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"The Black Sea Region in Transition: New Challenges and Concepts"

By Dr. Zefi Dimadama

Over the last decade, interest towards the Black Sea has grown and matured internationally and it has become clear that part of the region's future will be driven by trends and developments in the areas of sustainable development, innovation, science and technology. Over the years BSEC has accomplished its establishment at international level, promoting economic cooperation at a regional level; however, there is still space for the development of more effective regional cooperation, the absence of which may undermine the efforts made so far. To this end, it is crucial to understand that only through cooperative action we will be able to establish a solid environment for sustainable growth that will encourage and initiate business activity, as well as, domestic and international investments.

The International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS), a BSEC related body and its acknowledged think tank, is focusing on the dual concept of "Knowledge" and "Sustainability" that could gradually form the basis of a coherent long-term strategic plan for the region, comprised of clearly defined priorities and goals that could strengthen the area's capacity and lead to the creation of a dynamic hub with multiplying effects in the wider Black

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Sea region. The ICBSS, in full compliance with BSEC objectives and in close cooperation with its Member States, is promoting a series of activities, aiming at strengthening further the role of BSEC with a view to enhancing multi-lateral cooperation and better addressing the challenges of economic development, energy security and environmental governance in the Black Sea area. Within this framework, the Centre is organising the 4th International Black Sea Symposium “The Black Sea Region in Transition: new challenges

and concepts” that is to be held in Athens, in September, promoting discussion in the aforementioned issues among policy makers, academicians and Phd students.

Moreover, within the same context, the ICBSS has jointly organised with the Center for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SAM), a round-table discussion with title “Climate Change and Renewable Energy Resources in the wider Black Sea area” that was held in Baku, on 8 July. The event was organised in the context of the “Hellenic-Azeri Green Energy Forum”, an initiative developed by the ICBSS and SAM aiming at promoting the two countries as partners in dialogue for beneficial cooperation in the field of Green Energy. The main objective is to build up sustainable structures and networks, for further collaboration among BSEC Member States.

The Black Sea area constitutes a valuable natural asset of global importance vulnerable to human interventions that unfortunately, has to deal with severe environmental threats and future risks. Through these round-tables, the primary objective is to exchange valuable information and good practices as an effort to raise awareness and to mobilise all relative parties with a view to promoting regional cooperation so as to establish a clean energy model; an eco-friendly system for the region .

Athens, 4 August 2011

José Manuel Durão Barroso, President of the European Commission, Statement of President Barroso following his meeting with Ilham Aliyev, President of Azerbaijan

Brussels, 22 June 2011 [Link](#)

Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen,

It was a pleasure to receive President Aliyev today in Brussels. I remember my visit to Baku in January and the great hospitality I enjoyed there. I am grateful that President Aliyev could come to Brussels. We had a very open and fruitful discussion and followed up on various topics that we had discussed during my visit to Baku, and other visits of Commissioners. This reflects the very good spirit in the relations between Azerbaijan and the European Union.

Today, we took stock of the progress made on several fronts of our relationship, including the launch of negotiations on an Association Agreement a year ago. However, I believe we can speed up these talks and move forward towards a substantive deal. We had a very sincere and open discussion about the issues we should concentrate on so we can really achieve progress regarding this Association Agreement.

I am also confident that we can start negotiations on Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreements this year. Enhancing mobility with our partner countries remains an important goal of the Eastern Partnership.

Preparations for the Eastern Partnership Summit at the end of September in Warsaw are ongoing. Today, we have exchanged views on the implementation of this Partnership over the last two years and the way we want to strengthen it in the future.

Events in our neighbourhood have yet again shown how deeply Europe's own security and prosperity are linked to those of our neighbours. It is therefore a strategic imperative to promote democracy and development to our East and South.

In this regard, I also stressed the critical importance of modernization in the political field and progress on the political reforms and the respect for rule of law as a central theme in our relationship. We believe that the freedom of speech and freedom of assembly are extremely important and must be addressed in the context of our relations. I want to thank President Aliyev for the very open way in which we discussed these sensitive but important matters.

Our shared commitment to common values – democracy,

human rights and the rule of law – is a key part of our relationship and critical for progress. When I was in Baku, I saw the impressive modernisation, of the country. President Aliyev told me today once again that he is committed to this modernisation in all fields.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Energy was another key point of our discussions. As you know, in January, President Aliyev and I signed a Joint Declaration on the Establishment of the Southern Gas Corridor, which is key for the security and diversification of our energy supply and demand.

Realizing this corridor is a joint strategic goal. Strategic for Azerbaijan, which would gain direct access to the world's largest, and I can say the most reliable energy-market - the European market; And strategic for the EU, as it would allow us to have an alternative route of supply from the Caspian basin. We agreed today to continue our work and make this dedicated Corridor a reality.

Finally, we touched upon developments in the neighbourhood region and the situation in the South Caucasus. I underlined the strong EU support for a peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. It is high time to make additional efforts to finalise agreement on the so-called "basic principles". Negotiations will resume in two days' time to discuss the settlement of the conflict. I hope that the two parties will be able to move forward. As I have said before, the status quo is not an option.

So Mr President, thank you very much for your visit to Brussels. We have indeed a very ambitious shared agenda to work on. I look forward to continuing our cooperation and to bringing Azerbaijan and the EU even closer together.

I think we can be inspired by Azerbaijan's impressive victory in the Eurovision Song Contest last month, which was a first step in that regard. The fact that a majority of the Europeans voted for Azerbaijan in this European contest showed the sincere good will there is in Europe regarding Azerbaijan. I know that this will be a year in which the international spotlight will be in your country, and I am sure that you will use this time to show commitment to the modernisation of your country and also how committed you are on our European common values.

Thank you.

