

PRESS RELEASE

participation of General Director of the Danube Commission Secretariat at the International high-level Conference on Inter-basin Cooperation on Marine Litter: a focus on the Danube River and the Black Sea",

(Sofia, Bulgaria, 4 April, 2019)

On 4 April, 2019 in Sofia, Bulgaria, the Permanent International Secretariat of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC PERMIS) and the International Centre for the Black Sea Studies (ICBSS), with the expertise support of the Ministry of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria has organized a high level International Conference on Marine Litter – a focus on the Danube River and the Black Sea (ICML).

The overall objective of the above-mentioned Conference was to stimulate enhanced inter and intra-regional cooperation at policy, business and research levels, in order to improve the framework conditions and to mitigate obstacles for sustainable marine litter management in the target region.



The Danube River and the Black Sea basins are considered valuable natural assets of great environmental and economic importance, hence, their great potential for achieving Blue Growth is widely acknowledged. In order to achieve sustainable blue growth in the region, a sustainable and result – oriented policy framework is necessary, addressing opportunities and challenges. The problem of marine litter is a global challenge. Each year, millions of tons of land and sea-based litter end up in the seas, affecting marine organisms, biodiversity, human livelihoods and the economy. Unsustainable waste management, lack of infrastructures and of

Address: Hungary, H-1068 Budapest, Benczúr utca 25.

Phone: +36-1-461-80-10, Fax: +36-1-352-18-39, E-mail: secretariat@danubecom-intern.org

Website: www.danubecommission.org

coordinated national and regional policies, in addition to insufficient awareness, aggravate the problem, thus undermining any attempts to sustainable blue growth.



The Danube Commission has been represented by **Mr. Petar Margic**, General Director of the Secretariat of Danube Commission who during the Conference held a presentation. Also, the Representative of Hungary in Danube Commission, **Mr. Ivan Gyuresik** has been attended the Conference as well. Mr. Margic made a presentation in the framework of the first Session – Interregional cooperation and institutional approach. He referred to the ship waste management on the Danube river in the framework of CDNI (Convention on the collection, deposit and reception of waste generated during navigation on the Rhine and other inland waterways). The keynote speech was delivered by Mr. Bernhard FRIESS, Maritime Policy and Blue Economy Director, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the European Commission, who stressed the need -more now than ever- for coordinated and targeted actions in tackling efficiently marine litter.

The event was attended by more than eighty participants, mainly from the Danube and Black Sea countries, representing academia, the industry, NGOs, policy makers and government officials, who had the opportunity to interact, exchange views and network.

[Mr. Petar Margics presentation: Ship waste management on the Danube CDNI and DC Recommendation Possible accession DC members to CDNI Activities of the main stakeholders Inter-basin Cooperation on Marine Litter: a focus on the Danube River and the Black Sea](#)