



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION  
**PABSEC**

*Doc.: GA53/EC52/REP/19*

**FIFTY THIRD PLENARY SESSION OF THE PABSEC GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL, TECHNOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**REPORT\***

**«GREEN ECONOMY. BLUE GROWTH»**

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\* *The text was considered at the Fifty Second Meeting of the Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee in Batumi on 15 May 2019 and approved by the Fifty Third Plenary Session of the General Assembly in Baku on 20 June 2019*

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The modern technological progress is aimed at increasing welfare of people and, therefore, the world GDP. Over the past 25 years, global GDP increased four times, raising the wealth of hundreds of millions of people. Although this was partially achieved through development of modern technologies, it also led to the depletion of natural resources and degradation of ecosystem, as well as to a sharp exacerbation of the ecological situation: growing shortage of fresh water and food products, climate change, reduction of biodiversity and forests, unsustainable use of marine ecosystems and much more.
2. According to the projections of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), by 2050 (compared to 2000) animal and plant species in the world will be decreased by 61-72 % as a result of modern production and consumption levels, and preservation of natural territories will be irreversibly affected at 7.5 million square km. In 2018, according to the study by the Global Footprint Network (GFN), the resources of the Planet for one year (the amount of renewable resources that the Planet Earth can regenerate) were used just in 7 months.
3. At present, there is still a strong dependence of economic growth on the extraction of natural resources, which in turn triggers climate change, a decrease in reserves of irreplaceable resources, environmental degradation, which may affect human health in the future. All these significantly limit the possibilities for further economic development and lead to the need to elaborate new approaches, concepts and technologies that may reduce the damage to humanity and destruction of natural resources without slowing down the pace of economic development.
4. Given the rapid changes in the world over the past decades, the economical use of water resources and the protection of the environment become topical, and the countries in the world are faced with the task of reducing the environmental impact without compromising the quality of life. The problems of the environment and marine aquaculture are integrated into economic science and the new directions in the economy are being formed - the green economy and the blue growth.
5. The PABSEC is of the opinion that the effective use of the existing regional mechanisms can be a step towards improving the effectiveness of cooperation in the field of environmental protection and the preservation of marine resources. Taking into consideration the environmental problems of the region, the Assembly, as a parliamentary dimension, attaches special importance to creating a legal framework and harmonizing environmental standards.
6. In the course of its activities, the PABSEC has considered issues related to environmental protection and marine resources conservation. The Assembly adopted a number of Recommendations on the following issues: Recommendation 5/1994 “Black Sea Environmental Health”, Recommendation 49/2001 “The Black Sea Environmental Protection: New Challenges”, Recommendation 81/2005 “Economic Aspects of Resolving Environmental Problems in the BSEC Member States”, Recommendation 94/2007 “State and Prospects of Fisheries in the BSEC Member States”, Recommendations 111/2009 “Water Resources Management in the Black Sea Region”, Recommendations 117/2010 “Condition of Marine Environment in the Black Sea Region”.

7. In 1996, the PABSEC together with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe organized an interparliamentary conference on the protection of the Black Sea environment, which was attended by the parliamentarians from 24 countries, representatives of regional and international organizations, as well as international experts. The conference adopted a Final Declaration, which emphasized the urgent need for international cooperation and efforts to save the Black Sea environment.
8. On 2 April 2019 the Joint Meeting of the Standing Committees of the PABSEC and the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC) was held in Istanbul on “Protecting our Oceans and Marine Environment”. The participants discussed issues of further strengthening the institutional and legal framework for the protection and use of marine resources and the search for new mechanisms for cooperation in this direction. The meeting was attended by parliamentarians from 15 countries, representatives of the Permanent Secretariat of the Commission for the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution, the Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea, as well as the Turkish Maritime Research Foundation.
9. The present Report uses the information from the national delegations of Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Greece, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine. In addition, the data is used from research studies, reports of respective international organizations, including documents from specialized UN agencies, EU institutions, as well as from the Black Sea Commission and the BSEC.

