

SPEAKERS

Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES

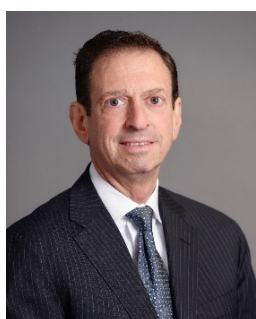
***Secretary General of the Permanent International Secretariat (PERMIS)
Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)***



Ambassador Michael B. Christides is the Secretary General of the Permanent International Secretariat (PERMIS) of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), headquartered in Istanbul, Turkey. Born in Thessaloniki, Greece, Ambassador Christides joined the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) in 1976 as first in his Class and served with distinction until his retirement in August 2014. Among other assignments, he served as Ambassador of Greece to Bulgaria, to Turkey, and to Argentina, and held senior posts in the Hellenic MFA as Political Director for South East Europe, as Director General for International Organizations, International Security & Cooperation and as Director General for International Economic Relations. Ambassador Christides participated in many international meetings and conferences and has spent more than 20 years dealing with Southeast European/Balkan issues, while travelling extensively in the region. He acquired a broad knowledge of the political and economic realities there and established a wide personal network of high-level political, business, academic, and media contacts. He speaks fluent English, German, French, Italian, and moderately good Spanish. After his retirement, Ambassador Christides was elected by the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs as Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS, assuming his duties on 1 July 2015. After the unanimous endorsement by all BSEC Member States on 15 December 2017, the same Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs reappointed Ambassador Christides for a second three-year term-in-office, from 1 July 2018 until 30 June 2021.

Mr. Steven N. SCHONBERGER

***Regional Director, Sustainable Development Department for Europe and Central Asia,
World Bank***



Steven Navon Schonberger is Regional Director for the World Bank Group's Sustainable Development Department for the Europe and Central Asia (ECA) region. In this role, he is responsible—*inter alia*—for oversight and support of the World Bank's sustainable development programs in agriculture, environment, urban, social, land and water. At his previous role as Water Director, he was encompassing water supply and sanitation, irrigation, transboundary waters, and watershed management in the South Asia, East Asia and Pacific, and Europe and Central Asia Regions. An Agricultural Economist by training, Mr. Schonberger has worked on issues of water resources management, water utility reform, climate resilience, agriculture and irrigation, and finance in virtually all regions of the Globe.

In addition to the World Bank, Mr. Schonberger has worked with UN organizations, private companies, and international NGOs. His recent areas of professional focus include moving to a circular economy approach in water-scarce cities, governance and institutional reforms in irrigated agriculture, and developing innovative partnerships with the private sector for technology and policy innovation. He has authored several World Bank publications on issues of microfinance, agricultural finance, and natural resources policy, as well as co-authored journal articles and book chapters on similar topics. Mr. Schonberger is a native of the State of California in the U.S., where he gained his strong interest and concern for issues of water, economic development, and environmental sustainability, and has lived in Europe, Asia, and Africa.

Ms. Iryna STAVCHUK

Deputy Minister of Regional and European Integration of Ukraine



Ms. Iryna Stavchuk has been involved in climate policy work in Ukraine for more than 15 years. First, she worked as a climate policy advocate for local environmental NGOs. Then, from 2008 to 2019, she served as the Coordinator of the Climate Action Network in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. In 2015 to 2019, Iryna Stavchuk served on the Board of Climate Investment Funds of the World Bank as an NGO observer. For more than 10 years, Ms. Stavchuk worked with the Ukrainian authorities as a member of civil society, participated in climate working groups, lobbied for the reduction and prevention of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and helped build the capacity of civil society. Since 2019, Stavchuk has worked at the Ministry of Energy and Environment of Ukraine, and, after its administrative reform, at the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, continuing to develop and implement important objectives on Ukraine's climate policy, in both the areas of mitigation and adaptation. She is responsible for the implementation of the system of comprehensive monitoring, reporting, and verification of GHG emissions in Ukraine, which was launched in 2021, as well as the implementation of the new law on ozone-depleting substances and fluorinated gases. Since August 2020, Ms. Stavchuk also serves as GEF Focal Point for Ukraine.

Ms, Patrizia BUSOLINI

***Policy Officer, Sea-basin Strategies, Maritime Regional Cooperation and Maritime Security;
Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE); European Commission***



Ms. Patrizia Busolini is a policy officer at DG MARE Unit dealing with Sea-basin Strategies, Maritime Regional Cooperation and Maritime Security. She leads the Common Maritime Agenda (CMA) for the Black Sea to support regional cooperation for a more sustainable blue economy in the Black Sea. CMA is the 3rd and most recent EU sea basin initiative that joins similar frameworks of cooperation in the Atlantic and Western Mediterranean. CMA involves diverse Black Sea stakeholders: policy actors and public authorities, business, and academia, as well as civil society and international organization towards the goals of ensuring healthy marine ecosystems, innovative blue economy, and investment.

Ms. Busolini equally works on similar regional processes that are active in the Mediterranean basin. Prior to her current position, she led Enlargement and Integration Action of the EU Commission Joint Research Center, focusing the identification and implementation of projects supporting Horizon 2020-associated countries in participating in EU research and innovation projects.

Before joining the EU Commission, Ms. Busolini was responsible for the implementation of the Axis 4 of the EU INTERREG Mediterranean Program and the related Mediterranean intergovernmental platform focusing on capacity building of the program countries in the identification and implementation of joint policies and projects targeting common challenges in strategic sectors such as maritime surveillance, coastal/maritime tourism, and innovation.

