



CRIMEA
PLATFORM

BLACK SEA
SECURITY
CONFERENCE

Sofia 15|04|2024

AGENDA

OF THE CONFERENCE



Republic of Bulgaria
**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS**



Ministry of
Foreign Affairs
of Ukraine



Centre for
Defence
Strategies

Supported by:



**MOVING FORWARD
TOGETHER**



INTERNATIONAL
RENAISSANCE
FOUNDATION



**UKRAINE
PRESS CENTER**



CRIMEAN
HUMAN RIGHTS
GROUP



CRIMEA
PLATFORM -
EXPERT
NETWORK

INTERNATIONAL CRIMEA PLATFORM
SECOND BLACK SEA SECURITY CONFERENCE
SOFIA, 14-15 APRIL

DAY 1

Sunday, 14 April, Bulgaria, Sofia

PRE-DAY || Expert dimension by Crimea Platform Expert Network

Location: Grand Hotel Sofia, Gourko Street, 1

11:00 - 11:30 **Registration and welcome coffee**

11:30 - 11:50 **Opening remarks**

1. Alina Frolova, Security Track Coordinator of the Crimea Platform Expert Network, Deputy Chairperson of the Centre for Defence Strategies, Deputy Minister of Defence of Ukraine (2019-2020)
2. Iryna Borovets, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine (pre-recorded video-address)
3. Gergana Karadzhova, Director General, General Directorate Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria
4. Tamila Tasheva, Permanent Representative of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea

11:50 - 12:00 **Presentation of the expert document “The impact of Ukraine’s asymmetric approach on Russian Sea Power in the Black Sea. Complex evaluation of the Russia Black Sea fleet capabilities (March 2024)”**

12:00 - 13:30 **Panel Discussion 1
Strategic Overview of Security Situation
in the Black and Azov Sea, Prospects and Future**

Questions for discussion:

1. Is the experience of previous wars relevant to the war in Ukraine and what lessons can be learned from the ongoing conflict?
2. What has Ukraine achieved through asymmetric actions in the Black Sea and how can these successes be scaled up?
3. Is the experience of previous wars relevant to the war in Ukraine and what lessons can be learned from the ongoing conflict?
4. Do technologies exist that can radically change the situation on the battlefield?
5. What awaits Ukraine in 2024? How can the country withstand Russian pressure with limited resources?

Moderator: Andriy Zagorodniuk, Chairman of the Centre for Defence Strategies, Minister of Defence of Ukraine (2019-2020)

Panelists:

1. Air Marshal (ret.) Edward Stringer, Senior Fellow, Policy Exchange, former Director-General of the Defence Academy, within Joint Forces Command
2. LtGen (ret.) Dr Dennis Gyllensporre, Associate Professor in Security Policy and Strategy, Swedish Defence University, Former Force Commander for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA)
3. Admiral Igor Voronchenko, General inspector of the Main inspectorate of the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine, Admiral of the Ukrainian Navy and former Navy Commander
4. Vice Admiral (ret.) Didier Piaton, FMES Institute, former Deputy Commander, NATO Allied Maritime Command (2020-2023)

13:30 - 14:20

Lunch

14:20 - 14:30

Presentation of the expert document "Forging the new Black Sea Security Architecture in the Flames of the War"

14:30 - 16:00

Panel Discussion 2

World in Global Changes: Vision on Moving Forward Global and BAS Security from Different Perspectives

Questions for discussion:

1. What role has Russia's full-scale invasion played in the global security situation?
2. How can we keep the focus on the war in Ukraine when new conflicts are breaking out around the world?
3. Can Ukraine's victory, with the support of its partner countries, serve as a safeguard against further conflicts?
4. Why have the many times more powerful economies of Ukraine's partners not yet been able to catch up with the military-industrial complex of Russia and its allies?

