

Expert Forum on Connectivity in the Black Sea Region

Objective:

- Provide information on EU strategies and supranational initiatives (including their points of connection)
- Identify points of contact for business
- Articulate companies' interests in infrastructure development and projects

Key questions:

- How is transport developing in the Black Sea region? (due to security issues – currently only considered under today's conditions!) (Who specialises in which transport routes? Situation with regard to hinterland transport? Which transport flows are developing for which goods?)
- **Transport corridors, logistics and infrastructure development** in and around the Black Sea (road, rail, ship)
- How do the various strategies (EU Black Sea Strategy, Danube Region Strategy) and initiatives (Three Seas Initiative [3SI], Global Gateway) relate to each other? - Funding opportunities?
- Where is the added value for companies in these programmes and initiatives?
- How are these linked to national planning? (State cooperation between Black Sea neighbours? Cross-border projects?)
- How is the connection of the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor (TCTC) developing in and on this side of the Black Sea? (Connectivity to TEN-T corridors, where do we stand? What is happening on the EU side? How can we better coordinate? What is realistic in the Black Sea today?)
- How can the Black Sea become a logistics hub? Improving competitiveness and capacity?
- Can the OA/German economy set the tone? How?

Time:

2026 April 23th, 1:30 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Location:

- Berlin, Landesvertretung Hamburg, Jägerstr. 1, 10117 Berlin

Participants:

- Representatives from EU, politics, business and academic
total: 50 – 80

Connectivity of the Black Sea Region: Transport Corridors, Infrastructure Development and Logistics

- 1:30 p.m. Registration
- 2:00 p.m. Opening and welcome
- **Liv Assmann**, State Councillor and Representative of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg to the Federal Government, the European Union and for Foreign Affairs
 - **Prof. Dr. Peer Witten**, Otto Group;
German Eastern Business Association (Ost-Ausschuss), Member of the Board
- 2:15 p.m. Keynote
- **Dr. Johanna Deimel**, Southeast Europe Association (SOG),
Vice President
„Strategic Role and Changing Significance of the Black Sea Region“
- 2:45 p.m. Panel and discussion:
International and European programmes and projects in the Black Sea region
- Impulse: **Michael Voegele**, European Commission, Directorate-General for Enlargement and Eastern Neighbourhood (DG ENEST), NEAR C.1. Regional Strategy and Investments Neighbourhood East & Türkiye, Deputy Head of Unit
“The EU Black Sea Strategy and Connectivity Agenda“
- **Michael Voegele**, European Commission, Directorate-General for Enlargement and Eastern Neighbourhood (DG ENEST), Deputy Head of Unit
 - **Matej Zakonjšek**, Transport Community, Director of the Permanent Secretariat
 - **Martin Yanev**, Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI), Member of the Management Board
 - comments, Q&A
- Moderation: **Norbert Beckmann-Dierkes**, Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS), Head of the Bulgaria Office; Burgas Connectivity Forum
- 4:00 p.m. Break and networking

4:30 p.m.

Panel and discussion:

Potential for Black Sea- and Hinterland Logistics and Infrastructure

Impulse: **Amb. Dimitrios Rallis**, Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), Permanent International Secretariat, Deputy Secretary General

“Base Line: Transport corridors and traffic in the Black Sea”

Trans Caspian Transit Corridor – EE connection to dynamic development

- **Amb. Dimitrios Rallis**, Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), Permanent International Secretariat, Deputy Secretary General
- **Daniel Jarnea**, Maritime Ports Administration Constanța, Head of Marketing
- **Philip Sweens**, HHLA International, Managing Director
- **Heinrich Kerstgens**, Rhenus SE, Corporate Representative
- **N.N.**, Deutsche Bahn AG,
- **N.N.**, Ministry of Infrastructure of Georgia
- comments, Q&A

Moderation: **Mirco Nowak**, LUNO Group, CEO;

BVL Bundesvereinigung Logistik, Chairperson Chapter Eurasia

5:45 p.m.

Summary and closing remarks

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Get-together

with kind support:

State Representation of
the Free and Hanseatic
City of Hamburg in Berlin