## **II. GREEN ECONOMY**

10. According to the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the concept of a green economy is defined as an economy that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing to the environment. It is a low-carbon economy with efficient use of resources, minimal damage to environment, and which meets the interests of communities.
11. The concept of a green economy gained important international recognition in 2012 at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development RIO +20 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the main theme of which was Green Economy in the context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication. The Outcome Document “The Future We Want” states that “there are different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country to achieve sustainable development” (paragraph 56) and emphasizes that a green economy is important tool for achieving sustainable development. This document also states that during the transition to a green economy, each country independently chooses the way in which it will move towards sustainable development.
12. Today, the green economy is becoming a global trend which is proved by the fact that the UN declared 2010-2020 a decade of green economy, and that the member countries of the organization are gradually transforming their economies towards the greening principles. According to the calculations of the World Economic Forum and the Bloomberg New Energy Finance, the volume of investments in clean energy by 2020 will be increased to 500 billion USD per year to limit the global warming to two degrees Celsius. According to some projections by 2025 the global market only for environmentally friendly equipment will reach about 6 trillion USD, which means more than 30% of average annual growth of the green economy and an increase in its contribution to world GDP to 6-7%. It is expected that by 2020 the global market for environmentally friendly technologies will almost double (the market for low-carbon technologies will triple), the number of people employed in the relevant sectors will increase fourfold and the contribution of the green economy to world GDP will increase by at least 5%. According to the report of the International Labour Organization (ILO), the measures on transition to a green economy and keeping global warming within the limits of two degrees Celsius will entail creation of 24 million new jobs by 2030. This compensates possible reductions in the labour market associated with the greening of the economy.

13. The assessment carried out by the Group on the Green Economy of the United Nations Environment Program shows that the initial stage of the transition of countries to the low-carbon model of economic growth will require an investment of 1.05 - 2.59 trillion USD. On average, these additional investments account for 2% of world GDP per year for the period 2010-2050. The minimum amount of annual required investments until 2050 will be 1.3 trillion USD per year and this figure will grow together with the increase of the global GDP. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) also stated the need to transition to a low-carbon growth model during the global economic recovery following the global crisis. To facilitate this transition the proposals are submitted to form a global Green Fund with significant financial resources - up to 100 billion USD per year for some years in order for the countries to solve the problems related to the climate change.
14. Over the past decade, the green economy concept has become a strategic priority for many governments and intergovernmental organizations. Green economic policy helps countries achieve economic and social benefits (for example, by introducing clean energy technologies and improving access to energy services, increasing resource efficiency through investments in cleaner production, and ensuring food security through more sustainable agricultural practices and emerging markets). Progress in the efficient use of natural resources and diversification of energy sources reduce the cost of imports, ensure energy security and limit environmental impacts.
15. In March 2010, a new European economic development strategy for the next 10 years “Europe 2020: a strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth” was approved. The adoption at the EU summit in 2010 of a new energy strategy, called the “Strategy 20-20-20” was dictated by both the desire to reduce dependence on imported fuel and concern for the environment. According to this document, by 2020, the level of carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere will be reduced by 20%, the share of energy from renewable energy sources in total energy consumption will increase to 20 %, and the total energy consumption will be reduced by 20 %. The implementation of the plan will cost the European Union at least 1 trillion euros. In this case, as estimated, the energy expenses for each family can be reduced by 1,000 euros per year. Another example of EU green initiative is the directive on eco-projection or eco-design. It establishes mandatory environmental requirements for those products that are associated with high energy consumption and will be sold in the EU countries. The Eco-design Directive is based on the fact that up to 80 % of the negative impact of over-consumption can be avoided at the design stage of a particular product. In addition, the directive allows saving of 12% of the electricity consumed today by 2020 while improving the production. On 1 January 2014, the implementation of the EU Horizon 2020 scientific and technological and innovative development program began. The priority is high-performance technologies - eco-, nano-, bio- and info-technologies – aiming at solving global problems.
16. The BSEC, as a regional economic organization, attaches particular importance to the principle of sustainable development to ensure an optimal balance between economic growth, social responsibility and environmental protection. Cooperation in the field of nature conservation is currently carried out within the framework of the Joint Declaration adopted by the Ministers of the BSEC Member States in Bucharest in 2006 and 2011, as well as the BSEC-EU Declaration adopted in Kyiv in 2008.
17. The BSEC Economic Agenda: Towards Enhanced BSEC Partnership is a roadmap defining a framework for joint action to give a new impetus to the economic revival of the region and attaches special importance to pursuing sustainable development of the Black Sea Energy Market, environmental protection and preserving natural resources in the Black Sea Region. The objectives 4 and 5 set the following tasks: taking gradual steps to materialise the vision of

transforming the BSEC Region into a model for clean energy by 2050; encouraging cooperation among the Member States to define a Green Energy Strategy with the view to promoting renewable energy sources, clean technologies and energy efficiency; incorporating the eco-based approach in the economic and social development programs of the Member States to ensure a sustainable development in the Black Sea Region; using strategic environmental impact assessments, where applicable, for development and adoption of all major projects; establishing a network of protected areas throughout the BSEC Region and ensuring their coordinated management, etc.