Moderator: Alina Frolova, Security Track Coordinator of the Crimea Platform Expert Network, Deputy Chairperson of the Centre for Defence Strategies, Deputy Minister of Defence of Ukraine (2019-2020)

Panelists:

1. Peter Van Praagh, President, Halifax International Security Forum
2. Viktorija Starych-Samuolienė, Co-founder and Director of Strategy, Council on Geostrategy, Co-organiser, The First Sea Lords' Sea Power Conference
3. Yordan Bozhilov, Founder and President, Sofia Security Forum, Deputy Minister of Defense of the Republic of Bulgaria (2022)

4. Prof. Christine Dugoin-Clément, Researcher Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, Co-organiser, Paris Defence and Strategy Forum

16:00 - 16:20 **Coffee break**

16:20 - 16:30 **Shaping intro “Russian practices of eliminating freedom of speech in the temporary occupied Crimea”**

Olga Skrypnyk, Head of the Board of the Crimean Human Rights Group

16:30 - 18:00 **Panel Discussion 3**
Information Impact Weapons:
How Russia Destabilizes the Black Sea Region

Questions for discussion:

1. How Russia conducted information groundwork before the invasion in 2014?
2. How did Crimea become the cornerstone of the Russian propaganda machine and a method of Western intimidation?
3. Threats to other countries in the Black Sea region
4. Unique challenges faced by journalists covering current conflicts, including Russian aggression against Ukraine
5. New approaches to balancing journalism during wartime
6. Maintaining international focus on the war in Ukraine amidst emerging global crises. Bringing the Crimea issue back into the international information space

Moderator: Olga Skrypnyk, Head of the Board of the Crimean Human Rights Group

Panelists:

1. Remus Cernea, War correspondent in Ukraine, Newsweek Romania
2. Mariia Sahaidak, Head of the Strategic Communication Department, Centre for Strategic Communication and Information Security, Ukraine
3. Shota Utiashvili, Senior Fellow, Rondeli Foundation, Georgia
4. Constantin Uzdris, Journalist of TVR Moldova

18:00 - 19:30 **Dinner**

18:30 - 19:30 **Documentary Film by Artem Shevchenko,**
Film Author, Documentary Filmmaker, Journalist,
Serviceman of the Armed Forces of Ukraine
War for the Sea: from Dnipro to Crimea

1. Airborne operations in Enerhodar
2. Landing and establishment of a foothold on the left bank of Kherson region
3. Regaining control over oil and gas extraction platforms in the Black Sea
4. Maritime raids to Crimea
5. Destruction of Russian ships using "Magura V5" strike drones.

DAY 2

Monday, 15 April, Bulgaria, Sofia

MAIN DAY || Political-military level

Location: Central Military Club, Tsar Osvoboditel Boulevard, 7

8:00 - 9:00 **Registration and welcome coffee**

9:00 - 9:30 Press-opportunity

9:30 - 10:00 **Opening remarks**

Moderator: Ms. Gergana Karadjova, Director General for Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria

1. Stefan Dimitrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria
2. Dmytro Kuleba, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine (pre-recorded video-address)
3. Atanas Zapryanov, Minister of Defence of the Republic Bulgaria
4. Rustem Umerov, Minister of Defence of Ukraine (pre-recorded video-address)
5. Marija Pejčinović Burić, Secretary General of the Council of Europe (pre-recorded video-address)
6. Luis Almagro, Secretary General of the Organisation of American States (pre-recorded video-address)

10:15 - 12:15

Panel Discussion 1

Joint Efforts for Safeguarding Stability in the Challenging Geopolitical Landscape

Questions for discussion:

1. Strategic Importance of the Black Sea for the regional security
2. The ongoing use of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov as outposts for Russia's armed aggression
3. Implementing of Ukraine's Peace Formula as a key element of providing regional security and promoting defence cooperation
4. The effective implementation of the sanction regime with regard to the Russian oil export; Russian export of Ukrainian grain from the temporarily occupied territories

5. Functioning of the Black Sea corridor to Ukrainian ports as a vital economic lifeline for Ukraine
6. Grain from Ukraine: consolidating efforts to ensure global food security

Moderator:

Prof. Zdravko Popov, President, Public Policy Institute; Editor-in-Chief, Diplomacy Journal

Panelists:

The list of speakers is subject to additions.

