



**WIDER BLACK SEA:
PERSPECTIVES FOR INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL SECURITY**

January 14-15, 2008
Golden Palace Hotel, Yerevan, Armenia

Day 1: Monday January 14

08:30 **Conference Registration**

9:00 **Introductory Speech**

Tigran Mkrtchyan, Executive Director, Armenian International Policy Research Group (AIPRG)

Welcoming Remarks

Peter Semneby, Special Representative of the European Union for the South Caucasus

Robert Simmons, NATO Special Representative for the South Caucasus and Central Asia (recorded message)

Marc Bojanic, Deputy Head of the OSCE Office in Yerevan

Aram Simonyan, Rector, Yerevan State University

Panel A: The Notion of the Wider Black Sea: Security, Political and Economic Heritage

09:30-10:00 **Session I: The concept of the Wider Black Sea**

CHAIR: Samvel Farmanyan, President, Association of Swedish Graduates of Armenia (ASGA), Yerevan, Armenia

Dr. Asbed Kotchikian, Assistant Director of International Affairs Program and Instructor of Political Science, Florida State University, USA
(In) formal structures in the Black Sea as Tools of Cooperation

Dr. Gayane Novikova, Director, Center for Strategic Analysis SPECTRUM, Yerevan, Armenia
Wider Black Sea – a New Dimension or a Vicious Circle?

10:00-10:30 **Questions and Answers/Discussion**

10:30-11:00 **Coffee Break**

11:00-12:00 Session II: Security, Political and Economic Components

CHAIR: Despina-Ino Afentouli, Caucasus Regional Coordinator, Public Diplomacy Division, NATO, Brussels

Vasilios Margaris, General Director, Stock Exchange Center, Thessaloniki, Greece
Creating Economic Development through Regional Cooperation in the Wider Black Sea Region

Tigran Jrbashyan, Armenian Director, Armenian-European Policy and Legal Advice Center (AEPLAC), Yerevan, Armenia
Wider Black Sea: Is there a common agenda for economic and institutional reforms?

Dennis Sammut, Executive Director, London Information Network on Conflicts and State Building, UK
A Holistic Approach to Security and Conflict Resolution in the Caucasus Caspian Region

12:00-13:00 Questions and Answers/Discussion

13:00-14:30 Intermission

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

14:30-14:50 Vladimir Kazimirov, Ambassador; Vice President, Association of Russian Diplomats, Moscow, Russia
Elimination of Karabagh Conflict – A Necessary Condition for Regional Safety and Cooperation around the Black Sea

Panel B: Possible Institutional Role of the Wider Black Sea in Conflict Resolution Process

14:50–16:20 Session III: Viewing the conflicts in the region from the perspective of Wider Black Sea

CHAIR: Dr. Michael Baranick, Senior Researcher, National Defense University, Washington, USA

Dr. Michael Baranick, Senior Researcher, National Defense University, Washington, USA
A Systems View of Where Actors Sit on Issue and the Impact of Finding a Solution

Alexander Rusetsky, Director, South Caucasus Institute for Regional Security, Tbilisi, Georgia
Perspectives of Arrangement of Armed Conflicts in the Wider Black Sea Region

Lidia Prisac, PhD Candidate, Institute of Cultural Patrimony, Academy of Science of Moldova, Chisinau
Transnistria in Geopolitical Context of the Wider Black Sea – Historiographical Approach

Ekaterina Zezulina, National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Ukraine
Crimean-Tatarian issue and stability in the Wider Black Sea Region

Dr. Khachik Galstyan, President, Armenian Conflict and Peace Research Association; Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Russian-Armenian State University, Yerevan, Armenia
Karabakh Knot as a Factor of Stability in the Region

Tamar Shahabian, Graduate Program in International Affairs, The New School, New-York, USA
Establishing a Regional Framework for Addressing Secessionist Conflicts in the Black Sea Region

16:20-17:30 Questions and Answers/Discussion

17:30-18:00 **Coffee Break**

Panel C: Viewing the Wider Black Sea from Armenia

18:00-18:45 **Session IV: How Wider Black Sea is viewed in Armenia? Compatibility of Armenia's foreign policy and security strategy in the context of the Wider Black Sea**

Chair: Prof. Nikolay Hovhannisyan, Corresponding member, National Academy of Sciences, Yerevan, Armenia

Prof. Ruben Safrastyan, Director, Oriental Studies Institute, Academy of Sciences, Yerevan, Armenia

Armenia and Turkey: Meeting on the Coast of the Black Sea

Arman Grigoryan, Lecturer, College of William and Mary, USA

Armenian Turkish Relations; Will They Ever Become Normal?