18. Among numerous projects that have been implemented and are being implemented are as follows: “Legal Framework for the Green Economy in the BSEC Member States - Regional Review and Systems and Prospects Dialogue” (proposed by Germany), “The Black Sea Turns Green” (Initiative of the Hellenic BSEC Chairmanship), “Working paper on possible measures to strengthen the cooperation of BSEC with international organizations dealing with the protection and rehabilitation of the marine environment of the Black Sea”, etc. In March 2011 in Brussels were adopted the Eastern Partnership Platform for Cooperation, as well as the Joint Declaration on Regional Cooperation in the Field of the Environment and the Memorandum of Understanding on Creating a Partnership on the Black Sea Environment.
19. On 23 April 2012 in Belgrade was adopted the Joint Belgrade Declaration of the Ministers of Environment and Heads of Delegations of the BSEC Member States titled “Climate Change and Green Economy - BSEC Contribution to Rio +20”. It emphasizes the importance of further regional cooperation in the spirit of international agreements and instruments, in particular, the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21. The Declaration also notes the need to work towards promotion of environmentally sound mechanisms and proactive solutions for facing and overcoming challenges and problems; encourages the Member States to develop their national green economy pathway and low-carbon policies and enhance appropriate measures; support transition towards carbon neutral and green growth through relevant policies, fiscal innovations, reforms, environmental incentives, removing of environmentally harmful subsidies, valuating of ecosystem goods and services, introducing / using environmental and economic accounting and other necessary measures. The Ministers expressed their conviction that the green economy policies and measures provide opportunities to all BSEC Member States to facilitate the integration of economic development with environmental sustainability.
20. On 3 May 2018, the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat, jointly with the Organization for the Support of Small and Medium-Sized Businesses of the Republic of Turkey (KOSGEB), organized a Seminar on “Promoting a Green Economy in SMEs in the BSEC Region”. The focus was on strengthening cooperation between the 7 BSEC member states in order to give more attention to the topical issue of climate change in national and regional programs, by facilitating investments in a green economy, which will lead to positive changes in socio-economic development. It stresses the importance of using the communication possibilities and professional experience offered by the BSEC Network on Green Energy, as well as promoting a low-carbon, green growth policy that minimizes use of resources and environmental pollution, while using it as a locomotive for economic growth.
21. In the past years, the BSEC member countries have been actively developing a new energy policy aimed at ensuring the security of energy supplies, welfare and security for all citizens and the effective functioning and development of the economy, permanent access to energy resources at affordable prices and taking into account the threat to the environment, targeting sustainable development. Every year, participants in the energy market are increasingly talking about the development of green energy.

### III. BLUE GROWTH

22. The concept of blue growth also referred to as a blue economy, has emerged in recent years as an a new model for the sustainable use of natural marine and freshwater resources, including living water resources and their management. Initially, it was assumed that this concept does not refer directly to the oceans or wetland areas, and that the term “blue economy” was used to reflect the evolution and improvement of the concept of green economy.
23. Later, in 2012 the concept of blue growth became one of the important issues at the UN Rio +20 Summit on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The results of this summit gave a powerful impetus to new efforts aimed at fulfilling old and new commitments with regard to the restoration, use and preservation of the natural water resources of the oceans and wetlands.
24. After the Rio +20 conference the concept of blue growth was widely used and became important in the development of water resources in many countries, both at the regional and international level. For example, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) launched the Blue Growth Initiative, which aims to protect or restore the potential of oceans, lagoons and inland waters by introducing responsible and sustainable approaches to harmonize economic growth and food security with preservation of water resources.
25. The Blue Growth aims to more effectively harness the potential of the oceans, seas and coastal areas for the following purposes:
  - eliminating destructive fishing practices and over-fishing and creating incentives to develop growth-promoting approaches, improving conservation measures, creating sustainable fisheries and ending illegal and unregulated fishing;
  - ensuring the development of targeted measures that promote cooperation between countries;
  - fostering greater policy development, investment and innovation in support of improved food security, poverty reduction and the sustainable management of water resources.
26. Today, the blue economy implies about 5.4 million jobs throughout the world and creates gross added value of almost 500 billion euros per year. At the same time, the strategy may result in further growth in such sectors as tourism in coastal areas, aquaculture, blue energy, marine biotechnology and deep sea mining.
27. Special interest for the coastal BSEC countries - Russia, Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine - is the problem of cooperation in the BSEC framework in the field of the Black Sea marine ecosystem protection. In April 1992, prior to the establishment of the BSEC as a regional initiative, these states signed the Bucharest Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution. The Document defines the attitude of the abovementioned countries to the protection of the marine environment of the Black Sea and establishes the responsibility of each of them for the pollution of the territorial seas. Furthermore, in 1995, as the provisions of the Convention were implemented, a special body was created - the International Commission for the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution (the Black Sea Commission). It is a sectoral sub-regional organization composed of 6 coastal Black Sea countries, the purpose of which is to prevent and reduce pollution of the Black Sea and monitor the marine environment health.
28. The protection of the marine environment of the Black Sea and its coastline from pollution is in the centre of the attention of all Black Sea countries activities in the environmental field - given the fact that other BSEC countries, as well as third (non-regional) countries, also use the motorways of the Black Sea. Therefore, it is natural to establish within the BSEC framework a

