

DIALOGUE of the SEAS

No. 8, 2014

BSCSIF

HEAVEN ON EARTH
CALLED
MONTENEGRO

Oil Rush and Destiny of the Caspian



Alla Yazkova:
**Wider Black Sea Region
and Challenges
of Our Times**

YEARS

The Black Sea – Caspian Sea
International Fund

NEW SILK ROAD: IT'S POSSIBLE!

Messages from **BSCSIF** founders



Ukraine

Georgia

Turkey

Romania

Republic of Moldova

Azerbaijan

Kyrgyzstan

Kazakhstan





Vyacheslav SAMOSHKIN,
*Editor in Chief of
"Dialogue of the Seas" magazine*

New Silk Road: it's possible!

The idea to restore the historical Silk Road, even the way it is currently called, which implies for transportation of energy resources from Central Asia and Caspian Sea to Europe, might have seemed at first too bold and fantastic. But in 1998, in Baku, at the Conference of Presidents of many countries, the idea was launched, and time has proven its viability. One of its real incarnations was the establishment, 11 years after, of the International Black Sea-Caspian Sea Fund. Its founders have foremost stressed on the humanitarian side of the issue. After all, the Great Silk Road is a sort of bridge that brought together countries and peoples and facilitated the exchange of cultural and spiritual values. Especially since after the collapse of the USSR eight new sovereign states emerged here. This is how the idea of dialogue, promotion of peace, harmony and tolerance in this yet troubled region became naturally the one guiding the activity of the Fund.

The years that passed have shown that it grew not only quantitatively, due to adding to its ranks more new countries, but also because this quantity turned gradually into quality. Today, the Fund is well known in the European Union and the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, it received special consultative status within the UN Economic and Social Council, it has a strategic partnership with the European Policy Centre, on its initiative and through its participation in Istanbul there has been established and already started to work the International Centre for support and coordination of economic cooperation. Because of the role that BSCSIF started playing in this region, it naturally enhanced collaboration with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and its ideas are unanimous with Eurasian cooperation idea promoted by Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus...

To "Dialogue of the Seas" magazine all of this makes easier its mission to promote the image of the International Fund of the Black and Caspian seas and the noble goals and objectives pursued by it, because the activity and accomplishments of the Fund speak for themselves. In the magazine we familiarize our readers with the countries of the region and their cultural richness. Here articles were written by such prominent figures as academicians Gheorghe Duca, Mircea Malita, Razvan Teodorescu, poet and diplomat Olzhas Suleimenov, political scientists Alexander Dugin, Ognyan Minchev, Corneliu Vlad, Leyla Aliyeva, Deputy Secretary General of BSEC Traian Chebeleu, program director at Harvard University Sergey Konoplyov... On our columns we held round tables attended by major specialists from the countries of the region on issues of civil society shaping, preservation of cultural heritage, rescue of Black and Caspian seas, we analysed the obstacles to a more intense economic cooperation in the Black Sea - Caspian Sea - Mediterranean Sea basin... Our Fund has been repeatedly compared to a ship sailing the open sea. For this reason, on its 5th anniversary, we wish to say: fair water and smooth sailing! ~

5 YEARS BSCSIF Major events of the Fund



■ MARCH 4, BUCHAREST. Founding of the International Fund for Cooperation and Partnership of the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea. Founders - representatives of eight countries in the region together with the Romanian President Traian Basescu. On the photo left to right: Vadim Kolesnichenko (Ukraine), Tamaz Beradze (Georgia), Akkan Suver (Turkey), Iulian Fota (Romania), President Traian Basescu, Lidia Romanciuc (Republic of Moldova), Eldar Hasanov (Azerbaijan), Zhildyz Oskombaeva (Kyrgyzstan) and Dossym SULEYEV (Kazakhstan). First elected president of the Fund - Iulian Fota (Romania). The same year Bulgaria, Russia and Serbia join the countries mentioned above.

INTERVIEW



Results over five years are impressive

BSCSIF Secretary General and Vice-President Eldar Hasanov answers the questions of the Dialogue of the Seas Magazine

Solid bridge between people and countries

On the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the International Fund for Cooperation and Partnership of the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea (BSCSIF) it feels like recalling again the reasoning that guided its founders in March 2009 to establish this unique organization...

The ones who came up with the initiative to create the International Fund for Cooperation and Partnership of the

Black Sea and the Caspian Sea were the president of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and the president of Romania Traian Basescu. This initiative was also sustained by well-known broadminded scientific and political figures, prominent intellectuals from eight countries - Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine. These countries became the founders of the Fund. I would also like to note that barely the coordination of issues re-

garding the establishment of the organization and regarding its statute lasted for almost half a year. After that, on March 4, 2009 BSCSIF was inaugurated in Bucharest as a non-governmental international organization. In times when, due to political orientations and differences, governments and countries are at odds and cannot reach an agreement, things must be done in a manner that people don't suffer. Namely with this purpose was created the Fund. It works as a solid bridge

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English version:

Janna Donica and Olga Condration

Art Director: Dan Mihalache

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President: Ismail Safi

Secretary General and Vice-President:

Eldar Hasanov

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Gabriel Comănescu (Romania)

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Adviser for Economic

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Project Manager: Luiza Niță

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EDITORIAL ADDRESS:

București, bdul Nicolae Balcescu, Nr32-34,

ap. 3-4, etaj 1, sector 1;

Tel: +40 21 211 1151, +40 21 211 1152;

fax: +40 21 211 4094;

http://www.bsccsif.ro

e-mail: secretariat@bsccsif.org

vsamoshkin_45@yahoo.com



2009

APRIL. Participation of the Fund in the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul and the annual Eurasian Economic Summit – the same place. From that moment BSCSIF participates at the summit every year.

INTERVIEW

Continued from page 3

between nations and peoples, having as strategic objective the protection and reinforcement of such human values as peace, dialogue, mutual understanding and development of relations between people based on common historical roots, fostering civil society development on Eurasian space. Thus, the primary grounds to establish this organization were to promote peace, dialogue, to unite people, to converge cooperation and the spirit of tolerance. Our organization works in accordance with the norms and principles of international law, the most important of them - the principle of sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders of all states. Today the Fund has at disposal a real brainpower base and a reliable team of 42 experts with international certi-

cates in various fields.

Internationally active and outside politics, the Fund encourages commercial activity and plays an important role in the region and the world as a binding factor that contributes to the intensification of the scientific, cultural, economic and social cooperation, as well as to the strengthening of diplomatic relations between the countries represented in the Fund.

In conformity with its statute, in its work, BSCSIF attaches a great importance to the development of cooperation between non-governmental organizations and civil societies of countries, to the implementation of joint projects to promote peace, dialogue, consent and mutual cooperation between countries represented in the Fund, in areas such as the expansion of democratic process, consolidation of civil society, sustainable development, ecology, science, education, research and innovation, cultural diversity and dia-

BSCSIF CHRONICLE

2010



At the central BSCSIF office in Bucharest a team of young experts was selected and began its work.

For five years, the Fund has completed more than 40 projects, including some through the European Union. Natalia Ciobanu - the first project coordinator (left).



Decision to publish Dialogue of the Seas magazine – in Russian and English, in an edition of 1500 copies.



INTERVIEW

logue between civilizations.

Qualitative expansion

The geography of the countries whose representatives have become members in the Fund is constantly growing. How do you relate to the major achievements of the organization over the past five years? What is its strategy for the coming years? What could you say about the current image of the Fund?

In a short period of time our International Fund achieved important results in its works and gained credibility and respect among international organizations and took its rightful place among them. As you correctly pointed out, and this is very fortunate, the International Fund grew qualitatively and already covers not only the borders of the Black Sea-Caspian Sea region, but also the territory of the countries of Western Europe, Middle East, Africa



■ **MARCH. CHISINAU.** 6th Session of the BSCSIF Board of Directors. According to the principle of rotation, the presidency of the Fund goes from Romania to Russia: Iulian Fota (right) handed over the symbolic key to Viktor Khmarin. The Commission for Innovations and Investments, chaired by Mikhail Zernov (Russia) is created.

