



### Cooperation in the Danube-Black Sea basin: example of the Black Sea Commission and International Commission on the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)

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nternational Commission for the Protection zum Schutz of the Danube River der Donau

Internationale Kommission

#### THE DANUBE RIVER BASIN the most international basin in the world

- 10% of Europe territory >>
- 81 Mio Inhabitants (10% of Europe) >>
- **18** Countries >>
- diverse cultures >>
- particular situation of transition >> countries and new EU members and candidates
- » regional social and economic disparities





# **Danube-Black Sea case (1)**



- The ecological state of the coastal waters of the Western Black Sea has improved significantly since the late 1980s and early 1990s (due to reduced nutrient inputs which have led to reduced eutrophication and fewer algal blooms, recovery of animal populations on the seafloor and an improved regeneration of macrophytes);
- At the same time, nutrients still enter the Black Sea from the land based sources, and in particular, through rivers. The Danube river accounts for over half of the nutrient input to the Black Sea and almost half of the inputs of oil from land based activities. The long practice of the overfishing has also depleted many fish stocks;
- To help to overcome these problems, the Regional Sea Convention for the Black Sea (1992) and the Danube River Commission (1998) were created.

### Danube-Black Sea case (2)



#### **Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution**

- Was signed in **Bucharest** in April 1992;
- Ratified by all six Black Sea Countries in the beginning of **1994**;
- Its basic objective is to substantiate the general obligation of the Contracting Parties to prevent, reduce and control the pollution in the Black Sea in order to protect and preserve the marine environment and to provide a legal framework for co-operation and concerted actions to fulfil this obligation;
- We have:
- 6 Contracting Parties,
- 6 Advisory Groups,
- 4 Protocols,
- 4 people in the Secretariat ☺

### Danube-Black Sea case (3)



#### It has 4 thematic Protocols:

- 1. Protocol on the Protection of the Black Sea Marine Environment Against Pollution from Land Based Sources (LBS Protocol);
- 2. Protocol on the Protection of the Black Sea Marine Environment Against Pollution by **Dumping**;
- 3. Protocol on Cooperation in Combating Pollution of the Black Sea Marine Environment by **Oil and Other Harmful Substances in Emergency Situations**;
- 4. The Black Sea Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation Protocol (CBD Protocol).
- **Strategic Action Plan (SAP)** on the Protection and Rehabilitation of the Black Sea adopted in 1996 and amended in **2009**.

### Danube-Black Sea case (4)



#### 6 Advisory Groups

- The Advisory Groups to the Black Sea Commission are the **main source of expertise, information and support** in the implementation of the Black Sea Strategic Action Plan.
- 1. ESAS Advisory Group on the Environmental **Safety Aspects of Shipping**;
- 2. PMA Advisory Group on the **Pollution Monitoring and Assessment**;
- 3. LBS Advisory Group on Control of **Pollution from Land Based Sources**;
- 4. ICZM Advisory group on the Development of Common Methodologies for **Integrated Coastal Zone Management**;
- 5. CBD Advisory Group on the **Conservation of Biological Diversity**;
- 6. FOMLR Advisory Group on the Environmental Aspects of the **Management of Fisheries** and other Marine Living Resources.

## Danube-Black Sea case (5)



 Strategic Action Plan (BS SAP) on the Protection and Rehabilitation of the Black Sea (2009):

Item 3.1 Key management approaches.

The Black Sea SAP will adhere to <u>3 key environmental management</u> <u>approaches</u>. These are:

- Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM);
- The Ecosystem Approach; and
- Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM).

The BS SAP was elaborated from consensus reached at a multinational level



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