working group on environmental protection, the mission of which is to develop regional cooperation in specific areas (biodiversity, waste disposal, urbanization and coastal development, etc.). The cooperation is developing between the BSEC and the UN Environment Program (UNEP), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the EU Directorate General for the Environment and other international organizations.

29. The EU became actively involved in environmental protection in the Black Sea following the accession of the coastal countries - Bulgaria and Romania to the EU. The European Commission pays close attention to participation in environmental protection activities in the Black Sea basin and allocates funds. The EU drafts and approves the documents on maritime areas that concern the EU. The Black Sea basin is also one of these areas.
30. The European Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) has enacted in July 2008. It serves as the environmental basis for the EU's Integrated Marine Policy. According to this Directive, European maritime regions are created (Baltic Sea, North-Eastern Atlantic, Mediterranean and Black Sea) and it is assessed that the marine environment should be clean, healthy and productive, and the cleanliness of the marine ecosystem is determined by 11 factors (biodiversity, fish stocks, etc.). The purpose of this directive is to protect, preserve and, where possible, restore the marine environment. The Water Framework Directive (WFD) is in force since December 2000. It applies to all types of water areas within the EU (rivers, lakes, streams, coastal waters). The directive establishes standards for the chemical composition of water (suitability for fish and marine organisms), geomorphological indicators (condition of coastal infrastructure and river), physical and chemical parameters (water temperature, its enrichment with oxygen), etc.
31. Bulgaria and Romania received € 250 million for programs related to the Black Sea Region from the European Marine Environment and Fisheries Fund. In addition, in the zone of the sea border between Bulgaria and Romania, the EU is implementing a pilot project in order to ensure the proper use of the maritime space of these two countries. 160 thousand jobs have been created in the Black Sea blue economy sector in Bulgaria and Romania and these countries received more than 1.2 billion euros as added value. The EU has developed new cooperation programs in the Black Sea Region, for the implementation of which funds from the EU structural funds are allocated to Bulgaria and Romania, and also to Georgia, Ukraine and Moldova in the framework of the association agreements signed with the EU. Since July 2008 the following programmes are operative: European Maritime Strategy Action Framework Directive (it serves as the environmental basis of the EU's Integrated Maritime Policy); The Black Sea Silk Road Corridor; creation of a unified digital map of the seabed of Europe with reference to marine geology, environment and habitat, etc.; the new program of cross-border cooperation in the Black Sea. The state of the marine environment in all Black Sea littoral countries is also being studied.
32. Since 2014, the European Union regularly organizes high-level stakeholder conferences with participation of the Black Sea littoral countries and conducts research to integrate maritime policies and activities in this area. These conferences were held in Bucharest in 2014, in Sofia in 2015, in Odessa in 2016, and in Batumi in 2017.
33. At the first conference in Bucharest in January 2014, the significance and great potential of the Black Sea Region was marked together with the problems as seen from Brussels: the state of the marine environment, poor transport infrastructure, illegal fishing, etc. At the conference entitled "The 4<sup>th</sup> Black Sea Regional Stakeholders Conference on the Blue Economy", which was held in Batumi in 2017, with the aim of developing a common maritime agenda for the Black Sea basin, the European Commission launched the "Technical Support Project for the Black Sea Growth".