2011



■ First issue of Dialogue of the Seas magazine, the presentation was held in Chisinau, on the occasion of the 6th Session of the BSCSIF Board of Directors



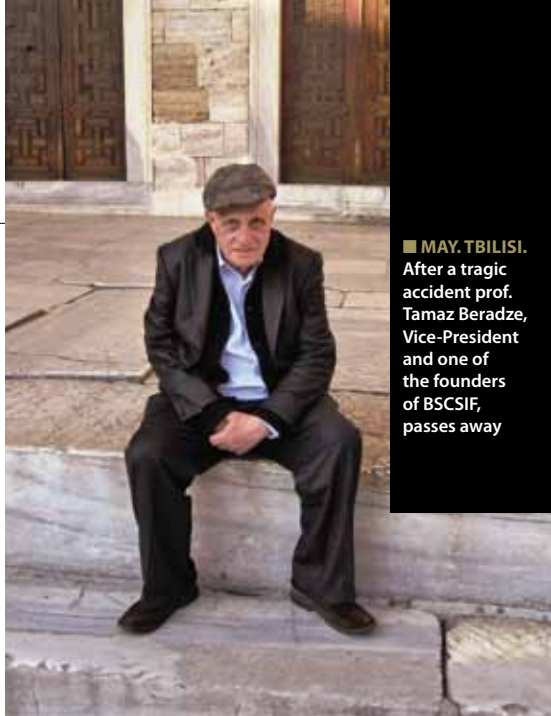
■ **AUGUST, MOSCOW.** During the 7th Board Meeting in Moscow, partnership agreements are signed with a series of organizations and companies of the region. A trip on the Moscow River by the yacht "Scarlet".

2012

■ - **2012 – APRIL. ISTANBUL.** On the 8th session of the BSCSIF Board of Directors the Fund is joined by representatives of three more countries - Vitaly Buzdugan (Belarus), Dzenita Ozgyuner (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Ilya Kajic (Montenegro), who became members of the Board of Directors



■ **MAY. MOSCOW.** Under the aegis of BSCSIF the Alliance of the Seas is created, which aside from the Moscow branch, was joined by several prominent innovative and business structures from Russia



■ **MAY. TBILISI.** After a tragic accident prof. Tamaz Beradze, Vice-President and one of the founders of BSCSIF, passes away

■ **SEPTEMBER. BUDVA (MONTENEGRO).** On the 9th session of the Board of Directors the Fund development strategy through 2020 is approved. The Board of Directors is joined by (photo: left to right) representatives of Switzerland (Livio Hürzeler) and Iran (Sadiq Mahfouz). Georgia's Representative in the Board of Directors became doctor of historical sciences Manana Sanadze



■ **SEPTEMBER. BUDVA.** It is decided to set up a Center for strategic research in the Black Sea – Caspian Sea region, and develop training courses for national human resources to participate in the implementation of European and international projects



INTERVIEW

Continued from page 5

and Asia. At this time, the Fund is represented by over 20 countries, the mentioned above were joined by representatives from such countries as Albania, Belarus, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iran, Russian Federation, Serbia, Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, Croatia, Montenegro, Switzerland and SAR. BSCSIF central office is located in Bucharest, but as well active are its four branches: in Moscow, Brussels, Varna and Belgrade. I would like to note that at the jubilee BSCSIF General Assembly and Board of Directors meeting organized on the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the Fund - it will be held March 9, 2014 in Istanbul - the applications of China, the Czech Republic, Latvia and Estonia to join the ranks of our organization will be considered. Starting from March 2011 the BSCSIF

magazine "Dialogue of the Seas" has been printed quarterly. Each issue carries a diverse range of articles about history, culture and traditions of the region, their successes, achievements and challenges, democratic processes and ongoing reforms, civil societies, non-governmental organizations, as well as narratives from famous political, cultural and scientific figures from member-countries of the Fund, describes the activities of the Fund in various fields. In accordance with its statute, BSCSIF is funded by membership fees and sponsorship to particular projects given by legal or natural persons from the member-countries of the International Fund - a process carried out in a transparent and legal way and due to the implementation of online projects in key-strategic areas. In Brussels, as well as in New York BSCSIF currently provides support to

the efforts of the United Nations, the European Union, the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and other influential international and regional organizations, efforts to achieve mutual understanding, civil society strengthening, to promote institutional reformation, in other words - to develop comprehensive democratic processes and sustainable economic progress in BSCSIF member-countries. I would like to emphasize that on August 1, 2013 the Fund received a special consultative status within the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which allows its active participation in the works of the Council and its subsidiary bodies and representations, within its programs. In addition, BSCSIF established cooperation with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and signed a strategic partnership agreement with a leading European

think tank - the European Policy Centre - and together with it started to carry out projects in the Caspian Sea - Black Sea region. Not so long ago BSCSIF jointly with international organizations implemented a series of successful international, regional and national projects. The Fund currently trains national staff to further involve it in various projects to be implemented in the member countries of our organization. The International Fund collaborates closely with scientists and researchers, known in Europe and throughout the world, many of whom joined its ranks. Regarding the past 5-year period I would like to emphasize the dynamic activity, within BSCSIF, of such countries as Romania, Russia, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Moldova, Serbia, Switzerland, SAR, Georgia, Bulgaria. As for individual representatives, I would like to note the great contribu-

tion to BSCSIF development brought by Iulian Fota, Viktor Khmarin, Akkan Suver, Ismail Safi, Gabriel Comanescu, Mikhail Zernov, Manana Sanadze, Chingiz Abdullayev, Dossym Suleev, Lidia Romanchiuc, Dimitar Kostov, Leonela Lenes, Alev Baldgi, Vyacheslav Samoshkin, Julia Akhunova, Valentina Albu, Orhan Mammadov...
Serve the economic unity of the region
Recently, in Istanbul, started to work a specially created economic structure, one of the founders of which was BSCSIF. What is its purpose and what can the Fund do and what is it supposed to do in this area?
I would like to mention that the provision of support for the development and strengthening of economic cooperation in the region represents one of the most important directions, from the strategic point of view, of the Fund's activity. This

particular line of work is coordinated by Turkey. In this regard, due to the initiative and the insistence of the Board of Directors and all members of the organization, in September 2013, in Istanbul was established the International Centre for Support and Coordination of Economic Relations, where our Fund is listed as one of the founders. This structure aims to promote the development of international economic cooperation and partnership in the member countries of the International Fund, to provide support for physical and juridical persons for the implementation of projects in economy, ecology, energy, transport, medicine and healthcare, science, education, innovation, culture, tourism. Moreover, the Center's activity also aims at promoting entrepreneurship in the region of the countries represented in BSCSIF, to better integrate the region's economy into the global system, and to improve the investment climate in member-countries

2013



■ **MARCH. BUCHAREST.** "Cyber security: today and tomorrow" – a program launched by the Fund with a series of discussions, that involved government and private structures

5 YEARS
BSCSIF



■ **2013 MARCH. BUCHAREST.** The Fund organized a round table on "The New Security Dynamic in the Black Sea regions" with the participation of Sergey Konoplev, Harvard University program director

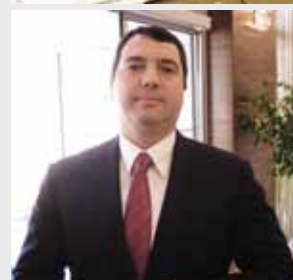
■ **APRIL. ISTANBUL.** During the 10th Session of the BSCSIF Board of Directors the chairmanship of the Fund is transferred from Viktor Khmarin (Russia) to Akkan Suver (Turkey)



■ **APRIL. ISTANBUL.** Alev Balgi is appointed Executive Director of BSCSIF



■ **Due to objective reasons Vice-President and first President of the Fund, Iulian Fota, retires from his responsibilities (on the left), Romania is represented in the Board of Directors by Gabriel Comanescu, the elected Vice-President**



■ The Board of Director is joined by representatives of three new countries (right to left, top down) – South Africa (Zolani Mkiva and Zharko Taric), Croatia (Jasminko Umicevic) and Albania (Bakhtdybek Baysetov), also Roger Widmer (Switzerland) and Bakhtdybek Baysetov (Kazakhstan)



■ **JUNE. BRUSSELS.** BSCSIF Award Gala organized for prominent figures of the European Union and BSCSIF member-states to appraise the achievements in spheres of immediate interest to BSCSIF



■ **AUGUST. NEW YORK.** BSCSIF in Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

■ **OCTOBER.** Istanbul hosted the event of juridical registration of a new structure with the participation of BSCSIF – International Center for Support and Coordination of Economic Cooperation

■ **SEPTEMBER, CONSTANTA.** The 11th BSCSIF Board Meeting. The number of Fund member-states exceeded 20, by accepting in the Board of Directors Sao Tome and Principe representative (photo). Decision to open BSCSIF branches in Belgrade. Earlier on, such branches were set up in Istanbul, Brussels, Moscow and Varna (for details – see the story on pages 15-17)



■ **NOVEMBER.** BSCSIF signed a strategic partnership for cooperation with the European Policy Centre

The founders of the Fund speak



Ideal, commendable and worthy of respect

Iulian FOTA,
first BSCSIF President (Romania)

When in March 2009 in Bucharest a protocol on the establishment of the International Fund for Cooperation and Partnership of the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea (BSCSIF) has been signed, I knew from the beginning that the newly established organization was to have a wonderful journey, dawned on ideas that it decided to bring to life.