Foreign Affairs Council, Conclusions on Albania

Luxemburg, 20 June 2011 [Link](#)

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"1. The EU has closely followed the 2011 municipal elections and notes that they were generally conducted in a transparent and competitive manner, albeit with procedural difficulties. However the situation in Tirana is a matter of concern. The EU deplores the deterioration of the political situation and increased tensions that followed the elections and conduct of the process.

2. The EU, while noting the decisions by the Electoral College, underlines that it is essential that the election process, including the appeals procedure and the declaration of the final results by the CEC, is completed transparently, independently and in full compliance with the existing legal framework. It is also essential for all parties to recognise the supremacy of the Rule of Law over any other interests. The EU calls on all political leaders to support finalisation of the election process calmly, constructively and with a focus on the European future of the country. The EU will closely follow the assessment of the process by the OSCE/ODIHR election observation mission.

3. The EU urges the Government and the opposition, in collaboration with civil society, to agree on a thorough electoral reform, addressing all recommendations by OSCE-ODIHR in 2007, 2009 and 2011 before the next elections are called. The EU notes the intention of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to ask the Venice Commission for an opinion on how to avoid similar situations in future elections.

Third Meeting of the Stabilisation and Association Council between Albania and the EU, Joint Press Release

Brussels, 19 July 2011 [Link](#)

The Stabilisation and Association Council (SA Council) between Albania and the European Union held its third meeting on 19 July 2011. On behalf of the High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy, the meeting was chaired by Mr Dowgielewicz, State Secretary for EU affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Poland. Commissioner Štefan Füle represented the European Commission. EEAS Managing Director Miroslav Lajčák also participated. Albania was represented by Mr Edmond Haxhinasto, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The SA Council noted the conclusions of the Council of the EU of 14 December 2010, which welcomed the Commission's Opinion on the Albanian application for

EU membership and endorsed its recommendations. The Council acknowledged the progress made towards meeting the political criteria set by the Copenhagen European Council and the Stabilisation and Association process requirements. The Council noted that Albania's track record in implementing its obligations under the Stabilisation and Association Agreement is positive overall. The Council considered that Albania has achieved a certain degree of macroeconomic stability and would be in a position to take on the obligations of membership in the medium term in most of the *acquis* fields. The Council noted that Albania will need to intensify its efforts, in particular on the implementation of the twelve key priorities set out in the Commission's Opinion on Albania. These key priorities focus on the stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, judicial reform, the fight against organised crime and corruption, electoral reform, public administration reform, and the protection of human rights including property rights. The Council strongly encouraged the political parties to overcome the current political stalemate by establishing a constructive and sustained political dialogue to ensure the proper functioning of parliament. Further, the Council recalled that the opening of accession negotiations will be considered by the European Council, in line with established practice, once the Commission has assessed that Albania has achieved the necessary degree of compliance with the membership criteria and has met in particular the key priorities set out in the Commission's Opinion on the country. The European Council of 16/17 December 2010 confirmed this position.

Further, the SA Council noted the conclusions of the Council of the EU of 20 June 2011, which stressed that the EU had closely followed the 2011 municipal elections and noted that they were generally conducted in a transparent and competitive manner, albeit with procedural difficulties. However, the situation in Tirana remained a matter of concern. The EU deplored the deterioration of the political situation and increased tensions that followed the elections and conduct of the process. The EU, while noting the decisions by the Electoral College, underlined that it is essential that the election process, including the appeals procedure and the declaration of the final results by the CEC, should be completed transparently, independently and in full compliance with the existing legal framework. It was also essential for all parties to recognise the supremacy of the Rule of Law over any other interests. The EU called on all political leaders to support the finalisation of the election process calmly, constructively and with a focus on the European future of the country. The EU would closely follow the assessment of the process by the

OSCE/ODIHR election observation mission. Also, the EU urged the Government and the opposition, in collaboration with civil society, to agree on thorough electoral reform, addressing all recommendations by OSCE-ODIHR in 2007, 2009 and 2011 before the next elections are called.

The EU noted the intention of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to ask the Venice Commission for an opinion on how to avoid similar situations in future elections. Moreover, the EU called on the Government and the opposition to urgently restore the political dialogue and overcome the long-standing political stalemate. Such a dialogue would be indispensable for the normal functioning of any democratic society and its institutions, including the effective functioning of the Parliament, as well as for the advancement of the country's European integration. The EU urged the Albanian authorities to renew and strengthen efforts on the reform agenda and its implementation. These are essential in order to achieve the necessary degree of compliance with the Copenhagen criteria, including the twelve key priorities identified in the European Commission's 9 November 2010 Opinion on Albania's application for membership. Only upon fulfilling the key priorities will Albania be able to move forward towards the EU, in line with Council conclusions of December 2010. The EU remained committed to the European perspective of Albania and will continue to support the country's efforts in this process. The SA Council also noted the successful completion of the visa liberalisation process in 2010, which marked an historic achievement for Albania. The EU reiterated its commitment to the short-term visa free travel regime for Albania and expressed its confidence in the commitment of the Albanian authorities to ensure the respect of the conditions attached to the waiving of the visa regime. The SA Council noted that the implementation of the readmission agreement continued to proceed well.