34. A major step towards the development of a blue economy in the Black Sea Region was the Ministerial Declaration “Towards a Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea” adopted during the European Maritime Day held in Burgas on 31 May 2018 with participation of six Black Sea littoral countries and the Republic of Moldova. By signing this document, the Black Sea states noted their commitment to a common approach to synergy between projects that are implemented in the field of environment, economy and tourism. To this end, each of the states should take the necessary legislative measures to ensure the development of the blue economy in the Black Sea. The document titled Common Agenda for the Black Sea is part of the process of the development of a blue economy and is linked to the Burgas Declaration, signed during the European Maritime Day in 2018, addressing the key issues of marine environment.
35. At the same time, on 30 January 2019 in Brussels, at the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Project “Facility for Blue Growth in the Black Sea”, an exchange of views was held on the draft “Common Agenda for Maritime Blue Growth” which was agreed upon for ensuring competitive, innovative and sustainable blue economy in the Black Sea Region, in order to maintain healthy marine and coastal ecosystems and to achieve investment promotion goals for the blue economy in the Black Sea.
36. The European Commission also plans to organize seminars with the representatives of the coastal countries of the Black Sea, to determine national priorities, and then to establish regional priorities through a seminar or annual meeting, which will be held at the regional level.
37. To structure cooperation in maritime affairs with the six littoral countries of the Black Sea Region and the Republic of Moldova, the European Commission develops a common maritime agenda for the Black Sea in 2019. Through the EU-funded assistance mechanism “Blue Growth Facility” administrations and stakeholders in the region get assistance in defining common priorities for cooperation in the field of marine basins. This initiative was launched in 2017 and is expected to be operated until the end of 2019 under the leadership of the Steering Group consisting of coordinators from the state administrations of the participating countries of the Black Sea Region and relevant regional organizations. It is led by the Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE). Currently, the activities of the Fund are focused on specific assessments of the blue economy at the state level, in order to identify and assess major problems, opportunities and needs of blue growth.

#### IV. SITUATION IN THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

38. In the *Republic of Azerbaijan*, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan by the Decree No 212 of 10 January 2014 declared the year 2014 “the Year of Industry” with the aim of modernizing production and ensure structural improvement, increase the export potential of the non-oil industry, expanding high-tech and innovative production, training professionals for new areas of production, expanding competitive and energy-efficient industrial production with high added value. In the framework of the Decree on Declaration of the year 2014 “the Year of Industry” in the Republic of Azerbaijan by the Presidential Decree No 964 of 26 December 2014 the “State Program for Industrial Development in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2015-2020” was approved.
39. The issues of creating industrial parks in the country and their activities are reflected in a number of government documents and programs, including the development concept “Azerbaijan 2020: Looking to the Future” approved by Presidential Decree No 800 of 29 December 2012, and in the “State Program for the Industrial Development of the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2015-2020”, which was approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan No 964 of 26 December 2014. On the basis of the relevant decrees of the head of state the Sumgait Chemical, Karadag, Mingachevir, Pirallakhi and Balakhani industrial parks were established.

40. In 2013-2016 the EU funded programme Green Economies in Eastern Neighbourhood (EaP GREEN) was implemented with the purpose of establishing green economy. The main objective of the Program is the efficient use of resources by member countries, the organization of environmentally friendly production and the development of a green economy.
41. In order to enhance the participation of the Republic of Azerbaijan in this program and with the aim to streamline green development indicators, the Ministry of Economy sent a request to the OECD and received a positive answer. Upon the initiative of the State Statistical Committee and the Ministry of Economy, the project “Indicators of green development” started to be implemented in Azerbaijan and on 16 May 2016 the OECD organised a relevant meeting in Baku. Also, in accordance with the order of the Ministry of Economy No. F-135 of 15 November 2016 “On green development indicators”, a working group was established consisting of representatives of relevant ministries, committees and structures.
42. At the same time, the State Statistical Committee elaborated the first version of the Green Development Indicators project, which was reviewed and discussed by members of the Working Group and international experts, both at the first meeting of the Working Group on 12 December 2016, and at the second meeting of the Working Group on 20 April 2017.
43. National legislation, programs and measures in **Bulgaria** in the respective area are based on: *Climate Change Mitigation Act (CCMA)* - it sets the administrative framework for climate change policy. The law regulates the public relations on the implementation of the EU ETS and consolidates a number of provisions in various regulatory acts on climate change by regulating the mechanisms for fulfilling the obligations of Bulgaria under the Kyoto Protocol; *Energy Efficiency Act (EEA)* - governs public relations regarding the state energy efficiency policy (EE); *Renewable Energy Act (REA)* - regulates public relations related to the production and consumption of electricity, heat and cooling from renewable sources (RS), gas from RS, bio fuels and energy from RS in the transport; *Third National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)* -sets out the framework for action on climate change in the period 2013-2020; *National Renewable Energy Action Plan*; *National EE Action Plan 2014-2020*; *Strategic Framework for Integrated and Sustainable Water Resources Management in the form of River Basin Management Plans and Flood Risk Management Plans*; *Marine Strategy for the Protection of the Environment in the Marine Waters of the Republic of Bulgaria till 2021 and others*.
44. Bulgaria is one of the nine EU Member States that, through a Joint Declaration, supported the priority development of electric mobility in Europe. The development of this new, promising innovative sector was also confirmed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development RIO + 20 in Brazil. The development of the production of non-polluting PSs (production sectors) has been a priority to focus on innovation and investment capacity. Under Ministry of Economy's initiative and in partnership with the MOEW a National Action Plan for the Promotion of Production and Accelerated Entry of Environment Vehicles, including Electric Mobility in Bulgaria for the Period 2012-2014 was developed. It was adopted by a Decision No 862 of 2012 of the Council of Ministers (CM). It is the grounds of the national policy in the respective area and such grounds for increasing the confidence and encouragement of the consumer demand as well as for the development of the electromobility in the municipalities were implemented. There are a significant progress and sustained dynamics, as only within the period January 2015 to September 2018 the growth of registered all-electric passenger cars was 609% and of hybrids - 502%.
45. In 2015, under Priority 2: Address marine pollution and plastic litter, during the Bulgarian Black Sea Commission presidency, Bulgaria initiated the preparation of a regional document on marine waste in the Black Sea and presented the first draft of this document. The Regional Marine Waste Plan was adopted at the 34<sup>th</sup> Black Sea Commission Meeting held on 24-25 October 2018.