The concept presented by this project - to intensify cooperation through overcoming differences in a region where cooperation and mutual understanding have been for a long time subjects of searches and aspirations - represent an ideal commendable and worthy of respect, especially since its main tasks are rapprochement and mutual understanding between people in all kinds of humanistic ways, putting emphasis on development of intercultural dialogue.

That's why I was fully supportive

when, with their gesture standing for the idea of friendship in the Black and Caspian seas, President of Romania Traian Basescu and President of Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev put forward the idea to this project and laid the foundation to a non-governmental organization that set as purpose - and it basically succeeds in it - bringing together the peoples of the region, and above all, those who are of a particular significance today – the youth.

Moreover, I was able to coordinate the activities of this organization, having the presidency during first two years since its establishment. As president, I tried to implement project of "two seas" the closest to its ideal, constantly striving to promote statutory objectives and make them visible by means of memorable events and activities.

Today, when Black Sea-Caspian Sea Fund celebrates half a decade of its existence, the results of the collective efforts made in the name of pragmatic cooperation that mark the development of the region, are increasingly noticeable. In this sense, I should mention that the organization grew in phases on several occasions and at the beginning it was comprised of diplomatic representatives and academics from eight countries, respectively, from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine, and later managed to draw to this project other figures too, which consolidated the ranks and improved its evolution. Moreover, a special appreciation deserves the selfless work of the young project



team, which due to initiatives taken was able to prove that ambition, perseverance and humanness can always make sure that friendship and binding overcome any differences.

In conclusion, I can only wish tailwind to this wonderful initiative and be hopeful that the efforts of all who today represent the International Fund for Cooperation and Partnership of the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea will be crowned with ten-times the results to come till its first 10th anniversary, that is, until another five years, during which the organization has an opportunity to prove its capabilities.



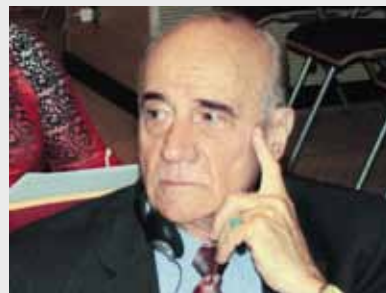
Well-defined positions, international practices

Chingiz ABDULLAYEV,
member of the BSCSIF Board of Directors,
writer (Azerbaijan)

I took part at the establishment of the Fund in 2009 and since then have provided active support for its activities. I appreciate the fact that, on one hand, our Fund is not a politicized organization and, on the other hand, it has well-defined positions, especially the one regarding the recognition of the territorial integrity of the states... I appreciate the fact that the Fund complies with international practices: each country member, regardless of its size, is mandatorily represented in the Board of Directors.

The Fund has a lot to do for the development of cultural relations. The more we collaborate, the stronger will become

the trust between countries. Now, a great many of people realize that it is necessary to know better each other's culture. Suffice it to say that in the Fund are so many people who speak three or four languages. I, for instance, speak native Azerbaijani, Russian, Turkish... At a recurrent troika meeting we communicated in three languages and there was complete mutual understanding. And this is the exact argument for why translating even more of each other's literature. I am also the president of PEN-International Azerbaijan, and, for PEN the most important is to familiarize your country with universal literature, while familiarizing the international community with yours. And, obviously, this experience can be transferred to the Fund, as it is an honourable thing to do. And if we manage to release at least one book from the Fund's member-countries in all the countries, it will be so great! - it will raise the cultural level of the countries that translate and the countries that are translated.



International recognition

Dimitar KOSTOV,
BSCSIF Vice-President
Ambassador (Bulgaria)

As you know, BSCSIF was created the same way thousands of non-governmental organizations were. And one could say that 5 years for the Fund is just the age of a little child. However, the facts show its phenomenal maturity.

First of all, the membership of the organization has grown particularly fast, and now it brings together representatives of over 20 countries. To our

International Fund were drawn prominent civil society representatives from Switzerland, UK, Italy, Ghana, Sao Tome and Principe and other countries, or, in other words, this interest shown by people goes far beyond the Black Sea-Caspian region.

Secondly, granting the Fund the special consultative status within the UN Economic and Social Council means international recognition for our organization and opens new possibilities for a wider cooperation, including with other regional organizations.

Thirdly, the establishment of a closer cooperation with particular bodies of the European Union or, for example, with the European Policy Centre, requires a detailed study of the issues discussed and the establishment of appropriate expertise.

In short, our organization has acquired a new, higher quality, which requires thinking and new methods and approaches to problems. So, I hope that our first anniversary will provide the opportunity to not only list the indisputable achievements, but to also think and to develop more effective ways of further development for the International Fund in the name of prosperity and modernization of the countries in the region, in a context of peace and cooperation.



The Fund and the Civil Society

Manana SANADZE,
member of the BSCSIF Board of Directors,
Rector of the University of Georgia in Tbilisi (Georgia)

The countries situated in the Black Sea-Caspian Sea region are bound geopolitically and

historically and on this common ground the development of relations between them is shaped. In the age of globalization, regionalization of international relations plays an important role in deepening economic cooperation, and hence, in establishing partnerships and good neighborly relations between the countries of the region. Regionalization also contributes to the conservation of cultural and historical heritage, to the rapid development of specific sectors of economy and to the spread of innovative technologies.

The establishment of a public organization - the International Fund of two seas pursues, regardless of state structures, the goal of providing help to certain groups of citizens of the region in the implementation of socially useful economic and innovative projects that contribute to the development in post-Soviet countries of modern democratic institutes and to the transformation of society from a totalitarian into a liberal-democratic one.

In this process, an undeniable and effective role is played by education. University of Georgia in Tbilisi is actively engaged in shaping a modern civil society, and joined the Fund, as a representative of the sector of education, because I share the ideas that the Fund promotes.

For five years BSCSIF managed to successfully implement several important projects. The "Dialogue of the Seas" magazine was released and representatives of different spheres have the opportunity to publish their views on world economic, democratic, cultural, political and other processes.

The growing interest towards the region and the need to strengthen good-neighborly relations between the peoples contribute to the expansion of the Fund. I want to take this opportunity and thank all its members for their selfless and highly skilled work on the implementation of priority objectives: strengthening economic and cultural ties between the peoples of the region and wish them luck in their future activities.



Let it be!

Dossym SULEEV,
BSCSIF Vice-President, Academician at
National Academy of Sciences of Kazakhstan
(Kazakhstan)

Congratulations to our Fund for its little anniversary! I care deeply and heartily for it and lay great hopes on it.

The anniversary is indeed rather small, but to us, the founders - it's huge. Because the Fund is our child and for every parent every step of his child is an event and every year of his life is a kind of anniversary.

I remember as yesterday the first meetings in Bucharest and actions of the founders - representatives of eight countries - regarding the establishment of this international organization, heated debates and discussions about the mission, goals and objectives for the future NGO. I remember a substantial presentation of the Fund with the participation of the President of Romania and the uneasy process of creating its megaphone - the "Dialogue of the Seas" magazine - that boldly burst into the global information space. Now all this is behind us, but before us are lots of new tasks.

With great pride I realize today that the beginning was laid well, so that now we have a good harvest. The Fund has successfully evolved: it is represented by more than two dozen countries and gains gradually recognition, accumulates authority and takes its rightful place among international organizations.

I wish my dear Fund further development without reducing momentum and wish it walks confidently to the targeted in the statute noble goal of converging countries and peoples. Let it be!



Become a leader in regional matters

Zhyldyz OSKONBAEVA,
BSCSIF Vice-President
and First Secretary General,
researcher (Kyrgyzstan)

It is hard to believe that five years have passed yet our growth is a testament to the strength of the aspirations we envisioned when we first started. When we started, our countries were understood by what or who we belonged to rather than the acknowledgement that our ideas, beliefs and transformations traveled back and forth between us.