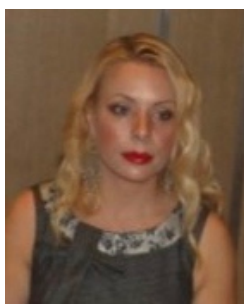
Mr. Nicola BERTOLINI
Manager, Ambiente SPA



Nicola Bertolini started his career as Italian Permanent Representative at European Union–Environmental Department before serving as Environmental Consultant in the public and private sector. In the current position of International Development Manager at Ambiente SPA—a top-tier Italian environmental engineering company—Mr. Bertolini uses his extensive expertise in managing and coordinating multidisciplinary teams of professionals from different work experiences. As Project Director, he also has extensive expertise in sustainability, environmental, and energy sectors, with hands-on expertise in project planning, development, management, and contractual and administrative issues.

Over the past years, Mr. Bertolini has amassed experience and built strong partnerships in working with multilateral donors and foreign governments with a focus on the following regions: the Black Sea, Western Balkans, EU27, and Sub-Saharan Africa. He holds an MSc in Sustainable Development and Environmental Economics from University of Pise, Italy.

Ms. Iryna MAKARENKO
Pollution Monitoring and Assessment Officer, Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution



Ms. Iryna Makarenko is a Pollution Monitoring and Assessment Officer (PMA Officer) at Permanent Secretariat to the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Bucharest Convention), an international intergovernmental organization and the Regional Sea Convention for the Black Sea based in Istanbul, Turkey. Before moving to Turkey, she worked as a diplomat in the Mission of Ukraine to the European Union in Brussels as well as Advisor to Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine on European Integration and as a diplomat at the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. She holds a master's degree in Environmental and Energy Law (Faculty of Law, Catholic University of Leuven, Kingdom of Belgium), as well as Certificates on Water Law (University of Dundee, Scotland), Environmental Diplomacy (University of Geneva, Switzerland), and Regional Economics (University of Genoa, Italy).

Mr. Owen MCINTYRE
Director LLM, University College Cork



Professor, School of Law, University College Cork; Director, LL.M. (*Environmental & Natural Resources Law*) Programme: <https://www.ucc.ie/en/ckl48/>; Co-Director, Centre for Law & the Environment: <https://www.ucc.ie/en/lawenvironment/>

Prof. McIntyre's principal interest is the field of Environmental Law, with a particular research focus on International Water Law. He is the General Editor of the *Journal of Water Law*, and has served as the inaugural Chair of the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law's Specialist Group on Water and Wetlands, as a panel member of the Project Complaints Mechanism of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), and as a member of the Scientific Committee of the European Environment Agency. He holds visiting positions at the University of Dundee, Charles University Prague, Xiamen University, and Wuhan University.

Ms. Bérengère PRINCE
Lead Natural Resources Management Specialist, World Bank



Ms. Bérengère Prince, Lead Natural Resources Management Specialist, joined the World Bank in 2010. Over the past decade, she has led several blue engagements in Africa, Europe, and Latin America. Since her transfer to the World Bank's Europe and Central Asia Region Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy Global Practice in March 2020, she has been leading the preparation of a new regional program for the Black Sea and serves as a technical lead for teams working in the blue space in Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Russia. Since September 2019, she also led the preparation of the World Bank report *Realizing the Blue Economy Potential of Albania*. Ms. Prince started her career at the fisheries department of the French Ministry of Agriculture during the French rotating chairmanship of the EU Council in 2000. She is a French national with an MSc in Agronomy, Natural Resources Management, and Fisheries Economics, as well as an LL.M. in International Business Law.

Ms. Oksana RAKOVYCH
Environmental Specialist, World Bank



Ms. Oksana Rakovych, Environmental Specialist, joined the World Bank's Europe and Central Asia Region Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy Global Practice in 2019. Ms. Rakovych, a Ukrainian national, provides safeguards supervision to projects in the Eastern Europe CMU (Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova) and supports different projects in forestry, climate change, and biodiversity conservation.

Before joining to the World Bank, Ms Rakovych gained extensive experience working in the private sector and on international infrastructure projects, contributing to the successful implementation of projects in wind power, hydro, district heating, power transmission, buildings energy efficiency, and transport infrastructure, as well as in other sectors.

Ms. Rositsa STOEVA

Executive Manager, BSEC PERMIS; BBSEA Project Manager



Ms. Rositsa Stoeva serves as Executive Manager at the Permanent International Secretariat (PERMIS) of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), headquartered in Istanbul, Turkey. Born in Dimitrovgrad, Bulgaria, Ms. Stoeva joined the Bulgaria Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2003. She served in Istanbul and Skopje. Before joining the BSEC PERMIS in 2017, she held a position of Head of Regional Cooperation Department at the Southeastern Europe Directorate, Counsellor, at the Bulgaria Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ms. Stoeva has spent nearly two decades addressing Southeastern European and Balkan issues and travelling extensively in the region.

Mr. Svetoslav STOYANOV

Blue Economy Expert; BBSEA Program Officer



Mr. Svetoslav Stoyanov is the Program Officer for the preparation phase of the *Blueing the Black Sea Regional Project* managed by the Permanent International Secretariat (PERMIS) of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC). Prior to joining the team, Mr. Stoyanov worked as a policy officer for the European Commission (Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries) where he had acquired nearly a decade of hands-on experience in strategic policy development and portfolio management (e.g., Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea, Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda for the Black Sea, Atlantic Action Plan [2018 evaluation](#) and [2020 update](#)), regional cooperation (the Black Sea, EU Atlantic Area, EU Outermost Regions), financial planning, and funding instruments. He coordinated the organization of the annual Black Sea Blue Economy Stakeholder Conference in 2015 to 2018. Mr. Stoyanov is a lawyer by training and has worked in the public and private sectors in Germany and Belgium (circular economy, competition law).