Bulgaria also participates in the Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) of the EU, which represents a comprehensive approach to all EU policies related to the seas and the oceans. It is based on the idea that the Union can benefit more from the seas and oceans with less environmental impact by coordinating its policies. It covers such diverse fields as fisheries and aquaculture, maritime navigation and ports, the marine environment, marine research, offshore energy, shipbuilding and marine related industries, maritime surveillance, maritime and coastal tourism, employment, development of coastal regions and etc. It aims to coordinate rather than replace policies for specific maritime sectors.

46. Policies designed to support Green Economy in **Greece** are reflected in the recent National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP), which includes measures relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency, "green" construction (building sector), "clean" transport, sound environmental management, agriculture, forestry, land management.
47. The national framework for energy and climate policy is governed by the corresponding EU framework; for its implementation a fairly extensive regulatory framework has been developed, which is updated taking into account operation feedback, as well as developments taking place at national, regional and European level.
48. For an integrated climate and energy policy pursuing reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, waste and pollution, climate change adaptation services, recycling, and conservation are among the necessary measures identified for a resilient economy that offers better life quality. More specifically, in the context of renewable energy sources (RES), the measures will be focused on solar energy, wind energy, geothermal energy, offshore wind power, energy storage, biogas and biomass. Policy measures for further RES penetration into the energy mix (renewable energy production) are implemented within the framework of the national target for increased RES share for electricity generated, measured in gross final energy consumption in 2020, as set via the transposition of Directive 2009/28 / EC in Greek law (L.3852 / 2010).
49. The renewable energy sector has been actively promoted following the establishment, in 2010, of the Green Energy Development Task Force, which was one of the main initiatives of the Greek Presidency to the BSEC Organization in the second half of 2010.
50. Since November 2014 and following a decision of the BSEC Council of Foreign Ministers, the activities and responsibilities of the "green energy development action group" and the "Energy Strategy Plan" (drawn up by the BSEC Member States) have been delegated and are discussed exclusively in the context of the "Energy Working Group".
51. The most important development in spatial organization of maritime activities is Law 4546/2018 on Maritime Spatial Planning, which transposes Directive 2014/89 / EU. The establishment of Maritime Spatial Planning is expected to bring about a number of positive developments (to be completed by March 2021) in terms of effective environmental protection, organized usage of marine and subsea areas, cross-border cooperation, encouragement of investment, and others. The completion of spatial planning reforms by 2021, including maritime traffic flows and reorganization of cabotage falls into the scope of actions within the frame of national growth strategy drafted in July 2016.
52. It was launched the government's strategy "*Competitive Romania*", which maps the sustainable development of the country in the 2016-2020 period in **Romania**. This economic project is a collective vision, accepted and assumed by all actors, which will ensure the integrity and efficiency required by government programs. The main objective of the "*Competitive Romania*" document is to define a vision that will provide the social consensus on the main areas and action

measures meant to put Romania on the path of sustainable development, which would translate in economic language through the convergence of the GDP level / inhabitant with the level in the developed European countries.