Looking forward there are five areas we have yet to fully capitalize on. First is trade. We have never embarked on a Free Trade Agreement between member countries. Second is education. While our best and brightest want to study abroad, many of the world's elite universities already have satellite campuses or joint programs elsewhere. We can make the business case to bring such programs to our region. Third would be health and in particular technology that prolongs life or the quality of life. While the issue of hard currency can be a daunting one, we have never considered countertrade between us and an outside country to obtain these technologies. Fourth is the quality and availability of water. Chances are if our water cannot support animal and plant life or water our crops we cannot drink it either. Fifth and final is interoperability. While





militaries engage in peacekeeping or combined exercises with others, we have no experience helping each other out in times of national disaster. Such cooperation can also promote greater cooperation against common threats such as contraband and extremism.

In closing the value of the Fund is its potential. As 'Thought Leaders,' we have the ability to take the lead on regional issues. While growth is an indicator of our potential, it is the resolution of issues in which we will be entrusted to do even more. I am not only confident the issues will be there but that we are also fully capable to address them.



Wealth of diversity

Mirjana PRLJEVIC,
member of the BSCSIF Board of Directors
(Serbia)

A Chinese proverb says: No man is your friend, no man is your enemy, every man is your teacher. I accepted the invitation from Dr Eldar Hasanov to become one of the Fund's members believing that through newly established community of people and companies I will manage to create some new and reliable economic and strategic connections, so the Fund would become the place where each of us can learn something new and useful. And so it was.

Once figured out in due time, that during after-globalization era the world will require new models and new solutions to interregional economic, educational, cultural, sports and, above all,

civil society cooperation, individuals around Dr. Hasanov gathered together and came forth with a serious initiative aiming to make right steps in establishing long-term territorial system of communication and cooperation in the Black Sea-Caspian Sea region. Today, looking back over the 5 years, we see that they succeeded and are just about to expand and strengthen already established connections. The fact that countries from other continents became members of the Fund and the number of member-countries grows significantly, speaks of itself.

Crises periods, the same way it happens with countries and societies, always carry a certain dose of prosperity possibilities. Our Fund's leadership realized it, which is why it is necessary to dedicate special attention and time to innovations, innovative solutions and economic-social trends.

Each kind of crisis is able to uncover the specificity and uniqueness of a certain institution's positioning. The Fund showed to all of us that we, the ones who come from different countries, are unique and poses qualities, knowledge and skills to be exchanged and multiplied. In this respect, the wisdom of the founders has proven right and the wealth of diversity has shown its power now more than ever. Binding us today, as well as tomorrow.



Focused on future

Dr. Akkan SUVER,
BSCSIF Vice-President, former BSCSIF President,
President of the International Foundation
"Marmara Group" (Turkey)

Our Fund is an organization of civil society, a volunteer movement. Therefore,

it needs financial support. Indeed, it is impossible to achieve viability and efficiency wheresoever without a proper economy. International projects will appear and we will try to implement them relying on Fund's resources. We need material wealth in order to build our future. And this wealth is ensured by financial resources.

I attach great importance to the future of the Fund. Because I believe in it. I believe that this organization, created due to the far-sightedness of the state of Romania and the state of Azerbaijan, will take its place among prominent civil society organizations in Europe, and will be referred to as an important volunteer movement.

Two of our members are members of the parliaments of their countries. This is Mr. Ismail Safi from Turkey and Mr. Vadim Kolesnichenko from Ukraine.

Mr. Iulian Fota, a member of our Fund, has an important position in the Romanian state.

Dr. Eldar Hasanov is an important government official in Azerbaijan. Moreover, he is an exceptional diplomat who exercises his ambassadorial duties in three countries. It is a unique opportunity and a great chance for us to have a Secretary General, who heads his country's diplomatic mission in Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and who served as the ambassador to Romania for 12 years.

All the rest of our friends have undeniable quality. In addition, we have youth. My faith in it is immeasurable.

I believe that after ten years, the International Black Sea-Caspian Sea Fund, which was founded in 2009, will be one of the most influential civil society organizations in the world.

*(From an interview with
Dialogue of the Seas Magazin,
Nr7/2013)*

Unite the region through projects



Alev BALGI,
BSCSIF Executive Director

Although the Fund has been established only for five years, during this period it has developed many projects of great relevance to the region; projects that approach pressing issues of today's world.

All these projects were implemented thanks to the carefully selected young team of experts, all of whom graduated from well-known universities, and took special courses organized for that.

One of the highest achievements of our Fund is being granted consultative status at the United

Nations-Economic and Social Council, on August 1, 2013. The consultative status allows us to be actively involved in relations with ECOSOC and its subsidiaries, the United Nations Secretariat and also enables us to work together with their agencies on programs and funds.

In November 2013, we signed a strategic partnership for cooperation with the "European Policy Center"; a partnership that will feature the values of the two organizations. First joint project called "Defining the Caspian" will begin in March 2014 and will be carried on for over one



year and bring together experts and representatives of both European Union and Caspian Sea.

One of the first successfully implemented projects "Side by Side for the Black Sea" entered the five finalists for 2011's Best Environmental Project award within Volunteer Gala in Romania. This was a national nomination that included all major projects undertaken that year in different fields of activity. Also "Side by Side for the Black Sea" was among the eight projects selected by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in cooperation with other international organizations involved in the Health & Environment policy process as a Best Practice Concept on youth and children's involvement regarding Environment and Health. Another two pilot projects implemented at the beginning of BSCSIF's activity was the project "Romania - Turkey. Partnership for Democracy" and the Project "Tolerance, Religion and Cultural Diversity".

Another relevant project of the Fund is the Research Project entitled "The economic, social and political consequences of protracted conflicts in the Black Sea - Caspian



September 2011, Gura Portitei (Romania). Participants of "Side by side - for the Black Sea" project





Sea region and prospects for the conflict settlement". The ongoing research will bring to light the main aspects regarding the impact of conflicts from Nagorno-Karabakh, Transnistria, Abkhazia and South Ossetia on the countries from the region. The political background and evolution of each conflict, the international legal aspects regarding the current status of the separatist regions, the economic consequences of protracted conflicts in the region are some of the topics referred to in this research.

Along with our team of experts: Iulia Akhunova, Valentina Albu, Luiza Nita, Orhan Mammadov, Lilia Ovanesov, Irmak Poole and Tudor Cojocariu, international experts have been working on this project, such as Iulian Chifu, Adrian Severin and Scott Taylor.

On 7-8 November 2013, the International Black Sea – Caspian Sea Fund brought together in the city of Rise, Turkey, rectors and academics representing universities from the countries of the Black Sea basin. This important event was organized under the aegis of Dr. Ismail Safi, Istanbul Deputy and President of BSCSIF.

In the city of Rise, a protocol was signed between Recep Tayyip



December 2011, BSCSIF Project "Side by Side - for the Black Sea" was among the five finalists in the competition "Best Project of the Year" (Romania). In the photo, the project team (left to right): Liliana Coman, Natalia Ciobanu, Alice Farcas and Diana Ioana Calin

Erdoğan University and Black Sea University Network (BSUN); on this occasion, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan University became a member of the network.

One of the most important projects was the Project of civil society monitoring called "Role of civil society in contemporary countries of the region". The first monitoring was held in Azerbaijan during July 3-10, 2011.

In this period there have been organized round tables, conferences related to the following subjects: "New Security Dynamics in the Black Sea region", "Cultural Diplomacy", "Cyber Security - Present and

Perspectives" and others that gathered well known personalities, experts and trainers for the wider Black Sea region.

In 2014 we intend to develop two projects in partnership with state authorities from Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs „Romanian all over the world" named „Romanian Cultural House from Cahul" and „National Minorities. Element of Regional Development or factor of conflict generation in Blacans area. Case study: Serbia, Albania, Bulgaria and Romania".

In February 2014 we applied to receive consultative status from Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, the second largest intergovernmental organisation after UN, and we hope to receive their positive answer by the end of April 2014.

We strongly believe that the projects that were and will be implemented by our Fund will contribute to promoting common values, interests and problems in these regions and will create the premises for defining and implementing sustainable strategies in this wide area which has a strategic role in strengthening the ties between Asia and Europe. ~



On the eve of the 5th anniversary of BSCSIF, President Akkan Suver, Secretary General Eldar Hasanov, Vice-Presidents Viktor Khmarin and Gabriel Comanescu in their speeches went through the problems of the Fund, inviting their colleagues to discuss and solve them. The organization's budget for 2014 was also approved. In the photo, from left to right: Viktor Khmarin, Eldar Hasanov, Akkan Suver and Gabriel Comanescu



Meetings by the sea

We are already used to seeing each Board Meeting as a small or big step ahead, opening new horizons.



