MEDITERRANEAN, BLACK AND CASPIAN SEAS REGION
INTRODUCTION

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• Recent developments on Maritime issues
Fellows from the Region

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Republic of Bulgaria

• To comply, implement and enforce the IMO Conventions namely Ballast Water Management Convention, Recycling Convention and HNS Convention.
• To conclude agreement with neighboring countries e.g with Romania on delimitation of maritime spaces in Black Sea.
• To assist the States in the region in their endeavor to comply with, implement and enforce the IMO conventions because the ratification and enforcement of existing IMO conventions by all Black sea countries will ensure a global level playing field.
To elaborate the national Maritime Transport Strategy with its priority areas, namely shipping in globalized markets, human resources, quality shipping, short sea shipping, research and innovation.

To conclude search and rescue agreements between the countries in the Black Sea region.

These are national and regional needs for the Republic of Bulgaria.
Islamic Republic of Iran

Issues regarding environmental legislation, national action and delimitation of maritime boundaries

- Inadequate marine and coastal management laws.
- Insufficient legislation to protect coastal and marine natural resources.
- Overlapping and conflicting laws regarding marine and coastal management.
- Lack of internationally legally recognized regime applicable to exploration and exploitation of the shared natural resources.
Actions to be taken

- Strengthen the legal framework regarding coastal and marine environment protection
- Coordinating and managing environmental conflicts among various organizations.
- Develop an executive action plan with detail for meeting the goals.
- Specific training for the experts/officials
- There is a need to conclude an agreement on maritime boundaries.
Georgia is a Coastal State and has four main ports in the Black Sea. These ports take tremendous role in development of not only Georgia’s economy but also neighboring landlocked States such as Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Middle Asia using the territory of Georgia as a transit State. There are 4 main ports of Georgia in Black Sea.
The total cargo handling capacity over 20 million tons per year. These are Poti, Batumi, Supsa and Kulevi ports that jointly owned/operated by the Government and other companies with shares.

Georgia has signed bilateral intergovernmental agreements in maritime transport with 14 States and further plans to start negotiations for concluding agreements with Japan, Egypt, Croatia, Israel, Australia, Albania, Norway, Vietnam and Italy.
Georgia is in the process of ratification of MARPOL Annex VI, and Bunker Conventions providing the fact that the requirements of the mentioned Conventions are applicable to Georgian flagged vessels.

- Ballast water exchange regime in the Black Sea and the appropriate system of ballast control has been established in Georgian Ports.

- Ships generated waste operation requirements have been strengthened in the new Port Rules.

- Amendments have been adopted in the legislation regarding pollutions fines system.

The Republic of Azerbaijan

Main need for the region is the issues on legal status and territorial division of the Caspian Sea. Although the Republic of Azerbaijan is under the process of ratifying the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea 1982, but the Convention does not apply to the Caspian Sea.