Giro Manoyan, International Secretary, Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Dashnaksutyun), Yerevan, Armenia

A view of the Wider Black Sea Region from Armenia

18:45-19:30 **Questions and Answers/Discussion**

Day 2: Tuesday January 15

08:30 **Conference Registration**

Panel A: Institutional and Global Challenges for the Wider Black Sea Region

09:00-10:00 **Session I: Is the Wider Black Sea a station on the way to EU and NATO?**

CHAIR: Ara Hovsepyan, Chief Executive Officer, Millennium Challenge Account – Armenia CNCO

Denis Corboy, Director, Caucasus Policy Institute, King's College London, UK

EU as a Black Sea Power; Immediate, Medium-term and Long-term Perspectives

Borut Grgic, Director, Institute for Strategic Studies, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Europe's low-yield strategic vision for the Black Sea

Licinia Simao, Visiting Research Fellow, Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), Brussels; PhD candidate at the University of Coimbra, Portugal

Contrasting Understandings of Security around the Black Sea: Managing Complexity in the Wider Europe

Eka Sepashvili, Deputy Head of European Integration Coordination Department, Office of State Minister on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, State Chancellery, Tbilisi, Georgia

Global Challenges in Black Sea Region and Security Aspects of Economic cooperation

10:00-10:45 **Questions and Answers/Discussion**

10:45-11:15 **Coffee Break**

11:15-12:15 **Session II: Views on the Wider Black Sea: NATO, EU, OSCE, USA and Russia**

CHAIR: Eduard Khojayan, Honorary Consul of the Kingdom of Spain in Armenia

Marietta Koenig, Researcher, Center for OSCE Research, Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg, Germany

A Ring of Friends? Prospects for Regional Security Cooperation between the EU and the Wider Black Sea Region

Dr. Olga Vorkunova, Senior Researcher, Institute of World Economy and International Relations, Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia

Wider Black Sea: NATO, EU, SCO and Russia (Competition and Cooperation)

Plamen Dimitrov, Bulgarian Geopolitical Society, Sofia, Bulgaria

Wider Black Sea and the New Frontiers of the European Geopolitical Space

12:15-13:00 Questions and Answers/Discussion

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

13:00-13:20 Matthew Bryza, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, US State Department, Washington DC, USA

The Wider Black Sea Region: a strategic View from the US

13:20-14:20 Intermission

14:20-15:20 Session III: Views and roles of regional actors

CHAIR: Tevan Poghosyan, Executive Director, International Center for Human Development, Yerevan, Armenia

Dr. Alla Yazkova, Head of the Center for Mediterranean and Black Sea Problems, Institute of Europe, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia

Russia's Interests and Policy in the Wider Black Sea Region

Oleh Rybachuk, Adviser to the President of Ukraine

Ukraine's view on perspectives of different regional organizations and initiatives in the light of the Wider Black Sea

Dr. Liviu Muresan, Executive President, EURISC Foundation - European Institute for Risk, Security and Communication Management, Romania

Energy Security-Critical Infrastructures Protection in the Perspective of Bucharest NATO Summit 2008

Ara Tadevosyan, Director, MediaMax, Yerevan, Armenia

Armenia between the Wider Black Sea Region and the Greater Middle East

George Mchedlishvili, Associate Professor, Tbilisi Institute of Asia and Africa, Georgia

The Role of the Wider Black Sea Region in Georgia's Westward Quest

15:20-16:10 Questions and Answers/Discussion

16:10-16:40 Coffee Break

16:40-17:40 Session IV: Can there be a shared strategy towards the Wider Black Sea?

CHAIR: Oleh Rybachuk, Adviser to the President of Ukraine, Caucasus-Caspian Commission of Eminent People, Kiev

Prof. Mustafa Aydin, Head, Department of International Relations, University of Economics and Technology, Ankara, Turkey
Institutional and Global challenges for the Wider Black Sea region

James Bosbotinis, Fellow, Armenian International Policy Research Group (AIPRG), London, UK
Assessing the Strategic Importance of the Black Sea Region

Diba Nigar Goksel, Senior Analyst, European Stability Initiative (ESI); Editor-in-Chief, Turkish Policy Quarterly (TPQ), Istanbul, Turkey
Diverging strategies regarding the Wider Black Sea

17:40-18:20 Questions and Answers/Discussion

Panel B: Perspectives of Different Regional Organizations and Initiatives in the Light of the Wider Black Sea

18:20-19:00 Session V: Wider Black Sea: an alternative or supplementary framework to different regional organizations and initiatives

CHAIR: Diba Nigar Goksel, Senior Analyst, European Stability Initiative (ESI); Editor-in-Chief, Turkish Policy Quarterly (TPQ), Istanbul, Turkey

Dr. Arman Kirakosyan, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia
BSEC and the Concept of the Wider Black Sea

Stepan Safaryan, MP, “Heritage” Party, Member of Foreign Affairs Committee, National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia

Wider Black Sea Region and the Era of Europeanization: Challenges, Opportunities & Limits of Transformation

Rauf Rajabov, Ambassador for Peace; Manager, 3rd View” Informational-Analytical Agency, Baku, Azerbaijan

“Geopolitical platforms” and the Space of the 4 Seas

Alexander Iskandaryan, Director, Caucasus Media Institute, Yerevan, Armenia
Wider Black Sea Region: Building Imagined Identity

Dr. Ashot Alexanyan, Associate Professor, Political Science Department, Faculty of International Relations, Yerevan State University, Armenia

The Role of Civil Society Institutes in the democratization processes in the Wider Black Sea Region

19:00-19:40 Questions and Answers/Discussion