Venue –Vega Hotel, close to Constanta



November 2013, Brussels. Signing agreement on strategic partnership and cooperation between BSCSIF and the European Policy Centre (EPC) in Brussels. In the photo: Executive Director of EPC Fabian Zuleeg (left) and Secretary General, Vice-President of BSCSIF Eldar Hasanov



November, 2013 Rize (Turkey). BSCSIF President Dr. Ismail Safi opens the meeting of representatives of the Black Sea Universities Network, which was also joined on this occasion by Istanbul University "Recep Tayyip Erdogan"

This time, as well, the 11th Session, organized on the Romanian Black Sea shore, in old Constanta furthered a "qualitative expansion" of the Organization: the Board of Directors was joined by entrepreneur Jose Ferreira Ramos, from the Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, an African states that holds a key position in the Gulf of Guinea.

The governing body of the Fund also accepted writer Chingiz Abdullayev (Azerbaijan), Dmytro Kulibaba (Ukraine), and Aleksandr Zaitsev (Belarus). At the same time, the Fund accepted new members representing the business community - Dragomir Karic (Serbia), Irina Antonova and Svetlana Ufimtseva (Italy), Roland Agambire (Ghana) and Radu Petrescu (Romania), and the ex-

diplomat and historian Kamala Imranli (Great Britain), prof. Jean-Christophe Vautrin (Switzerland), prof. Nigar Velliyeva and translator Ferechnaz Musa (Azerbaijan), environmentalist Virgil Munteanu (Romania).

The Fund's activity was marked by an important event of being granted Special consultative status to BSCSIF with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). BSCSIF Vice-president Dimitar Kostov was appointed coordinator of the Fund's activities within ECOSOC, Mr. Kostov – a veteran of the diplomatic service with significant experience within the UN.

New BSCSIF partners were introduced to the audience – the Romanian Fund for Democracy, Spiru Haret Bucharest University, the Institute of Turkology and Central-

Asian Studies from Cluj, the Black Sea Universities Network and the Saturn Fund (Romania). Among important moments of the Board Meeting were the discussion of partnership agreements between BSCSIF and The European Policy Centre in Bruxelles, and involvement of the International Fund in the "Eastern Partnership" EU initiative.

Due to his busy schedule, BSCSIF President, dr. Akkan Suver announced his resignation and the Turkish chairmanship within the Fund (2013-2015) was transferred to Ismail Safi, Turkish parliamentarian, having the full support of the Fund members.

The Board also adopted the decision to launch a BSCSIF branch in the Balkans, and precisely in Belgrade, the Serbian capital.



New Board Members



Chingiz ABDULLAYEV (Azerbaijan), writer (left). He brought his books edited in 11 languages to Constanta - almost all the languages of the countries in the Black Sea-Caspian region, and signed autographs for readers, including Viktor KHMARIN and Vitalii BUZDUGAN.

Mr. Jose Ferreira RAMOS (the Republic of Sao Tome and Principe), economist and entrepreneur, shared the following in the interview for our magazine:

I was born in Angola and my education began with the aviation industry, then I switched to management and studied Banking and Finance. Good training and skills in the field of economics allow me to successfully develop my own business in Africa, the Balkans and Middle East, and in South Asia. I also supervise the department of Islamic banking and finance in the East in one of the most prestigious universities in the UK. Being a member of BSCSIF is important for me considering that the Foundation also focuses on the synergy of interregional cooperation, on the convergence of East and West. It is as if we are saying in one voice: "Find and get the best of both worlds." I was pleasantly surprised by how much has the Organization accomplished in a few years, on which I congratulate my new colleagues



and friends. The Fund is on the right track. Considering that it involves experts from different regions, including scientists, academicians, professors, then, obviously, it has a great potential of innovative development required for the growth and strengthening of the economic situation of the organization. Speed is extremely important for our activity with the purpose to convert important geographical and geo-strategical positions of member countries into indicators of economically sustainable development of the Fund. In this sense, the implementation of projects, such as Black Sea TV, it is necessary to strike a balance between the social importance and economic grounds of a sustainable project. I hope my knowledge and experience of a successful businessman will serve for the benefit of the Black Sea - Caspian Sea Fund.



Dmytro KULIBABA, journalist and civil rights activist – another Ukrainian representative in the Board of Directors

Aleksandr ZAITSEV (Republic of Belarus) – economic and legal adviser, worked for the Belarus government, partner at private companies in Switzerland and Belarus, doctor



Black Sea economic cooperation was one of the issues on the Board Meeting agenda. In the photo: BSCSIF Secretary General and Vice-President Eldar HASANOV and Session guest Traian CHEBELEU, BSEC Deputy Secretary General (right)



Spontaneous round tables on economic cooperation and innovative development may occur. In the photo (left to right): Bakhytbek BAISEYTOV (Kazakhstan), Marina SHICHKINA and Mikhail ZERNOV (Russia) and Vitalii BUZDUGAN (Belarus)



The idea of a Strategic Partnership between the Fund and the European Policy Centre in Brussels was brought up in a speech held by the Centre Representative Amanda Paul (on the right). In the photo: together with Luiza NIȚĂ, Advisor within the Fund.



The denser and extended ranks of the Black Sea – Caspian Sea Fund



▲ How should the International Center for Support and Coordination of Economic Cooperation in Istanbul operate? The issue was tackled by the Fund members and representatives of the business community.



Signing of Partnership Agreements with the Institute of Turkology and Central-Asian Studies from Cluj and the Museum of History and Archeology in Constanta. In the photo (left to right): head of the Institute in Cluj, Tasin GEMIL, museum director Gabriel CUSTUREA and BSCSIF Executive Director Alev BALGI



Fund members Dragomir Karic (Serbia) and Vasile SOARE, appointed Ambassador of Romania to Moscow



After the resignation of Dr. Akkan SUVER, the Turkish Chairmanship mandate was transferred to parliamentarian Ismail SAFI



A colorful cultural evening was offered to the guests gathered in the restaurant of Hotel Vega, who discovered the beauty of Romanian folklore



The young team of the Central Office in Bucharest, full of ideas and energy. One of the main projects in the works by the expert group is "The economic, social and political consequences of protracted conflicts"

A scientific symposium in Istanbul

Experts and scientists from Turkey, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Russia and other countries took part in a scientific symposium on "From the Caspian to the Black Sea: strategic view", which took place on December 2 in the main auditorium of Marmara University, Istanbul. The event was organized by Eurasia Economic Relations Association (EkoAvrasya) and the University. BSCSIF was represented at the symposium by Dr. Ismail Safi, President of BSCSIF and Prof. Dr. Eldar Hasanov, Secretary General and Vice-President of BSCSIF, who held a speech during the opening ceremony.

In his speech E.Hasanov underlined the great significance of the Caspian basin for Europe and for Asia. Its rich energy resources led to building an important international transport route – a resumption of the ancient Silk Road. E.Hasanov expressed hope that by revealing problems and helping to solve them, using scientific research and according to International Law practice, problems of the region will be solved, including the issue of the juridical status of the Caspian Sea.

In conclusion of the opening ceremony the head of the EkoAvrasya Association Hikmet Eren bestowed honorary medals and awards to Dr. Ismail Safi, Prof. Dr. Eldar Hasanov, as well as Zhansait Tuymebaev ambassador of Kazakhstan to Turkey.

BSUN has new entrants

In the Turkish city of Rize, on November 7-8, 2013, the Black Sea – Caspian Sea International Fund gathered rectors and academicians from Universities in the Black Sea region. On this occasion a Memorandum of Cooperation between the Recep Tayyip Erdoğan University of Istanbul and the Black Sea University Network (BSUN) was signed, and as a consequence the University from Turkey became a member of this Network.

According to the organizers of the reunion, Turkish MP from Istanbul and BSCSIF President Dr. Ismail Safi said: "Membership of the Recep Tayyip Erdogan University within BSUN will facilitate its recognition on the international arena, on the other hand - the university will receive the advantageous opportunity to use the experience and knowledge gained by BSUN since 1998, when the network was created, now numbering 177 universities in the region."



"Together for a European Future"

The 5th General Assembly of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (CSF) was organized under this motto on 4-5 October in Chisinau. The Black Sea - Caspian Sea International Fund, represented by a delegation that included Alev Balgi, executive director, Julia Akhunova, project coordinator, and Valentina Albu, coordinator of the Center for Strategic Research of the Black Sea–Caspian Sea, attended

the forum as a full member, representing a EU member-state. The Forum supports the civil society movement in the Eastern Partnership countries, encouraging contacts between them and aiding dialogue with authorities.

The Forum was launched by Ștefan Füle, EU Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighborhood Policy and Natalia Gherman, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova.

