates representative

**15:15- 15:30 Conclusions**

- **Ivelina Vasileva**, Mission Ocean & Waters Board member
- **John Bell**, Deputy Mission Manager and Director of Healthy Planet, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission

**After conference:** 16:00 transfer by bus to Sofia