

UNGY IV

BLACK SEA MARITIME SECURITY 25 JUNE 2009, İSTANBUL

Good Afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen,
Very Warm welcome to the European Capital of Culture for 2010,

It is my pleasure to address to you today on the occasion of the Tenth International Export Control Conference. I hope you had a fruitful session this morning. Within next 15 minutes I will try to give you a quick brief about the security of the Black Sea Maritime domain.

Black Sea is an area of great importance. Preservation of security in the Black Sea through regional cooperation is a key to maintain the stability of this region.

Our policy aims at promoting regional ownership in an inclusive manner, while contributing to the climate of confidence among the countries of the region.

In addition to the regional ownership, making use of the existing initiatives and mechanisms to the extent possible is of utmost importance. Avoiding duplication of efforts, focusing on the requirements and priorities of the region, promoting complementarity and synergy among the efforts of the international actors and indigenous mechanisms, adherence to the principle of inclusiveness and transparency constitute other important features of Turkey's approach to the Black Sea.

The existing mechanisms in the region, such as the "Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC)", "BLACKSEAFOR (Black Sea Naval Cooperation Task Group)", "Operation Black Sea Harmony", "Black Sea Coast and Border Guards Cooperation Forum", "Black Sea Border Coordination and Information Centre Initiative", "Confidence and Security Building Measures in the Naval Field in the Black Sea" and "Black Sea Commission" which is the body responsible for implementing the "Convention of the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution" testify to the fact that the spirit and tradition of regional cooperation have well taken root among the countries of the region.

Among these existing mechanisms I would like to highlight few of them:

OPERATION BLACK SEA HARMONY

- **Operation Black Sea Harmony**, is closely affiliated with NATO and complements NATO's Operation Active Endeavour.

It is recognized as a major security provider in the Black Sea maritime domain.

- This Operation has a **multinational** character with the participation of **Turkey**, the **Russian Federation** and **Ukraine**. Romania had also joined this operation fully as of 31st March 2009.

BLACKSEAFOR (BLACK SEA NAVAL COOPERATION TASK GROUP)

- **BLACKSEAFOR**, has a considerable potential in terms of ensuring maritime security in the Black Sea and deepening interoperability among the littoral states.
- **Transformation** of the BLACKSEAFOR and expansion of its scope of its activities to better contribute to global efforts in combating terrorism and proliferation of WMD and to deter possible asymmetric threats in the Black Sea maritime area is important.

Maritime Risk Assessment

The Special Representatives of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs at the level of Deputy Ministers of the Participating States to the BLACKSEAFOR Agreement met in Kyiv on March 31, 2005. The Representatives re-affirmed their conviction that the littoral States should uphold their responsibility for maintaining peace and security in the Black Sea by utilizing efficiently the already available instruments of regional cooperation, namely BLACKSEAFOR and the Document on Confidence and Security Building Measures in the Naval Field in the Black Sea. The Representatives of the six Littoral States assessed and approved also the document on "Maritime Risk Assessment in the Black Sea". According to the agreed Maritime Risk Assessment document, *"The strategic location of the Black Sea at the crossroads of Europe, Asia and the Middle East and as an important transit route makes it vulnerable to asymmetric risks. Instability in the Black Sea region would have widespread implications for the security and stability of the Euro-Atlantic area. **While there is no security void in the Black Sea maritime areas, asymmetric risks, organized crime and***

A NEW INITIATIVE: LAUNCHING OF "BLACK SEA DEFENCE MINISTERIAL PROCESS"

Southeast European Defence Ministerial (SEDM) Process is the encouraging model for this new initiative.

- We believe that SEDM process represents a valuable model for similar efforts in the Black Sea region. The fact that Ukraine has joined the SEDM as a member and Georgia in observer status indicates the interest of some of the littorals in such a cooperation mechanism in their region as well.
- We have already informed the Black Sea littoral states of our idea of launching a "Black Sea Defence Ministerial Process" in order to get their preliminary thoughts.
- Black Sea Defence Ministerial Process aims to establish a forum for good neighbourly relations, strengthening regional defence capabilities and confidence building interaction among the countries of the region. At the moment we are of the opinion that it would be best of its use if this Forum is limited with the participation of the littoral states.

To this end, High Level Experts Meeting was convened on 7-8 May 2009 in Ankara to further discuss the future and content of the Black Sea Defence Ministerial (BSDM). Meeting provided a good opportunity for all the parties to discuss and contribute to the

process prior to the BDMP. Romania, Ukraine, Russian Federation and Bulgaria sent able experts to the said Experts Meeting and fruitful discussions were held. The first Defence Ministerial is intended to be held at the last quarter of this year.

I'd like to conclude my presentation here. Thank you for your attention. If you have any questions, I am happy to answer them.