

**Framework Convention  
for the Protection of the Marine  
Environment of the Caspian Sea**

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**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
Fifth Meeting  
[29-30 May 2014, Ashgabat] Turkmenistan**

Item 8 of the provisional agenda

**COOPERATION BETWEEN THE  
TEHRAN CONVENTION INTERIM SECRETARIAT  
AND THE  
PERMANENT SECRETARIAT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE  
PROTECTION OF THE BLACK SEA AGAINST POLLUTION**

**Note by the interim Secretariat**

**Introduction.**

1. Article 23 paragraph 4 of the Tehran Convention provides for the (interim) Secretariat of the Convention to co-operate, as appropriate, with relevant regional and international organizations and programmes.
2. By letter of 14 November 2013, the Tehran Convention interim Secretariat informed the Permanent Secretariat of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution (BSC) of its intention to enhance the collaboration and cooperation between the two Convention Secretariats, given the historic linkage of the Black Sea and Caspian Sea water bodies and the shared environmental challenges which the two water basins encounter.
3. The exchange of letters between the Tehran Convention interim Secretariat and the Permanent Secretariat of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution is attached as Annex to this note.

## Annex I



## UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement    Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente  
 Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде    برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة  
 联合国环境规划署



Reference: JD/MA/2013.150

Date: 14 November 2013

## Letter of Intent

Dear Professor Sur,

We have the pleasure to inform you that it is our intention to further develop cooperation and collaboration with the Permanent Secretariat of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution.

As you are aware, the Regional Office for Europe of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) hosts the Interim Secretariat of the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention).

The Black Sea and the Caspian Sea are connected through a historical past, face at present common environmental challenges and threats, and share a vision of a sustainable future based on sound environmental practices. The Tehran Convention and the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution (Bucharest Convention) share common objectives with regard to the conservation, protection, enhancement and support of nature and natural resources of the two sea basins.

UNEP recognizes the importance of information exchange, sharing expertise and best practices, and carrying out joint activities in areas of common interest. We propose to further consolidate and develop our cooperation and effectiveness, sharing best practices, exchanging information and experience related to protecting the marine environment of the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea.

We look forward to establishing a long-term strategic partnership aiming at promoting closer interaction and cooperation between the two sea basins. Specific potential areas of collaboration could include, among others: the control of invasive species through ballast water; capacity building and joint training activities for the regional oil spill contingency planning; and environmental monitoring and information management and sharing.

We would appreciate your acknowledgement of receipt of this letter.

Jan Dusik  
 Acting Director and Regional Representative  
 UNEP Regional Office for Europe

**Prof. Halil Ibrahim Sur**  
 Executive Director  
 Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution  
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## Annex II

**Commission on the Protection of the  
Black Sea Against Pollution**19<sup>th</sup> December, 2013

Istanbul, Turkey

**Mr. Jan Dusik**

Acting Director and Regional Representative  
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**Letter of Intent****Dear Mr. Dusik,**

In response to your letter dated 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2013, let me extend my sincere thanks for your cooperative approach and kind words.

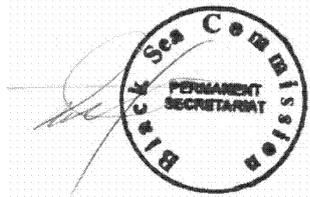
With this letter I would like to inform you on the intention of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Bucharest Convention) to deepen the level of cooperation with UNEP and Interim Secretariat of Tehran Convention, in particular.

I am confident that increasing of interaction and exchange of information among our organizations will bring the best practices to our regions and contribute to the protection of the precious marine environment of the Caspian Sea and the Black Sea. At this stage, we could share the experience and practices on the issues related to our common interest, *inter alia*, ballast water management, introduction of invasive species, environmental monitoring etc.

We would be also delighted if your experts could join and contribute to the activities of our Advisory Groups, designed to provide additional expertise to the Contracting Parties to Bucharest Convention in the different areas of environmental protection of the Black Sea, such as pollution monitoring and assessment, conservation of biological diversity, fisheries, ICZM, LBS, environmental aspects of shipping.

To conclude let me emphasize that these steps may serve to further enhance cooperation between the experts of Caspian and the Black Sea and accelerate identification and development of some more spheres of activity of mutual benefit.

Please accept, Mr. Dusik, the assurances of my highest consideration.



**Prof. Halil Ibrahim Sur**  
Executive Director

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