The SA Council welcomed the joint work by the ruling majority and opposition in the parliamentary committee on European Integration on the Albanian Action Plan to address the priorities of the Opinion. The SA Council was informed that the Albanian government had adopted the Action Plan on 10 June 2011 and that it had taken into consideration the comments and suggestions presented by the European Commission as well as by the Chair of the Parliamentary Committee of European Integration representing the opposition, and civil society. The SA Council was also informed that the Action Plan was currently being analysed by the European Commission. The EU encouraged building on these achievements as an avenue towards creating an inclusive politi-

cal environment in the country. The SA Council noted some procedural developments regarding the functioning of the Parliament, the efforts made by Albania to fight corruption, as well as the improvement of the institutional and legislative framework on human rights and respect for minorities, whilst underlining that more needs to be done in these areas. In particular, it noted that corruption remains a particularly serious problem in the country. Establishing a convincing record of investigations and convictions of those found guilty, including in cases of high level corruption, is essential. The SA Council stressed that establishing an independent and professional civil service, achieving the reform of the judiciary, as well as addressing unresolved property rights' issues, remain key challenges for Albania's EU integration.

The rule of law and the independence, impartiality, transparency, efficiency and accountability of the judiciary are central elements in the assessment of the political criteria for EU accession. The SA Council noted the legislative amendments adopted in the fight against money laundering and the ratification of an agreement between Albania and Serbia on cooperation in the field of the fight against organised crime, whilst noting that the strengthening of regional and international cooperation in this area must continue. In addition, the SA Council agreed on the importance of effective implementation of legislation for the fight against organised crime, including through the provision of adequate resources and enhanced coordination between different law enforcement bodies. This is a key priority of the Opinion. As regards freedom of expression, the EU noted that political and business pressures continue to affect media independence. The media coverage of the May 2011 local elections marked an improvement over previous practices but there are still concerns over partiality of reporting. The EU once again recalled the importance for Albania to decriminalise defamation and libel.

As regards the economic criteria, the SA Council noted that Albania has made efforts towards establishing a functioning market economy and towards enabling the Albanian economy to cope with competitive pressure. The SA Council observed remaining shortcomings regarding the issue of property rights, enforcement of rule of law and orderly market exit procedures. Further efforts are required on structural reforms and in upgrading the transport and energy infrastructure, building on the good progress made in this latter area.

On the key issue of Albania aligning its legislation and capacity with European standards, the SA Council wel-

came the progress made over the past year in the implementation of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA). Albania's taxation of imported used vehicles and the application of road charges has been brought into line with the SAA. However, further efforts are required to ensure compliance with SAA deadlines.

The strengthening of Albania's administrative capacity to effectively implement the SAA must continue. The SA Council noted the progress made in areas such as free movement of goods, competition, and SME policy, while noting the need for stepping up efforts in other areas, such as audiovisual policy, transport and intellectual property law where progress has remained limited. The SA Council welcomed Albania's constructive and co-operative foreign and regional policy, as well as its active participation in regional initiatives in South Eastern Europe and exchanged views regarding developments in the Western Balkans.

Joint statement by President Van Rompuy and President Barroso following the vote in the Greek Parliament on the implementing measures for the revised economic programme

Brussels, 30 June 2011 [Link](#)

We strongly welcome today's approval by the Greek Parliament of the implementing legislation for the country's revised economic programme. This was the second, decisive step Greece needed to take in order to return to a sustainable path. In very difficult circumstances, it was another act of national responsibility. The conditions are now in place for a decision on the disbursement of the next tranche of financial assistance for Greece and for rapid progress on a second assistance package. We reiterate Europe's unwavering support and solidarity for the Greek people, in whose future we are confident. In view of the hard work that still lies ahead, we repeat our call for all political parties to work together to take to their country forward.

Memorandum of Understanding on Implementation partnership between the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Moldova, the National Agency for Energy Regulation of the Republic of Moldova and the Secretariat of the Energy Community

Chisinau, 9 June 2011 [Link](#)

The Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Moldova (further the Ministry), the National Agency for Energy Regulation of the Republic of Moldova (further the Agency) and the Secretariat of the Energy Community (further the Secretariat):

agreeing on the necessity to transpose and to implement the European Union legislation under the Energy Community Treaty (further EU legislation);

underlining that the common interest of the Secretariat and Moldavian institutions is to have the market model and primary and secondary legislation compliant to the EU legislation;

relying on the Secretariat's commitment to provide adequate assistance, signed the current Memorandum of Understanding as follows:

1. By this Memorandum of Understanding, the parties agree on their cooperation within the structures and procedures required for the adoption of primary and secondary legislation and appropriate and compliant market models according to the EU legislation.
2. The Ministry agrees to establish working groups for drafting primary legislation in order to transpose the EU legislation
3. The Agency agrees to establish working groups for drafting secondary legislation in order to transpose the EU legislation.

The working groups may work in parallel and may be joined where efficiency so suggests.

All working groups shall meet regularly, upon invitation by the Ministry or, respectively, by the Agency.

4. The working groups shall define their work programs and agree on deliverables and timelines. All deliverables shall require the approval by the representative of the Ministry or by the Agency, where applicable.

The Ministry and the Agency will invite the Secretariat to participate in the working groups, where appropriate and needed for ensuring compliance.

The drafts for primary and secondary legislation transposing the EU legislation shall be consulted with representatives of the relevant stakeholders, in compliance with the national law of the Republic of Moldova.

5. Upon finalization of the drafts transposing the EU legislation, the working groups shall present them to a Steering committee for comments and recommendations.

The Steering committee shall consist of the Director of the Agency, the Director of the Secretariat and, to the extent no regulatory task requiring independence is concerned,

the Minister of Economy. The Steering committee shall communicate via telecommunication or meetings.

6. The Secretariat agrees to provide, upon request, technical and legal assistance to the working groups, the Agency and to the Ministry. The Secretariat shall organize expert missions which shall be sufficiently extensive to allow for close and thorough cooperation on draft documents.

7. The Ministry commits to fully respect the independence of the Agency.

8. It is acknowledged that the right and the responsibility for decision-making, as well as proper enforcement of primary and secondary legislation, rests with national authorities of the Republic of Moldova.

9. Nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding shall create any legal obligations by the parties going beyond those in the Treaty establishing the Energy Community, or under the national law of the Republic of Moldova.

Signed in Chisinau on 9 June, 2011, in three originals, each in English and Moldovan languages, both texts being equally authentic.

Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton and EU Commissioner for ENP Stefan Füle on the agreement between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine over the Palanca issue

Brussels, 1 July 2011 [Link](#)

We welcome the agreement reached on 30 June 2011 between Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova regarding the demarcation of the borderline between the two countries at the Odessa-Reni highway sector at Palanca.

The signing of the agreement will give a boost to bilateral relations between Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, and will thus strengthen regional stability in the immediate neighbourhood of the European Union.

We encourage the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine to continue their efforts to resolve all the outstanding issues regarding border demarcation. The EU stands ready to facilitate this process. More generally, this is also the result of constructive work between neighbours in the spirit of the Eastern Partnership.

EIB and Vnesheconombank agreed to cooperate to implement the Partnership for Modernisation

Moscow/Luxembourg, 10 June 2011 [Link](#)

The European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Bank for Development and Foreign Economic Affairs (Vnesheconombank) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to modernise the economy of the Russian Federation.

The EIB and Vnesheconombank agreed to consider making available up to EUR 500 million each to finance projects being in line with their criteria and developed under the Partnership for Modernisation launched by the European Union and Russia at their 25th Summit in 2010.

EIB Vice-President Eva Srejber stated: “This is a significant step towards developing and financing projects of mutual interest of the European Union and the Russian Federation. The new cooperation will enable to benefit from the expertise and financial resources of the EIB and Vnesheconombank. This effort will help to strengthen the economic ties between the EU and Russia in the key sectors relevant for driving the growth and innovation, improving transport, and promoting the sustainable low-carbon economy and energy efficiency and addressing climate action.”

The potential areas for cooperation involve the areas of the energy efficiency, environment, transport, telecommunications and the EU foreign direct investments related to projects carried out by EU companies in Russia. Both financial institutions will review potential projects initiated by EU and Russian companies or other Russian entities for implementation in Russia, exchange project related information and due diligence results and develop a coordinated approach to implement the individual projects.

Background:

The EIB – the European Union’s bank – finances projects in the Russian Federation on the basis of an EU Council and European Parliament mandate for the Eastern Partner Countries (covering the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan) of EUR 3.7 billion for the period 2007-2013. The current mandate provides for the financing of projects that are of significant interest to both the EU and Eastern Partners in the transport, energy, telecommunications and environmental infrastructure sectors.

The EIB has also set up at its own risk the Eastern Partners Facility (EPF) for an amount of EUR 1.5 billion, with a ceiling of EUR 500 million for loans in the Russian Federation. This facility enables the EIB to provide loans to sup-

port investment grade projects that sectorwise go beyond the scope of the mandate and helps support EU investment in the region, notably by European corporates.

In the Russian Federation, the EIB has so far provided financing amounting in total to some EUR 470 million supporting environmental projects focused on the improvement of water quality in the Baltic Sea and anti-flood measures in St. Petersburg and upgrading services provided by the telecommunication sector.

Joint statement by President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy and President of the European Commission Jose Manuel Barroso to PM Recep Tayyip Erdoğan on the results of the general elections in Turkey

Brussels, 13 June 2011 [Link](#)

"We congratulate you on the outcome of the general elections held on 12 June.

The results open the way to further strengthening Turkey's democratic institutions, as well as to the continued modernisation of the country, in line with European values and standards. We are convinced the coming period offers new opportunities for further reforms, including work on a new constitution in the broadest possible consultation and a spirit of dialogue and compromise, and for strengthening confidence between Turkey and all EU Member States. Progress in these fields should also give new impetus to the accession negotiations with the European Union.

We remain committed to enhancing our dialogue and cooperation to the benefit of our citizens and our region, and would welcome you to Brussels at your earliest convenience."

EP resolution of 9 June 2011 on Ukraine: the cases of Yulia Tymoshenko and other members of the former government President

Strasbourg, 9 June 2011 [Link](#)

The European Parliament ,

– having regard to its previous resolutions on Ukraine, in particular its resolution of 25 November 2010(1) ,

– having regard to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) between the European Union and Ukraine, which entered into force on 1 March 1998, and to the ongoing negotiations on the association agreement designed to replace the PCA,

– having regard to the EU-Ukraine Association Agenda, which replaces the Action Plan and was endorsed by the EU-Ukraine Cooperation Council in June 2009,

– having regard to the Commission communication of 12 May 2010 entitled 'Taking stock of the European Neighbourhood Policy' (COM(2010)0207) and to the progress report of 25 May 2011 on implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy,

– having regard to the statement made by its President on the detention of Yulia Tymoshenko on 24 May 2011,

– having regard to the statement made on 26 May 2011 by the spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the case of Yulia Tymoshenko,

– having regard to the statement made by Commissioner Štefan Füle on 24 March 2011, following his meeting with Yulia Tymoshenko,

– having regard to the bill on preventing and tackling corruption that was adopted by the Verkhovna Rada on 7 April 2011 and will come into effect on 1 July 2011,

– having regard to Rule 122(5) of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas the EU favours a stable and democratic Ukraine that respects the principles of a social market economy, the rule of law, human rights and the protection of minorities and that guarantees fundamental rights; whereas domestic political stability, a focus on internal reform and respect for the rule of law, incorporating fair, impartial and independent legal processes, in Ukraine are prerequisites for the further development of relations between the EU and Ukraine; whereas the Eastern Partnership encompasses all these principles,

B. whereas a comprehensive reform of the judiciary and measures to ensure respect for the rule of law in criminal investigations and prosecutions, including the principle of fair, impartial and independent judicial proceedings, has not yet been implemented in Ukraine,

