

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, ~~air cargo~~
- 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?) (Expansion plans for rail transport in BLG, ROM, GEO...)
- 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? - especially ROM and BLG, possibly information about national infrastructure plans) (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:

- Thursday, April 23th 2026, 2 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Location:

- Berlin, Representative Office of the State of Hamburg/Landesvertretung Hamburg (Jaegerstr. 1, 10117 Berlin)

Participants:

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

Agenda:

Black Sea Logistics Hub: Transport Corridors, Infrastructure Development and Logistics
(Time: 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.)

2:00 p.m.	Opening and welcome
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Liv Assmann, Staatsrätin und Bevollmächtigte der Freien und Hansestadt Hamburg beim Bund, der Europäischen Union und für auswärtige Angelegenheiten• Prof. Dr. Peer Witten, Member of the Advisory Board, Otto Group, Member of the Board, German Eastern Business Association (Ost-Ausschuss)• Christoph Beeck, Member of the Management Board, ProCredit Bank, Speaker for South East Europe, German Eastern Business Association (Ost-Ausschuss)
2:15 p.m.	Key note
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Johanna Deimel, Member of the Board, Southeast Europe Association (SOG) <i>„Strategic Role and Changing Significance of the Black Sea Region“</i>
2:45 p.m.	Panel and discussion: International and European Programmes and Projects in the Black Sea Region
	<p>Impulse: Michael Voegele, Deputy Head of Unit, Directorate-General for Enlargement and Eastern Neighbourhood (DG ENEST), NEAR C.1. Regional Strategy and Investments Neighbourhood East & Türkiye, European Commission <i>“The EU Black Sea Strategy and Connectivity Agenda“</i></p>
	<p><u>Moderator</u>: Norbert Beckmann Dierkes, Head of the Bulgaria Office, Konrad Adenauer Foundation; Burgas Connectivity Forum</p>
4:00 p.m.	Break and networking
4:30 p.m.	Panel and discussion: Potential for Black Sea- and Hinterland Logistics and Infrastructure
	<p>Impulse: Heinrich Kerstgens, Corporate Representative, Rhenus SE – <i>Base Line: Transport corridors and traffic in the Black Sea (tbc)</i></p>
5:45 p.m.	Summary and closing remarks
6:00 p.m.	Get-together (60 min.)