European Policy Center Partnership Agreement

On November 27, in Brussels, representatives of BSCSIF and the European Policy Center (EPC) discussed the prospects of cooperation and implementation of joint projects. The Fund was represented by BSCSIF Secretary General and Vice-President Eldar Hasanov, executive director, Alev Balgi and project coordinator Julia Akhunova and from EPC - its executive director Fabian Zuleeg and chief expert Amanda Paul. In this context, an agreement was signed on Strategic Partnership and Cooperation aimed at consolidating peace, dialogue, understanding and cooperation between the countries of the wider Black Sea-Caspian Sea region in areas such as the deepening of democratic processes, strengthening of civil society, economic development, science, education, cultural diversity, tolerance and dialogue among civilizations. The most qualified experts from both organizations will be involved in the implementation of joint projects. As part of the projects there will be held conferences, symposia, and round tables on the above topics. Considering the wide experience of EPC, this "think tank" of the EU, the cooperation between two influential organizations will promote democratic values and policies of the European Union, not only in the Eastern Partnership countries, but also in other countries represented in BSCSIF.

Eurasian Business Forum

Adviser to BSCSIF President on Economic Cooperation Orhan Mammadov addressed the audience at the Eurasian Business Forum held in the Turkish city of Gebze on December 12-14. Its organizers – Eurasia Economic Relations Association (EkoAvrasya) and Black Sea Industry and Business Association (TÜKSIAD), as well as BSCSIF, Gebze municipality and Chamber of Commerce, and MARKA Development Agency. In his speech O.Mammadov acquainted the audience with the International Centre for Support and Coordination of



Economic Cooperation in Istanbul, recently established at the initiative and with the participation of BSCSIF, the important role of the center in promoting economic relations in the Black Sea-Caspian region. The Forum gathered representatives of 25 countries.

Business and Human Rights

BSCSIF attaches great importance to participation in important international events where aspects related to the scope of activities and interests of the Fund are approached. This time BSCSIF executive director Alev Balgi attended the Second Annual United Nations (UN) Forum on Business and Human Rights, which took place on December 2-4 in Geneva. The Forum set up by the UN Human Rights Council, provides a common platform for the promotion and implementation of the Guidelines for Business on Human Rights, adopted by the Council in 2011. These standards define the responsibilities of governments and business and in the prevention of abuse of human rights in the field of business. The Forum that brought together more than 1,400 people from 100 countries focused on the progress made in implementing guidelines and outlined the challenges faced by the state, business and civil society. A. Balgi participated in a side event entitled "Business, human rights and conflict: challenges and good practice (from conflict prevention to action taken in an area affected by conflict)."

The BSCSIF Grand Prize – Catherine Ashton

On August 30, director of the BSCSIF Brussels branch Marius Opran visited the headquarters of the European External Action Service (EEAS) in Brussels, to award on behalf of BSCSIF the 2012 Grand Prize for EU



High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Vice-President of the European Commission Catherine Ashton. The decision adopted unanimously on April 14, 2013 in Istanbul by the BSCSIF Board of Directors is an acknowledgement of the importance of personal contribution of the head of European diplomacy in the development of two major EU programs - the Eastern Partnership and the Black Sea Synergy, which also comprise several BSCSIF member-states. On this occasion M.Opran had a conversation with Edward Bannerman, a member of the cabinet and an economic adviser to the EU High Representative, during which they discussed the possibility of cooperation of BSCSIF with EEAS and the Directorate General of the European Commission in terms of support for implementation of the above programs, as well as the development of new programs of mutual interest.

In short

• On October 2-3, on the eve of the Civil Society Forum of the Eastern Partnership, Chisinau hosted a youth event, which was attended by the Black Sea - Caspian Sea International Fund (BSCSIF) representative Valentina Albu. This initiative is designed to encourage youth participation in decision-making within the Civil Society Forum of the Eastern Partnership.



• Issues regarding further bilateral cooperation were discussed by BSCSIF representatives and Romanian-Turkish Business Women Association. The meeting was held on October 9 at the BSCSIF Central Office in Bucharest. The parties agreed to sign a partnership agreement regarding the cooperation between the two organizations, which would facilitate the implementation of joint projects, especially in the social sphere.

• From October 31 to November 1, BSCSIF executive director, Alev Balgi participated in the 3rd Baku International Humanitarian Forum, which was attended by seven former presidents, 13 Nobel laureates, seven prominent scientists professors, 107 world-famous public figures and politicians, and a total of 800 participants from 65 countries and 5 international organizations.

• On December 14-15, Istanbul had the 5th Conference of Civil Society Organizations in the Islamic World, which was attended by 400 members of 230 non-governmental organizations. BSCSIF was represented at the conference by executive director Alev Balgi. The forum noted the support offered to civil society organizations by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation which recently set up a special Humanitarian Aid Department.

Heaven on Earth called Montenegro

Ilija KAZIC, member of the BSCSIF Board of Directors



Official name:	Montenegro
National holidays:	May 21– Montenegro Independence Day, July 13– Montenegro National Day
Area:	13.812 km ²
Population:	625.266 inhabitants (2011 census)
Official languages:	Montenegrin; also used: Serbian, Croatian, Albanian, Bosnian
Government:	Parliamentary republic
President:	Filip Vujanović
Prime Minister:	Milo Đukanović
GDP per capita:	5062 EUR
Currency:	euro
Internet TLD:	.me
Calling code:	+382
Time zone:	UTC +1

Montenegro - a small country, in the south of Europe, in Western Balkans, is unique in its natural diversity and generous beauty. And its statehood goes back many centuries and was born at the crossroads of different cultural and religious influences on the border between East and West. Today in a multi-confessional and multicultural environment, known for its tolerance and harmony of inter-ethnic relations, live together Montenegrins (44.69%), Serbs (29.02%), Bosniaks (8.65%), Albanians (4.91%), Muslims (3.31%), Gypsy (1.01%) and Croats (0.97%).

A history to be proud of

Montenegrins are, of course, proud of their history, which for centuries has been crowned with victory in many battles against powerful enemies and empires that tried to conquer it. From the 5th century to 1st century BC in what is now Montenegro lived the Illyrian tribes. These lands became part of the Roman Empire - its province Prevalis, as evidenced by many urban settlements, which then arose - Dokleja, Meteon, Budva, Ulcinj, Risan, some of which survived to this day. After the fall of the Western Roman Empire, province Prevalis becomes part of the Byzantium. In the middle of the 6th century the Slavs come here. Here, during the 9-10th centuries, first state formation occurs which by the middle of 11th century, finds fame as Slavic Dukla, and later - as Zeta. During the reign of the Vojislavljevic Dynasty, state becomes kingdom with its own church organization - archdiocese of Bar. At the end of the 12th century Zeta falls under the authority of the Serbian dynasty Nemanjic, due to the influence of which, on this site, where previously dominated the Catholics, Orthodoxy strengthens its presence. Since the second half of the 14th century the reign Dukla - Zeta goes to feudal Zeta families, in particular, to the Balsics and Crnojevics . New political and historical circumstances have caused the emergence of powerful Ottoman conquerors, who gradually took over the south-east of Europe. Montenegrins will lead centuries-old struggles



Ilija KAZIC, member of the BSCSIF Board of Directors



President's residence in the old royal capital Cetinje



Government building in the current capital of the Republic – Podgorica

with the Ottoman Empire, battles that intensified during the reign of the dynasty Petrovic - Njegos (end of 17th century to 19th century). In the history of Montenegro this dynasty holds a special place - many victories have been won in battles against the Ottoman Empire and Napoleon's troops. The result of the wars of liberation was the international recognition of the state of Montenegro at the Berlin Congress in 1878. After the Berlin Congress the country doubled its territory.

At this point first embassies of great countries are settled in the Balkans, including in small town Cetinje, the old capital of Montenegro.

After the First World War and the fall of the Petrovic-Njegos dynasty, Montenegro became part of the newly formed state - Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, later - the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. After the partial return of the state sovereignty and the end of the Second World War, Montenegro, as a republic, is part of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and later - the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro.

At the referendum on May 21, 2006 the majority of Montenegrin citizens voted for independence, after which it becomes an independent, internationally recognized state.

The All Time Monuments

Montenegro today's territory exhibits a lot of cultural monuments that date back to Roman times. On the Adriatic coast there are ruins of the Roman cities of Budva and Ulcinj, and on the continental side - Dukla ancient columns, which in the Middle Ages, gave the name to the first Montenegrin state. Of particular interest are the towns of Kotor and Perast, which are themselves monuments of history, architecture and nature. They began to develop at a time when the Bay of Kotor was under the rule of Venice.