53. The development of human, institutional and economic capacities, including through research, education and training, are essential for the orientation of Romania's future development as a country that makes competitive and intelligent use of natural and human capital to ensure well-being and decent living in balance with the environment and nature, for all its citizens. An important role in this respect are the actions to support alternative economic elements, by introducing the concept of „ *green economy*”, to stimulate and accelerate the transition also in Romania to an economy that maximizes the quality of life.
54. Romania has already taken important steps to bring together different actors from the Black Sea and to help them cooperate in many processes and on many topics. To illustrate, Romania is a founder and an active member of BSEC. Even before its accession to EU and very actively immediately after, Romanian diplomacy worked in close cooperation with the Commission and EEAS, also with important member states, to have the Black Sea Synergy issued, in 2007.
55. **Russia** responsibly behaves to execution of international obligations in area of maintenance of climate. Accepted Strategy of activity in area of hydrometeorology on a period to 2030 (taking into account the aspects of change of climate), Climatic doctrine of Russian Federation and Complex plan of operating under her realization, Decree of President of Russian Federation about measures on the increase of power and ecological efficiency of the Russian economy, federal law on an energy-savings, Power strategy of Russia on a period to 2030.
56. Currently, Russia is working on preparing for the ratification of the Paris Agreement. An action plan for the implementation of a set of measures to improve state regulation of greenhouse gas emissions has been approved. In 2016, an International Standard was introduced in Russia that regulates the implementation of auditors 'assessment of organizations' reports on greenhouse gas emissions. In 2018, a fundamental document for the development of industrial, social, environmental policy in Russia was the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation “On the national goals and strategic objectives of the development of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2024”, one of the sections of which is devoted to solving environmental problems.
57. Important provisions for creating a “green economy” and “blue growth” are also contained in sectoral strategic documents. The Strategy for the Development of the Forestry Complex of the Russian Federation until 2030 (approved in 2018) sets the goal of achieving sustainable forest management, innovative and effective development of the use, protection, protection and reproduction of forests, ensuring rapid growth of the forest sector, social and environmental security of the country, unconditional implementation Russia's international obligations in terms of forests.
58. In the coming years, the priority is the transition of enterprises to the best available technologies. Only in the framework of the Year of Ecology in 2017, Rosprirodnadzor signed 50 agreements with large companies in the amount of almost 112.5 billion rubles for more than 200 events. All of them relate to the modernization of production and the introduction of the best available technologies.
59. As part of the implementation of the “blue growth” initiative over the past few years, a lot of work has been done in Russia to reduce the fishing impact on the stock of aquatic bioresources. A ban on drift fishing in Russia. Activities for the release of young fish are being successfully

implemented: only in 2017, the volume of grown and released juveniles exceeded 9.2 billion, which is 2.1% more than the 2016 level.

60. In 2018, the Federal Agency for Fisheries, together with the Russian Academy of Sciences, prepared the “Comprehensive Targeted Program of Scientific Research for the Fisheries of the Russian Federation for 2018–2022 and with a Perspective until 2030”, which will improve the systematic approach of applied and fundamental sciences in the field of solving urgent problems of fisheries.
61. On the initiative of the Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia, in 2017, within the framework of the Federal Target Program “Water of Russia”, the project “All-Russian ecological quest “Water of Russia ” is being implemented. Within the framework of the project, participants carry out research and applied work on water conservation. The result of the project is the development and implementation of a water-saving program at your university. Educational institutions project winners are invited to the Association of "green universities". Since 2014, the All-Russian campaign for the cleaning of reservoirs “Water of Russia” for the cleaning of reservoirs has been implemented.
62. For many years, **Turkey** has followed a policy that aims to ensure the political-military-economic stability and order in the Black Sea region primarily through the cooperation and coordination of the riparian stakeholders and that promotes the interests of Black Sea, and has stood aloof from the initiatives and projects of third parties towards the region.
63. The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization has launched a 3-year project titled “Project for Creating a Marine Environment Strategy”. It is aimed with this project, within the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, requirements of the European Union and the obligations imposed by the Regional Maritime Convention, to establish the “Turkish Marine Environment Strategy and the National Marine Environment Management Action Plan” in order to ensure that the marine and coastal waters are used in harmony with the concept of “blue growth” maintaining a balance between protection and usage and that an ecosystem-based management with a focus on preservation of the ecological structure is established.
64. Turkey’s main aim with respect to the global struggle against climate change is to participate in the global efforts in accordance with the policies of sustainable development, and within the framework of common but differentiated responsibilities and Turkey’s specific conditions. Turkey aims to expand its energy efficiency, increase the use of its clean and renewable energy resources and integrate the climate change policies with its development policies, in order to become a country that can offer all of its citizens welfare with high quality of life with low-carbon intensity (Ministry of Environment and Urbanization 2011).
65. In the last 14 years, Turkey has become part of two important agreements on climate change through their signature and has taken important steps to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions. Turkey has officially become a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2004, and to the Kyoto Protocol on August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009, as an Annex-I country, the specific circumstances of which have been recognized by the parties (Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (MENR) 2016).
66. In line with the decision taken at the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that was held in 2014, Turkey had informed the United Nations Secretariat of its “Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC)” before the 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of the Parties that was held in Paris in 2015. Although Paris Agreement was signed by

Turkey in 2016, it must also be approved by the Turkish Grand National Assembly in order for it to be sanctioned (Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (MENR) 2016).