C. whereas corruption and abuse of power remain widespread in Ukraine and require an unequivocal response by the authorities in bringing those responsible to justice; whereas prosecutions and investigations must be impartial and independent and must not be used for political ends,

D. whereas on 24 May 2011 the Prosecutor General's Office in Ukraine completed the investigation into the case against Yulia Tymoshenko, former Prime Minister of

Ukraine, and brought charges of abuse of power in connection with the conclusion of gas contracts with the Russian Federation in 2009,

E. whereas on 21 February 2011 two criminal proceedings against Yulia Tymoshenko were combined into one case in which she is accused of embezzling funds from the sale of greenhouse-gas emission quotas under the Kyoto Protocol and of misappropriating UAH 67 million that has been allocated from Ukraine's State budget, under a government guarantee to the Austrian Government, for the purchase and import of 1 000 Opel Combo vehicles ostensibly to be used for medical purposes in rural areas while she was prime minister,

F. whereas, since the launch of the investigations on 15 December 2010, Yulia Tymoshenko has been interrogated 44 times, a travel ban has been imposed on her, both domestically and internationally, for nearly six months, she has been prevented by the Ukrainian authorities from travelling inside Ukraine on four occasions, as well as from travelling to Brussels in February and in June, and she was summoned and questioned on 25 May 2011 for several hours before being released,

G. whereas 12 former high-ranking officials from the Tymoshenko government are in pre-trial detention, including the former Interior Minister, Yuri Lutsenko, one of the leaders of the People's Self-Defence Party, who has been charged with abuse of office and misappropriation of funds and was arrested on 26 December 2010 for alleged non-cooperation with the prosecution, and the former First Deputy Minister of Justice, Yevhen Korniychuk, who was arrested on 22 December 2010 on charges of breaking the law in connection with public procurement procedures for legal services,

H. whereas Mr Lutsenko was not released from pre-trial detention when his trial opened on 23 May 2011, despite the fact that detention for alleged non-cooperation in the investigation of his case is an extremely disproportionate measure,

I. whereas a preliminary report of the Danish Helsinki Committee for Human Rights on the Lutsenko and Korniychuk trials has listed massive violations of the European Convention on Human Rights,

J. whereas criminal proceedings have been started against the former Economy Minister, Bohdan Danylyshin, who fled Ukraine and has been granted political asylum in the Czech Republic; whereas the former Environment Minister, Georgy Filipchuk, and the former Acting Defence Minister, Valery Ivashchenko, also face criminal charges,

K. whereas the former speaker of the Crimean Parliament, Anatoliy Grytsenko (Party of Regions), was detained on 24

January 2011 and accused of an abuse of power involving the giving away of 4800 hectares of land illegally; whereas another criminal case was later opened, involving land fraud in connection with resort land in Yalta,

L. whereas the Prosecutor General's Office has also opened a criminal investigation for abuse of power against the former President of Ukraine, Leonid Kuchma,

M. whereas the Constitution of Ukraine provides for collective responsibility for the decisions that the Ukrainian Government makes,

N. whereas the EU continues to emphasise the need for respect to be shown for the rule of law, incorporating fair, impartial and independent legal processes, while avoiding the danger of giving rise to any perception that judicial measures are being used selectively; whereas the EU considers these principles especially important in a country which aspires to enter into a deeper contractual relationship based on a political association,

1. Stresses the importance of ensuring the utmost transparency in investigations, prosecutions and trials, and warns against any use of criminal law as a tool to achieve political ends;

2. Is concerned about the increase in selective prosecution of figures from the political opposition in Ukraine as well as the disproportionality of measures applied, particularly in the cases of Ms Tymoshenko and Mr Lutsenko, former Interior Minister, and notes that Mr Lutsenko has been in custody since 26 December 2010; expresses its support for the Ukrainian Human Rights Commissioner, Nina Karpachova, who has asked the Ukrainian Prosecutor General to consider the possibility of applying preventive measures that do not involve detention;

3. Reminds the Ukrainian authorities that the principle of collective responsibility for the decisions of the government does not permit the prosecution of individual members of the government for decisions that were taken collegially;

4. Stresses that ongoing investigations of prominent Ukrainian political leaders should not preclude them from actively participating in the political life of the country, meeting voters and travelling to international meetings; calls, therefore, on the Ukrainian authorities to lift the travel ban, both domestically and internationally, on Yulia Tymoshenko and other key political figures;

5. Underlines the fact that strengthening of the rule of law and a credible fight against corruption are essential not only for the conclusion of the Association Agreement and the deepening of EU-Ukraine relations in general, but also for the consolidation of democracy in Ukraine;

6. Calls on the Commission to assist the reform of the judiciary in Ukraine by making better use of the EU capacity building programme and to consider the creation of a High Level EU Advisory Group to Ukraine to assist the country in its efforts to come into line with EU legislation, including as regards the judiciary;

7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the EEAS, the Member States, the President, Government and Parliament of Ukraine and the Parliamentary Assemblies of the Council of Europe and of the OSCE.

Günther Oettinger, Commissioner for Energy, “EU stress tests of nuclear power plants and nuclear safety in the EU neighbouring countries”, EP Plenary

Strasbourg, 9 June 2011 [Link](#)

Following the request of the European Council on 25 March that the safety of all EU nuclear power plants should be reviewed on the basis of a comprehensive risk and safety assessment, on 24 May the Commission and ENSREG reached agreement on the criteria, methodology and timeframe for carrying out these stress tests in the EU.

