



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**

Venue: BFU, bul. "San Stefano" 62, 8001 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)

### PROGRAMME

#### 14 October

**14:00 – 18:15:** Side event organised by EcoDaLLi: *Nature Based Solutions Implementation and Policy Recommendations for the Danube and Black Sea Region*

#### 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

**Vesna Baltina**, Deputy Mayor of Burgas

**Maria Neykova**, Governor of District Burgas

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

- **Iliana Ivanova**, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth (video message)
- **Petar Dimitrov**, Minister of Environment and Water of Bulgaria

Mission Charter presentation to Minister Dimitrov

- **Kestutis Sadauskas**, Mission Manager and Deputy Director-General, DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission
- **Veronica Manfredi**, Director Zero Pollution, DG Environment, European Commission (online)
- **Carmen Neagu**, Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests, Romania

Mission Charter presentations to Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests (Romania), Burgas Free University, District Burgas and Burgas Municipality

## 10:10-11:15

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

### PANELLISTS:

- **Helmut Habersack**, DANUBE4all, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (Austria) (online)
- **Boian Koulov**, DaWetRest, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (Bulgaria)
- **Boris Liptak**, Slovak Environment Agency (Slovakia)
- **Iulian Nichersu**, Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development, (Romania)
- **Ellis Penning**, SpongeWorks, Deltares (online)
- **Nikola Bobchev**, Black Sea Young Ambassador

## 11:15-11:35 Coffee break

## 11:35-12:55

Panel discussion 2: *Joining forces – projects and initiatives to restore the Danube and Black Sea*

### PANELLISTS

- **Adrian Stanica**, DOORS, Romanian National Institute of Marine Geology and Geoecology - GeoEcoMar (Romania)
- **Nikolay Valchev**, REST-COAST, Institute of Oceanology – Bulgarian Academy of Science (Bulgaria)
- **Radostina Tzenova**, EMPOWERUS, Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation (Bulgaria)
- **Margarita Stancheva**, MSP4BIO, Center for Coastal & Marine Studies, BLUE CONNECT
- **Ariane Blum**, Water4All partnership
- **Dimitar Uzunov**, Danube Youth Council

Presentation of Mission Ocean & Waters initiatives of local schools

**12:55-14:00 Networking lunch**

**14:00-15:15**

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

**Pascal Lamy**, Mission Board chair, & **Geneviève Pons**, Director General, Europe – Jacques Delors (joint video message)

**PANELLISTS**

- **Julian Popov**, Adviser, Ministry of Environment and Water (Bulgaria)
- **Boyan Jekov**, National Coordinator for Bulgaria for the Horizon Europe programme, Ministry of Education and Science (Bulgaria)
- **Márton Pesel**, EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), General Directorate of Water Management of Hungary (online)
- **Baris Salihoglu**, Black Sea SRIA, Common Maritime Agenda (CMA) Black Sea National Hub – Türkiye
- **Birgit Vogel**, International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) (online)
- **Barna Kovacs**, BIOEAST, Permanent Representation of Hungary to the EU
- **Margherita Cappelletto**, Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership, Italian Ministry of Universities and Research (online)
- **Gabriela Radkova**, Danube Youth Council

**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