67. The energy sector in Turkey has caused 72.5% of the total greenhouse gas emissions in 2014, which is mainly due to the activities related to the transportation and energy production. In terms of leading to greenhouse gas emissions, the energy sector was followed by the industrial sector (13.4%), agricultural sector (10.6%) and waste products (3.4%). Turkey would be able to attain about 70% of its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) target in the event that it can reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the energy sector (International Energy Agency (IEA) 2016).
68. The Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers (CMU) of *Ukraine* of 08.11.2017 No. 820-p approved the National Waste Management Strategy in Ukraine until 2030, which provides for a set of measures aimed at developing the treatment of various types of waste (in particular, industrial processing). This strategy introduces the European principles of handling all types of waste in Ukraine: solid household, industrial, construction, hazardous, agricultural waste and the like.
69. The proposed by the Government reform of the sphere of waste management provides for the implementation of the principles of cyclical economy and extended producer responsibility (which should encourage businesses to minimize the generation of waste and prior to their processing), the introduction 5-step hierarchy of waste management following the example of the European Union. In February 2019, the CMU approved the relevant National Waste Management Plan.
70. In addition, one of the key priorities of the Government of Ukraine is to increase the energy efficiency of the economy and, consequently, reduce energy consumption. This issue is of particular importance, given the country's dependence on imports of traditional hydrocarbon energy carriers (gas, oil, their products).
71. Also, the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine has developed a draft strategy for the development of an industrial complex for the period until 2025. The purpose of the Strategy is to carry out a reform that is capable of ensuring the stability and dynamic development of the economy - the new industrialization of the national economy in order to solve the acute problems facing the industrial complex of the country.
72. Analysis of the current legislation allows us to identify a group of national level goals, the achievement of which is impossible without the successful implementation of industrial policy and which are generalized relative to others. The implementation of the Strategy will be implemented with the aim of promoting the achievement of the following national development goals: Sustainable economic growth; The growth of living standards; Security and defense.
73. Analysis of the national development goals and the expected contribution of industrial policy to their achievement, as well as finding ways to solve the key problems of industrial development allowed identifying the following Strategy objectives, which can be defined as inter-sectoral priorities of the country's industrial policy in the medium term: 1. Modernization and growth of industrial production; 2. Regional industry development; 3. Improving the resource efficiency of the industry. In particular, the implementation of strategic task No. 3 will improve the efficiency of use of production resources (raw materials, energy, etc.), one of the important final effects of which will be a reduction of the burden on the environment.

## V. CONCLUSIONS

74. The transition to a green economy is becoming increasingly popular in the BSEC Member States and is attracting widespread interest. For further cooperation in the field of green economy, the BSEC Member States should implement many parallel solutions, such as propaganda, economic restructuring, improvement of regulatory framework, accelerating the use of new technologies, developing environmental services, clean energy sources, human consciousness, etc. In particular, it is necessary to place special emphasis on solving problems related to human resources. This requires mobilization, concentration of investments and respective financial mechanisms. It is also necessary to effectively implement laws, policies and targeted programs related to the environmental protection. More resources from the state budget should be allocated to promote greening practices.
75. Effective environmental policy in the BSEC Member States should be aimed at the rehabilitation of polluted areas, but especially at preventing, reducing hazards and strengthening the fight against environmental problems.
76. The BSEC Member States have a long coastline, and vast sea areas are rich in natural resources and have great economic potential. The protection of the marine environment in the Black Sea Region, along with other environmental aspects, occupies an important place, given the role that the region plays in the global economy, being primarily a transport and energy hub on the Eurasian continent. To this end, deepening of cooperation in blue economy sector is the key in obtaining a new impetus for the economic development in the BSEC countries. The Black Sea countries can use the development potential of the blue growth and on this basis, they can create new jobs subject to a pragmatic approach based on the initiatives and proposals of the European Commission.
77. The goal of the Black Sea Region states is to fully realize the potential for the development of marine and coastal areas for the benefit of their citizens. The opportunities offered by the Integrated Maritime Policy of the European Commission constitute incentives for economic growth and creation of new jobs in the Black Sea Region in the sphere of blue economy. In order for cooperation to become increasingly effective, the BSEC Member States have to define together measures for better coordination between the EU policies and regional mechanisms.