Bridge on Tara River - its waters cut through the largest Canyon in Europe



Located on the Adriatic coast is the southernmost city in the country - Ulcinj

For centuries, in ages of different empires, and also in the face of constant migrations, in these parts of the world were built buildings and monuments that today represent world cultural heritage. This primarily applies to many monasteries and churches. Some of them were built back in the 9th century , such as the St.Tryphon Cathedral in Kotor, which is one of the oldest and most important structures of the Catholic Church in the world. An indelible mark was left by Byzantine culture - in its era there emerged a large number of Orthodox monasteries, that exist to this day. A great contribution to the culture of today's Montenegro was brought by the Ottoman Empire. Many of the monuments are listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

A Paradise for Tourists

Looking at the cultural and natural wealth of Montenegro, its scenic diversity and truly unearthly beauty, we can safely say that it is a real tourist paradise.

If in one day you have the opportunity to ski on the slopes of magnificent mountains and sunbathe on Bjelasica wonderful beaches of the Adriatic, if in one day you are able to visit the St.Tryphon Cathedral in Kotor bay and Ostrog monastery sculptured in rock, if the same day you can taste the delights of rafting in the canyon of river Tara - the largest in Europe, and tomorrow you will fly a kite in the Bojana estuary, then you most certainly are in Montenegro.

The Adriatic coast, washing this mountainous country, is very intricately indented and varied, in the pristine city bays there are magnificent sandy beaches. Very well contoured beaches and promenades stand out on Ulcinj and Budva Riviera. The gem of the coast is Boka Kotorska, the largest bay of the Mediterranean, a favorite mooring for cruise ships of world's most famous companies.

COUNTRIES OF THE REGION: MONTENEGRO

Kotor, natural, cultural and historic district, listed as UNESCO World Heritage



St. Trifona Cathedral in Kotor, an example of Romanesque architecture

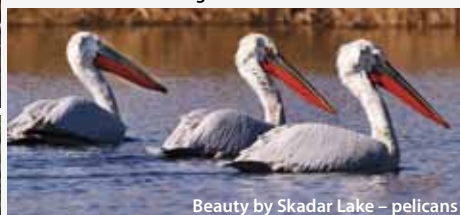


Stoliv - a picturesque city on the shores of the Bay of Kotor



Kolasin ski center

◀ Ostrog Monastery (17th c.) built in 900 meters high cliffs



Beauty by Skadar Lake – pelicans



Yacht Mooring in Porto, Montenegro



Beach Place during high season

In Montenegro, there are five national conservation parks, which are unique corners of nature in its pristine beauty and environmental purity, protected by special state laws. The total area of national parks is 10% of the country: these are Durmitor, Biogradska mountain, Skadar Lake, Lovcen and Prokletie.

Durmitor - the largest of the parks, in 1980 was included in the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. National Park includes an array of Durmitor, canyons of rivers Tara, Draghi, Susica and most of the canyon Komarnica where numerous mountains tower the pinnacle, of which 48 have a height of more than 2000 m above sea level. The highest peak is Bobotov Kuk (2525 m). Mount Durmitor embellishes 18 lakes, which are known as Gorski eyes (mountain eyes). In the canyon of Tara (height cliffs reaches 1,600 m above the river level), there are about 1,500 species of plants and 130 species of birds inhabiting. The Canyon, the largest on the continent, is the world's ecological reserve.

Besides the wonders of nature, the charm of ancient cities, churches, monasteries and national parks, Montenegro takes pride in great cultural events, which traditionally occur every year on its territory. In the summer Budva hosts two international festivals – Theatre City and Song of the Mediterranean. Every February there is a carnival in Kotor, and the city of Herceg Novi celebrates Mimosa Holiday. Gourmets from many countries have become well acquainted with Olive Days (Masliniyada) held in Bar, Days of Shirun fish in Budva, Days of Wine and fish in the picturesque Virpazar ...

In the summer season, on Jaz Beach, not far from Budva, they organize open-air concerts, which feature world's stars such as Lenny Kravitz, Madonna, The Rolling Stones ... And this year, in the period 15 to 17 July, there will be the first Exit Festival - one of the most popular music festivals, which attracts DJs and gurus of club, electronic and rock music. Other well-known events may be mentioned, such as St. Tryphon Days, Days of Camellia, Underwater Film Festival, Sunčane Skale in Herceg Novi...

A Magnet for Investments

According to many global investment funds and specialized agencies, Montenegro today is one of the most attractive destinations for investment. Such an assessment comes from its unique natural environment, as well as the specific efforts of the government of Montenegro, which was able to minimize the bureaucratic procedures for companies, to create a clear tax system and organize modern cadastral services for registration of ownership of real estate. Great efforts are made to finalize the urban development plans, which will give investors accurate information about investment opportunities, especially in tourist areas.

Undoubtedly, the tourism sector is the most attractive for investment due to the excellent, pristine areas both on the coast and in the mountains. One such visionary of capital investment is considered a Canadian businessman Peter Munk working at the construction of a luxury marina (mooring) for yacht in Porto Montenegro in Tivat, which has become a popular destination for the world yacht jet set. Major investments are placed on the coast by companies from Azerbaijan, Switzerland, Russia, Qatar, which build hotels with marinas and golf courses. Construction of



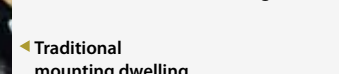
Ruler of Montenegro Petar Petrovic Njegos (from 1830 to 1851) contributed at transforming the country into an independent state



National clothes of Montenegrins (gold embroidery, materials) - one of the most expensive in the world



Fish and seafood hold a special place in the diverse Montenegrin cuisine



◀ Traditional mounting dwelling



▲ The Wizard painting by surrealist Dado Djuric (1933-2010)



◀ Water polo players of the country of mountains - invariable leaders in Europe and the world

Nikola Pekovic - one of the best basketball players in the NBA (Minnesota club)



Montenegro women's handball team – 2012 European champions



Thrill seekers prefer Tara River for rafting



such compounds increases the ratings of the Montenegrin coast in general, and in the post-crisis period encourages the return of investors in the construction sector.

A similar situation is developing in the mountainous side of the country, which welcomes tourist all year round, in summer – for the wonderful nature, in winter – due to excellent ski slopes in the resorts found in Zabljak and Kolasin.

Serious investors are expected in the energy sector as well. Particularly attractive investments seem to be the ones in “clean” energy from water, solar and wind resources, found in abundance in Montenegro. It is estimated that there is considerable potential for investment in rural areas, particularly in the manufacture of environmentally friendly products, the cleanliness of the local environment contributing to this.

Montenegro began negotiations on accession to the European Union. The very fact of such negotiations, referring to strict criteria of admission to the EU, serves as eloquent testimony to the systemic reforms and the progress that the country has made. For investors, this is a signal to continue or initiate bold steps in the direction of future investments. Naturally, the government through its infrastructure projects fully supports this process and by using the lever of privatization, provides investors free access to all sectors of the economy.

Messengers from the Land of Mountains

When speaking of the cultural and spiritual heritage of Montenegro, it is impossible not to mention such an important political and public figure, as Petar II Petrovic-Njegos (1813-1851), known not only as a governor, founder of the independent state of contemporary Montenegro, but also a philosopher, thinker, poet, who wrote the romantic poem “Mountain Wreath” translated into many languages.

It so happened that, along with the official diplomacy, the world's messengers of Montenegro are the artists and sportsmen. From Tokyo to Rome and from Paris to New York, in the world's museums and galleries you will find pictures of famous Montenegrin artists, members of many important international exhibitions - such as Petar Lubarda, Milo Milunović, Miodrag “Dado” Djuric, Vojo Stanic ... And Marina Abramovic, also a native of Montenegro, is considered one of the most prominent figures of the avant-garde. Her performances and installations surprise the entire art world.

Montenegro is also proud of their athletes and especially the national water polo team – one of the best in the world, their women's national handball team – European champions, and the famous footballers and basketballers, playing for the best European and world-class clubs. For little Montenegro it is not so little.

In Montenegro we participate in the implementation of a series of programs held by the International Fund for Co-operation and Partnership of the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea, connected with personnel training and environmental protection. BSCSIF organization is trying to help solve many problems of our time - sustainable development, national training, environment, interethnic and interreligious relations. Active work of the Fund and the relevance of these issues led to the fact that in a very short time it has achieved great success, implemented many programs and has received international recognition.