Drawing the lessons from the Fukushima accident and aiming to contribute to the continuous improvement of nuclear safety the tests will focus on assessing how nuclear power plants can withstand the consequences of various natural disasters as well as man-made failures and actions. Effects of earthquakes, floods, extreme temperatures or combination of such factors, of human error or accidents such as plane crashes or explosions but also the resilience of cooling systems and electricity supply will be thoroughly looked into. However, security threats will be analysed under a separate framework, involving the Member States' relevant authorities.

Starting 1 June the tests will be conducted in a three-step process: by the nuclear operators, by independent national regulators and through peer reviews. This is in line with the fundamental nuclear safety principles enshrined in the EU and international legislative framework.

The process begins with a reassessment of the safety of the nuclear power plant by the plant operators on the basis of the agreed test methodology. The results of these reassessments will be notified to the respective national regulators for examination and preparation of national reports. As soon as a national report is finalised and made available, it will be subjected to a peer review, carried out by a team of

independent nuclear experts from various EU Member States and the European Commission.

We consider that the establishment of a peer review mechanism, open to both peers from individual EU Member States and Commission experts in nuclear safety, is essential to guarantee the accountability and credibility of the whole process. It will also ensure that a comparable and harmonised approach is followed throughout the EU. I can assure you that the Commission will follow up closely the development of the process. We are committed to implementing the highest safety standards in the EU and therefore our understanding is that assessments are to be made in a rigorous and timely manner but without compromising the quality of the stress tests.

We aim at attaining sufficient progress by December 2011, so that the European Council will be able to make an initial evaluation based on a Commission progress report, which will draw conclusions from the national reports and available results from the peer reviews. The process should continue beyond the end of this year, therefore allowing us to have a complete evaluation of the status of nuclear safety in the EU by mid-2012.

The Commission will ensure full transparency of the process: all national reports, results of the peer reviews and the report of the Commission to the European Council will be made public and the consequences of the results will be discussed publicly. The only exception to this rule may concern specific security related information.

The Commission is also committed to promote the undertaking of stress tests in EU neighbouring countries. This is based on our conviction that safety is indivisible and is in line with our policy of furthering nuclear safety beyond our borders.

Through the TACIS programme and the Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation, the European Commission has provided support to the CIS countries to improve the safety at nuclear power plants mainly in Russia and Ukraine, and more recently to improve the nuclear safety framework in third countries considering the use of nuclear energy.

A meeting with neighbouring countries on the stress tests was held on 1 June 2011 in Brussels with representatives from Switzerland, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Croatia, Armenia, Belarus and Turkey participating. There was a common understanding to participate in this process and to carry out similar tests. A high level meeting is scheduled for 23 June 2011 to confirm this common approach.

The IAEA ministerial level conference on 20 – 24 June will be another important platform to further discuss a global approach to stress tests and improved nuclear safety. The

Commission is prepared to contribute actively to the process of improving and strengthening the international nuclear safety framework. The proposals put forward at the G8 summit are a good starting point for this highly beneficial process.

Catherine Ashton EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission Speech on Nagorny Karabakh

Strasbourg, 6 July 2011 [Link](#)

Honourable Members, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am grateful to have this opportunity to exchange views on the Nagorny Karabakh conflict.

When I – along with Presidents Van Rompuy and Barroso – met with President Medvedev at the EU-Russia summit in Nizhny – Novgorod on 9 June, he was optimistic about the possibilities for a breakthrough at the Kazan meeting.

Much work had been done by the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs and the parties to make progress towards an agreement on the Basic Principles, the first step in a process leading to the drafting of a formal peace agreement, and then its implementation.

We made clear to President Medvedev that we fully support his personal mediation efforts, and the work of the Minsk Group.

The Deauville statement of Presidents Obama, Medvedev and Sarkozy made clear that the time had now come for an agreement, failing which the parties' commitment to a solution would be questioned.

Regrettably, despite strong messages at the highest level, the expected breakthrough at Kazan on 24 June did not materialise.

President Aliyev of Azerbaijan and President Sargsyan of Armenia did not take this opportunity to reach a compromise.

Admittedly, relations between the two countries are difficult. I recently met the Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan in Bratislava, and I have no illusions about the complexity of the negotiations. The Co-Chairs keep me and the EEAS fully informed of their work and the many difficulties they face.

I was also briefed in Vilnius last Friday by the Lithuanian Foreign Minister, Audronius Azubalis, who is now the Chairman in Office of the OSCE.

Nevertheless, efforts to find an agreement on the Basic Principles must continue, and I welcome the fact that both parties have re-committed themselves to the diplomatic process and to finding a peaceful solution.

But we need to see more than that in the coming months. The parties need to redouble their efforts to find an agreement before the end of this year. This would then happen before domestic priorities take over in 2012: elections in Armenia in 2012, and in Azerbaijan in 2013.

Indeed, a continuation of the status quo is unacceptable, as is any effort to resolve the conflict or influence the negotiations by using force, or even the threat of force.

The peaceful settlement of the Nagorny Karabakh conflict is a key strategic interest of the European Union.

A settlement of the conflict would transform the South Caucasus region.

It would pave the way towards political and regional stability, and new economic opportunities.

Borders could open not only between Armenia and Azerbaijan, but also between Armenia and Turkey.

Roads, railways and pipelines could take the shortest route, and tie the countries of the region more closely together.

And the South Caucasus could finally become what it should have been already – a gateway between Europe and Asia.

All of this is clearly in the interest of the European Union, too.

The EU is ready and committed to step up its efforts in support of the work of the Minsk Group Co-Chairs.

The negotiations have been going on since 1994 in the current format. An agreement on the Basic Principles is within reach.

The nature of the additional support that we can provide is of course a matter for consultation with the Minsk Group Co-Chairs and the parties.

And I can assure you that we are holding regular consultations with them on this subject.

Let me be very clear, however. What happens in these final negotiations matters greatly to the European Union, and will play a role in the way we shape our policy towards the two countries concerned.

