

## **SPEAKERS**

### **Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES**

***Secretary General of the Permanent International Secretariat (PERMIS)  
The 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. Sebastian MOLINEUS**

***Regional Director for the South Caucasus, World Bank***



Sebastian Molineus is the World Bank Regional Director for the South Caucasus since 2019 where he is responsible for developing the World Bank's country strategies, managing the portfolio of lending, advisory, and convening services, coordinating with development partners, and engaging with other key stakeholders on economic growth and poverty reduction in the region. Sebastian joined the International Finance Corporation in 2002 where he managed corporate governance reform programs in Russia and across the Middle East and North Africa region, based in Moscow and then in Cairo. In 2008, he joined the World Bank in Washington as a Senior Operations Officer responsible for financial and private sector development and then became a Practice Manager for the Capital Markets Global Practice in 2012. Sebastian was appointed as Director to the Finance and Markets Global Practice in 2014, and in 2018, became the Director for the Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation Global Practice. Prior to joining the World Bank Group, he worked at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in the Financial, Fiscal, and Enterprise Affairs Division. Sebastian holds an MBA from the HEC School of Management in France, and a master's degree from the University of Passau's School of Law in Germany.

## **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. Nino TANDILASHVILI**

***Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia***



Nino Tandilashvili has served at the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia since 2013 and has held the position of Deputy Minister for the last three years. She provides oversight of the Ministry's units responsible for international relations, legal affairs, European integration, biodiversity, forestry, environmental assessment, climate change, environmental information and education as well as the National Environmental Agency subordinated to the Ministry.

A lawyer by training, Ms. Tandilashvili holds a master's degree in European and International Law from Amsterdam University. She actively participates in the environmental lawmaking process aimed at the approximation of the national legislation of Georgia with the EU regulations. She has co-authored the 2017 Environmental Impact Assessment Code.

## **Ms. Paola AGOSTINI**

***Lead Natural Resources Specialist, World Bank***



Dr. Paola Agostini is a Lead Natural Resources Economist in the World Bank's Europe and Central Asia Region Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy Global Practice. Dr. Agostini leads programs and projects in Central Asia that help to reverse land degradation and increase resilience of people, ecosystems, and infrastructures. She also works in the Black Sea region on a program to reduce pollution and increase resilience to climate change. Additionally, Dr. Agostini is coordinating the ECCA30 partnership for the World Bank with a special focus to restore 30 million hectares of degraded landscapes by 2030 in Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. Previously, she was the Global Lead for Forests, Landscapes and Ecosystems for the World Bank, working on projects and programs that aim to improve connectivity of Protected Areas, forests, agroforestry, Rangeland, and agriculture land for increased productivity.

Dr. Agostini coordinated TerrAfrica, a regional partnership program in over 26 Sub-Saharan countries that promotes Sustainable Land and Water Management to help reduce poverty, improve livelihoods, and encourage resilient landscapes development. She also served as the coordinator for the GEF Program in Latin America and Africa, overseeing a portfolio of over 100 projects dealing with Climate Change, Biodiversity, Land Degradation, Chemicals, and International Waters. Paola Agostini holds a PhD in Economics from the University of California San Diego, and a master's degree in Economic and Social Sciences from Universita Bocconi, Milan, Italy.

## **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 experience 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. Darejan KAPANADZE**

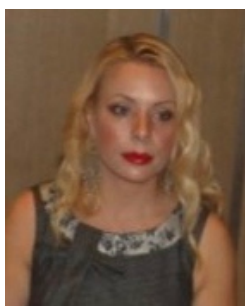
***Senior Environmental Specialist, World Bank***



Dr. Darejan Kapanadze is a Senior Environmental Specialist in the World Bank's Europe and Central Asia Region Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy Global Practice and is based in the South Caucasus Office of the World Bank in Tbilisi, Georgia. In the past 23 years with the World Bank, she has managed projects aimed at the development of Protected Areas, forestry, integrated coastal management, and adaptation to climate change. Dr. Kapanadze has worked in many other sectors guiding the World Bank's clients in the application of environmental safeguard policies and standards to investment operations. She holds a master's degree in Environmental Policy and Regulation from Columbia University in the City of New York, and a PhD in Biology from Tbilisi State University.

## **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), 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, has 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. Berengere 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. 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 2015-2018. Mr. Stoyanov is a lawyer by training and has worked in the public and private sectors in Germany and Belgium (circular economy, competition law).