



CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE BLACK SEA ENVIRONMENT: GREENING ENERGY POLICY

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The Black Sea area





General features of the Black Sea

- n Crossroad of political, economic and societal cultures
- n Economic, geo-political and trade hub, crucial energy trade corridor connecting Asia with Europe
- n Severe regional discrepancies, migration, “frozen” conflicts, environmental degradation, and illegal trafficking
- n Rich natural ecosystems and diversity of species, provision of goods for humans and their economic viability



Environmental pressures and threats

a) Water resources and management

- n Untreated sewage, intensive agriculture caused over-fertilisation of the sea and eutrophication, introduction of alien species, over-fishing, inadequate management of solid waste

b) Coastal areas, forests and inland ecosystems

- n Illegal logging and fires, uncontrolled urban sprawl and industrial sites set high pressure on the coastlines, transport, infrastructures and tourism contribute to erosion and damage of ecosystems

c) Natural and technical risks

- n Oil pollution from wasteful use or disposal on land and accidental discharge from ships, low safety standards of nuclear energy power plants, frozen conflicts and hostilities, non-reliance on renewable energy sources



Energy features in the Black Sea

- n Strategic importance of Black Sea countries due to extraction or transportation of rich energy resources in oil and gas
- n Dependence of Europe on Black Sea countries' resources
- n Negligence of renewable energy resources
- n Tradition in nuclear energy (Armenia, Russia etc.)



Environmental pressures and threats from energy use and climate change

- n Generation of greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants from the dominant energy production model based on fossil fuel
- n Lack of renewable energy sources
- n Leakage and waste production (solid, liquid and gaseous) from oil and gas industry
- n Oil spills from accidents during the transportation across the Black Sea
- n Low safety standards in nuclear energy plants
- n Potential of drought, floods, availability of water due to warmer temperatures (affecting agriculture and rural economies)
- n Possibility of sea level rise, migration of species
- n Negative impacts on tourist industry, urban environment, coastal zones



Institutions and actors

- n Multiplicity of institutions and actors for environmental protection and cooperation (indicating the complexity of the situation and the will for international or regional cooperation)

However:

- n Governments unable to operationalise the results of conventions, protocols and policies. Inefficiencies and inconsistencies in implementation procedures, unclear legislation, jurisdictional overlaps and severe gaps
- n Lack of political commitment, which influences negatively policy making procedures and national / regional cooperation
- n Numerous institutions and actors have not led until now to cohesion and synergy of actions, rather than overlapping and lack of clarity and coordination

Need for :

- n Strengthened, more effective, and more coherent institutional and legislative framework for international and regional cooperation and environmental governance
- n EU as a driving force for institutional change
- n Greece, Bulgaria and Romania to promote the EU agenda



Policy recommendations for integration of actions for “greening” energy policy (I)

- n Use of renewable energy policies and technologies for energy efficiency
- n Holistic approach towards a cross-sectoral policy integration
- n Obligatory conduction of Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA)
- n Reinforcement of the BSEC’s role for the enhancement of horizontal actions for the environment, the allocation of financial resources and the management of projects that need sufficient political and technical support
- n Multilateral environmental agreements among Black Sea states for better balance of fossil fuels and alternative energy resources
- n Implementation of early warning prediction models, scenarios of potential environmental hazards and improvement of disaster and crisis management



Policy recommendations for integration of actions for “greening” energy policy (II)

- n Achievement of EU’s technical and environmental high standards in nuclear energy policies
- n Provision of experience and promotion of institutional setting by the EU member states (Greece, Bulgaria and Romania)
- n Taking full advantage of opportunities originated from EU policies and programmes (e.g. ENP)
- n Harmonisation of environmental legislation in Black Sea countries
- n Ratification of monitoring mechanisms for data collection and ongoing evaluation of the Black Sea environment (Environmental Observatory Networks)
- n Enhancement of notions of legitimacy and efficiency
- n Transparency and accountability of national, regional and local governments through strict independent evaluations



Conclusions

- n EU should be seen as a strong ally, since it could cooperate with Black Sea countries in order to develop strategies for adoption of “Environmental Governance”: Greening of energy policies, “environmental aquis”, legal compliance
- n International funding should be mobilized including international funding mechanisms (e.g. Kyoto mechanism)
- n BSEC needs to be strengthened with a view to enhance cooperation among countries and better address the challenges of environmental governance and sustainability in the Black Sea
- n Internal governance reforms, administrative and technical support, participatory processes and coordination in accordance to environmental requirements are needed
- n Public authorities, NGOs, civil society and other stakeholders should be empowered in order to support environmental reforms, towards “greening” Black Sea



Thank you for your Attention!

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