On my behalf, Miroslav Lajcak travelled to both countries last month, and made this point very clearly.

We hope to see progress by the time of the planned Eastern Partnership Summit in September in Warsaw.

I also see clear possibilities for enhanced EU engagement outside the negotiations themselves.

We are already supporting confidence building and outreach activities to people on both sides, often through civil society organisations who promote people-to-people contacts, including in the framework of the Council of Europe. But we can do more here.

I also believe that the European Union should be prepared to take on significant responsibilities in the implementation of a settlement, once we reach this stage, in close co-operation with other parts of the international community.

There will much to do, from reconstruction, mine clearance and refugee and IDP returns to the promotion of economic recovery and security support.

I also recognize that there are other partners who play a significant role in the South Caucasus region. For instance, the EU needs to work closely with regional actors like Turkey.

I have proposed the appointment of a new Special Representative for the South Caucasus to take these different work strands forward, in close consultation with the Minsk Group co-chairs.

Perhaps our most important contribution, however, will be to continue strengthen our bilateral relations with both Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The new European Neighbourhood Policy communication that we just discussed sets out an ambitious agenda for the countries of the South Caucasus:

- New Association Agreements,
- Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas, including improved access to the EU's internal market;
- Increased and facilitated mobility, especially for students and business;
- Increased sectoral co-operation and participation in EU programmes;
- increased support for civil society and the open society.

Our overall objective is to help our neighbouring countries build a comprehensive reform agenda.

In this context, we will of course be looking at ways in which our bilateral co-operation can be geared to support conflict settlement.

Stefan Füle recently visited Armenia to discuss how to take our relationship forward and build a common, positive and forward-looking agenda together.

More generally, I also believe more confident, attractive and modern countries with ambitious reform agendas are in a stronger position to overcome the difficult legacies of the

past.

Ultimately this is a choice that the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan need to make themselves, in the best interests of the people they represent.

We know which choice we would like them to make: it is the choice of compromise and peace.

Recent Publications by the ICBSS

Policy Brief No.23, July 2011



Iliia Roubanis and Zefi Dimadama. "Food Security, Climate Change and the Black Sea: The Instructive Case Study of 2010-2011 Events."

This policy brief focuses on a case study. It is suggested that an environmental disaster during the summer of 2010 in the Black Sea region triggered in winter 2011 a

food crisis in the Arab World; in turn, this led to massive riots, revolts, political instability, a NATO operation and, alas, an oil crisis that accentuates an already suffering global economy. Coextensively, it maybe suggested that an environmental crisis triggered a political crisis, which escalated in a series of conflicts that are of major concern for traditional security structures in Europe and beyond.

Policy Brief No.22, June 2011



Tedo Japaridze. "Notes on the Margins. A Longer View: Reflections about the Future"

This ICBSS Policy Brief is not a standard article or some witty academic text. Its form or "genre" could be defined as some personal reflections or some inchoate notes on the margins or even a draft for some informal discussion. It is exclusively addressed to those who one way or other possibly may care about the current state or the perspectives of the Black Sea region in general or of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) and its Related Bodies specifically.

Recent Publications on the Black Sea Region

The following are selected recent publications pertinent to the Black Sea region

July 2011

- International Crisis Group. "Turkey and Greece: Time to Settle the Aegean Dispute." Europe Briefing, no. 64, 19 July 2011. [Link](#)
- Thorp, Arabella. "Turkey's 2011 Elections and Beyond." *UK House of Commons Library Research Papers*. July 2011. [Link](#)
- Hanson, Philip. "On Europe's Fringes: Russia, Turkey and the European Union." Chatham House Briefing Paper, July 2011. [Link](#)

June 2011

- Alessi, Monica and Christian Egenhofen. "Space Observation Systems: An underused element for EU and global climate change policy." *Policy Brief*, no. 245, CEPS: Brussels, 29 June 2011. [Link](#)
- Bottger, Katrin and Mariella Falkenhain. "The EU's policy towards Azerbaijan: what role for civil society?" *SPES Policy Paper*, 23 June 2011. [Link](#)
- Makarychev, Andrei and Alexander Sergunin. "The EU-Russia Summit in Nizhny Novgorod: Divergent

logics of communication." *CEPS Policy Brief*, no. 244. CEPS: Brussels, 21 June 2011. [Link](#)

- Paul, Amanda. "Turkey after the elections: time for consensus and pragmatism." *Commentary*. The European Policy Centre, 16 June 2011. [Link](#)

May 2011

- International Energy Agency. *Climate and Electricity Annual 2011: Data and Analyses*. OECD Publishing, 27 May 2011.
- Meister, Stefan. "A turning point for Moldova? A challenge for the EU and Moldova." *DGAPanalyse kompakt* no. 3, 19 May 2011. [Link](#)
- Smith, Jeremy. "International report on Kyrgyz June violence released." *EUCAM Commentary*, no. 12. CEPS: Brussels, 2 May 2011. [Link](#)
- Hovannisian, Raffi. "Armenia's Domestic and Regional Challenges." Chatham House, Royal Institute of International Affairs, May 2011. [Link](#)
- Lough, John. "Russia's Energy Diplomacy." Chatham House Briefing Paper, Royal Institute of International Affairs, May 2011. [Link](#)

News and Events

OECD Development Centre “Black Sea and Central Asia Economic Outlook: Evaluation of the Present Developments and New Perspectives in a Shifting-Wealth World”

The ICBSS hosted on Monday 30 May 2011, in Athens, an event on “*Black Sea and Central Asia Economic Outlook: Evaluation of the present developments and new perspectives in a shifting-wealth world*”.