1. Dragomir Zakov, Ambassador-at-large for Defence and Security in the Euro Atlantic Zone, Ministry of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria (former Minister of Defence and Permanent Representative in NATO)
2. Mykola Tochytskyi, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine
3. Bedito dos Santos Freitas, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste
4. Ian Borg, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Malta (pre-recorded video-address)
5. Angus Lapsley, Assistant Secretary General for Defence Policy and Planning of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
6. Radosław Sikorski, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland (prerecorded video-address)
7. Tobias Billström, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Sweden (prerecorded video-address)

Interventions:

1. Tobias Lindner, Minister of State, the Federal Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany
2. Besart Kadia, Deputy Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania
3. Jan Marian, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic
4. Lasha Darsalia, First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Georgia
5. Sergiu Mihov, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Moldova
6. Ana Cristina Tinca, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania
7. Michaël Roux, Ambassador for the Eastern Partnership and the Black Sea, the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of the French Republic
8. Basat Öztürk, Director General for International Security Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye
9. Audrone Perkauskienė, Deputy Director – Russia, Eastern partnership, Central Asia, Regional Cooperation and the OSCE, The European External Action Service (EEAS)

12.15 - 13.45

Lunch

13:45 - 15:45

Panel Discussion 2

Winning the Battle for the Black Sea: Military Strategy for Ukraine

Questions for discussion:

1. Changing face of naval warfare: Ukraine' mastery of sea drones tactics
2. Altering balance of power in the Black Sea – success strategy lessons
3. Strengthening of NATO military presence in the Black Sea by development of the Maritime Capability Coalition and the Mine Countermeasures Task Group Black Sea (MCM Black Sea)
4. Responding to the challenging trends of international maritime security
5. How to defend freedom of navigation and the international trade routes
6. Liberation of the temporarily occupied Crimea as a key for restoring international order

Moderator:

Alina Frolova, Security Track Coordinator of the Crimea Platform Expert Network, Deputy Chairperson of the Centre for Defence Strategies, Deputy Minister of Defence of Ukraine (2019-2020)

Panelists:

The list of speakers is subject to additions.

1. Atanas Zapryanov, Minister of Defence of the Republic of Bulgaria
2. Vice-Admiral Oleksiy Neizhpapa, Commander of the Naval Forces of the Ukrainian Navy
3. Zukan Helez, Minister of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina
4. Laurynas Kasčiūnas, Minister of National Defence of the Republic of Lithuania (online)
5. Pål Jonson, Minister of Defence of the Kingdom of Sweden (online)
6. Judith Collins, Minister of Defence of New Zealand (pre-recorded video-address)
7. The Earl of Minto, Minister of State, Ministry of Defence of the United Kingdom
8. Dragan Krapović, Minister of Defence of Montenegro (pre-recorded video-address)

Interventions:

1. Siemtje Möller, Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Defence of the Federal Republic of Germany
2. Anne Marie Aanerud, State Secretary of the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Defence

3. Simona Cojocaru, State Secretary of the Ministry of National Defence of Romania
4. Damir Črnčec, State Secretary of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Slovenia
5. Kofi Amankwa-Manu, MP, Deputy Minister for Defence of the Republic of Ghana
6. Rear Admiral Refik Levent Tezcan, Deputy Director General for Defence and Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye

15:45 - 16:00

Coffee-break

16:00 - 17:15

Panel Discussion 3

Ensuring Maritime Stability: International Organizations and Black Sea Security

Questions for discussion:

1. Evaluating the stakes, roles and initiatives of key international organizations in promoting Black Sea security
2. Using the potential of multilateral diplomacy to coordinate efforts and leverage diplomatic, economic and military tools to defuse tensions and deter aggression
3. Strengthening international support for the territorial integrity and sovereign rights of Black Sea coastal states
4. Addressing the criticality of energy security and protecting vital shipping lanes for regional stability
5. Identifying reforms and resources needed for international bodies to tackle emerging maritime challenges

Moderator:

Dr Yevgeniya Gaber, Professor of National Security Studies,
George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies

Panelists:

The list of speakers is subject to additions.

1. Manfred Seitz, Director-General of the Secretariat of the Danube Commission
2. Ionut-Sorin Banciu, Secretary of State, Ministry of Environment, Romania, Head of the Permanent Secretariat of the Black Sea Commission
3. Birgit Vogel, Executive Secretary of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)
4. Dimitrios Rallis, Deputy Secretary General of the Permanent International Secretariat of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)
5. Hiroyuki Yamada, Director of the Maritime Safety Department, International Maritime Organization

17:30

Closing Reception