Mr. Mario Pezzini, Director of OECD Development Centre and Mr. Kiichiro Fukasaku, Head of Regional Desks of OECD Development Centre, as the keynote speakers of the event, presented the activities of the OECD DC in the field of economic cooperation and development in the wider Black Sea and Central Asia region. The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic, Mr. Spyros Kouvelis, delivered a welcome address. In her opening remarks, ICBSS Director General Dr. Zefi Di-

madama presented the role and the work of the OECD Development Centre in the fields of work and well-being. Moreover, Director General presented the role and contribution of ICBSS in the wider Black Sea area. For more info [click here](#).



Workshop on “Innovation in the Wider Black Sea Region: Policies and Structures”



The ICBSS organised a **Workshop** on “**Innovation in the Wider Black Sea Region: Policies and Structures**” in the context of the EU co-funded project S&T International Cooper-

ation Network for Eastern European and Central Asian Countries (IncoNet EECA), Athens, 15-17 June 2011. The main aims of this workshop were: to present the latest developments in innovation policies and in the European Commission’s initiatives; to provide insight on successful innovation policies and activities in the countries of the Black Sea including the establishment and operation of innovation related infrastructure such as technological parks, incubators, etc.; and to investigate concrete opportunities for regional cooperation in the field of innovation. More information is available at <http://www.increast.eu/en/1177.php>

Climate Change and Renewable Energy Resources in the Wider Black Sea Area

The First Round Table Discussion on “Climate Change and Renewable Energy Resources in the wider Black Sea area,” was organised jointly by the Center for Strategic Research under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SAM) and the International Centre for Black Sea Studies, within the framework of the “Hellenic-Azerbaijani Green Energy Network Forum”, in Baku, on 8 July.

At the initiative of Dr. Gulshan Pashayeva, Deputy Director of SAM and of Dr. Dimadama, Director General of ICBSS, the “Hellenic-Azerbaijani Green Energy Network forum” aims to promote a systematically dialogue between them for beneficial cooperation in the field of Green En-

ergy, and to build up sustainable structures and networks, such for further collaboration within the wider Black Sea area. A Second Round Table Discussion on “Energy Cooperation and Environmental Protection in the wider Black Sea area” is planned to take place in Athens, in November 2011. For more information [click here](#).



ICBSS hosted an educational visit of the International Hellenic University (IHU), Master of Arts in Black Sea Cultural Studies

On Friday, 27 May 2011, the ICBSS hosted an educational visit of the International Hellenic University from the Master's programme in Black Sea Cultural Studies. Ten students that were accompanied by Prof. Fotis Baroutsos had the opportunity to listen to an opening speech by the ICBSS Director General, Dr. Z. Dimadama, as well as two detailed and thorough presentations given by ICBSS team experts, about the ICBSS profile, programmes as well as aims new perspective, and the EU co-funded regional pro-

jects the ICBSS is leading.



The 3rd EU-EECA Policy Stakeholders' Conference: 'Evaluation approaches in S&T policy',



The third EU EECA Policy Stakeholders' Conference: 'Evaluation approaches in S&T policy', which took place in Astana, on 26-27 May 2011, was organised under the frame of the EU FP7 Project IncoNet CASC which the

ICBSS coordinates. Decision makers and experts at ministerial level as well as key persons from research and science organisations in EU- and EECA-countries were invited to this exchange that meant to trigger new momentum for cooperation. Among others, presentations were given by Dr. George Bonas on the major findings from the missions to Central Asia and South Caucasus. More information is available at <http://www.increast.eu/en/1159.php>

Issue no. 18—April 2011

- “Lessons learned from Japan’s Fukushima accident for the Black Sea region,” by Dr. Zefi Dimadama

Azerbaijan

- Council of Europe, Parliamentary Assembly, The mutual useful outcome and prospects of Azerbaijan’s ten years in the Council of Europe, Written Declaration
- EU-Azerbaijan: Joint declaration on Southern Gas Corridor

Georgia

- Council of the European Union, Conclusion of two EU agreements with Georgia on visa facilitation and readmission, Press release

Moldova

- EP President Buzek Statement on Moldova's European path, Press release
- Statement by President Barroso following his meeting with Vladimir Filat, Prime Minister of Moldova, Press release

Russia

- Vice President Almunia signs cooperation agreement with Russian competition authority, Press release
- Statement of President Barroso following the meeting of the European Commission with the Russian Government, Press release
- Statement by Catherine Ashton, European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, on ratification by the Russian Federation Council of the START Treaty

ENP

- Štefan Füle, European Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy, Joint press conference with Foreign Minister Gryshchenko

Eastern Partnership

- Speech of Cecilia Malmström, Member of the European Commission responsible for Home Affairs, on The way forward for EU Home Affairs cooperation with Eastern Partners conference with Foreign Minister Gryshchenko

EU

- European Council, Conclusions

Issue no. 17—December 2010

Issue no. 16—July 2010

Issue no. 15—April 2010

Issue no. 14—January 2010

Issue no. 13—September 2009

Issue no. 12—July 2009

Issue no. 11—May 2009

Issue no. 10—January 2009

Issue no. 9—November 2008

Issue no. 8—September 2008

Issue no. 7—April 2008

Issue no. 6—December 2007

Issue no. 5—July 2007

Issue no. 4—June 2007

Issue no. 3—March 2007

Issue no. 2—November 2006

Issue no. 1—July 2006



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THE BLACK SEA MONITOR

The ICBSS has identified the need for a special circular on developments in and around the Black Sea region that goes beyond the mere news brief format. Therefore, the Centre has set up an electronic review focused particularly on the Black Sea region, aiming to provide stakeholders and other interested parties around the globe with an exclusive information service. The Monitor offers brief commentaries and refers key documents, publications and events of interest that impact on the wider Black Sea region.