It is through the implementation of projects in the international format, we see the future work of the Fund, which will undoubtedly contribute to the strengthening of peace, tolerance and cooperation, which are the main objectives of its existence. ~

Tunnel under the Bosphorus

At the end of last October Istanbul opened a 13-kilometer tunnel called Marmaray, built under the Bosphorus. It is the world's first sea tunnel that connected the two continents. The length of the segment, extending below the bottom of the Bosphorus is 1.5 km, the depth of the pad - 62 meters.

«Marmaray» will be the last step in building an ambitious transportation system that will connect London with Beijing and Tokyo. It has already got a name - the Iron Silk Road.

The construction of the tunnel was carried out by a Turkish-Japanese consortium, with the cost of \$ 4 billion, of which one billion was provided by Japanese banks. The tunnel will let through underground trains, passenger and freight trains. This will significantly ease traffic on the two suspension bridges connecting the Eastern and Western parts of the metropolis. In 2014, the construction will be completed with the last segment of «Marmaray», linking Istanbul and Baku.



Photo: Hürriyet Daily News

Construction under the Bosphorus started in 2004, but was stopped due to archeological findings – a total of 40 thousand, out of which 30 Byzantine sunken ships.

During construction special attention was paid to seismic safety. The idea of the tunnel was first floated by sultan Abdülmecid I (1839-61), however the project seemed difficult to accomplish at that time.

A Survey Vessel for Kazakhstan

Norwegian group Vard Holdings Limited (VARD) has signed a new contract for the construction of a survey vessel for Kazakhstan-based marine services company Circle Maritime Invest JSC (Kazakhstan),



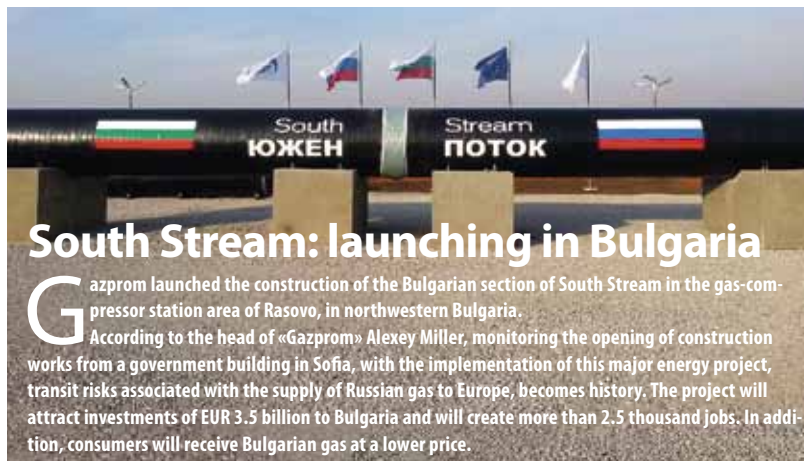
with a value of US\$9.3 million. The vessel, to be built at VARD Braila shipyard in Romania, will be delivered by the end of 2014. Vard Braila has already delivered five icebreaking tugs to CMI. (Regnum.ru)

In short

- Turkmenistan's state concern Turkmen-gaz and China's CNPC signed a contract to buy 25 billion cubic meters of gas per year. As a result, the total supply of Turkmen gas to China will increase to 65 billion cubic meters. In addition, agreements were reached on the proposed new direction of the Turkmenistan-China (direction D) gas pipeline, which will be carried out on additional gas supplies. (RBC)
- By the beginning of 2014, Russian oil production reached a maximum level since the collapse of the Soviet Union - 10.6 million barrels per day. Back in 2012, Russia became the largest producer of hydrocarbons in the world, ahead of Saudi Arabia, by a million barrels per day. Just last year, Russia produced about 520 million tons. (Lenta.ru)
- Serbia's Minister of Defence Nebojsa Radic and his Moldovan counterpart Vitalie Marinuta signed an agreement on defense cooperation. Radic thanked Moldova for the decision to send 41 soldiers in Kosovo within the Italian KFOR.

Eurasian Union: date of birth

The Treaty establishing the Eurasian Economic Community (EEC) will be signed in May 2014. This was agreed by Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan on the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council, held in Minsk recently. According to the President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, the EEC should operate from 1 January 2015. Prior to this, the Treaty will be ratified by the parliaments of the three countries. Council members supported the intention of Kyrgyzstan and Armenia to join the Eurasian integration project. A working group was created to develop a road map for these countries. The interest in the Customs Union of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan was also expressed by the leaders of Turkey and India.



South Stream: launching in Bulgaria

Gazprom launched the construction of the Bulgarian section of South Stream in the gas-compressor station area of Rasovo, in northwestern Bulgaria. According to the head of «Gazprom» Alexey Miller, monitoring the opening of construction works from a government building in Sofia, with the implementation of this major energy project, transit risks associated with the supply of Russian gas to Europe, becomes history. The project will attract investments of EUR 3.5 billion to Bulgaria and will create more than 2.5 thousand jobs. In addition, consumers will receive Bulgarian gas at a lower price.

Wider Black Sea area: challenges of history and modernity

Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor Alla YAZKOVA, Head of the Center for Black Sea - Mediterranean Studies of the Institute of Europe of the RAS in Moscow, tells about her institute's scientific concerns related to the region of the Black and Mediterranean seas.

Geo-strategic aspects

First of all, we need to determine what kind of region is that. Because both politics and scientific interpretation of political process bears two dimensions of it. The first one is the actual Black Sea region - the way it has been for centuries until the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union. And the second is the Greater Black Sea area, which in its current version includes almost all Balkan countries, as well as the countries of South Caucasus, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine and Moldova. And today all of them are unified by a large international body - the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC). The declaration on its establishment was signed in Istanbul in June 1992 by the presidents of 11 countries, who were further joined by Serbia. Within 20 years BSEC became an international organization accredited to the UN, in which it has an office, working primarily with matters of economic development and cooperation.

A quite noticeable thing is that the mutual economic cooperation of Black Sea countries, and their cooperation with the outside world became more intense over the last two decades, and it's not just about the actual economic cooperation. Over these years, the region became especially



significant for its role of an important transit route – it is traversed by Pan-European and Pan-Asian oil and gas pipelines. In addition to land-based routes, on which energy resources are delivered from the countries of the Caspian region to Europe, a rather substantial traffic is registered throughout the Black Sea, and, in particular, from the Russian port of Novorossiysk and the Georgian Supsa, where several terminals operate. From this point, tankers transport oil through the Black Sea Straits that lie on the territory of Turkey. And, in this context, we can talk about the growing importance of the Greater Black Sea area that has acquired a key-strategic role in energy resources transportation.

Directly associated to this are also the environmental issues of the Black Sea. Even now environmentalists are raising the alarm - it was openly discussed on the International Scientific Conference held in Yalta.

And in Russia, at Kuban State University, a special program for Black Sea recovery was developed. But this recovery certainly depends not only on the Black Sea countries; it should include a number of areas, including the European one, because a serious pollution of the Black Sea takes place through the Danube.

Another issue is transportation. I must say that even during the Cold War, the local-commercial and passenger, as well as tourist navigation on the Black Sea had been upgraded much faster. Today the local navigation is unfortunately inopportune as, for example, between Novorossiysk (Russia) and Odessa (Ukraine) there is no direct scheduled maritime route. This also applies to other major ports of the Black Sea.

The adopted on June 26, 2012 Declaration of the anniversary OSCE Istanbul Summit there has specifically emphasized the need to strengthen not only the economic but also the transportation component of mutual cooperation, with particular accent on an active development of both marine and land routes. The most debated at the Summit, not only at the top, but also on numerous sessions of working groups was, in this sense, the project on the Ring highway connecting all the countries in the region, including the South Caucasus and the Balkans. On the hallways of the summit, there



were discussions about the need for a closer cooperation between business-structures of the Black Sea countries, which would also contribute to the gradual resolution of existing conflicts and contradictions.

The Black Sea region - in its broadest sense - has long been characterized by diversity of civilizations, cultures and religions, as well as by quite close ties with the major hubs of the Mediterranean. The whole long history of the region, its welfare, prosperity or decline, were determined by the mutual relations between the north and south, east and west. Empires and civilizations - the Roman and Byzantine, Russian and Ottoman - left their marks on the shores of the Black Sea. On the northern Black Sea coast in ancient times was laid the Great Silk Road from Asia to the Caucasus and South-Eastern Europe, on which an active trade was between the East and the West. All of this tells us that in those days the people of Southern Europe, the Balkan Peninsula and the Caucasus had direct contacts and they acquired that trait of similarity still present today. It means people are ready to understand each other. But unlike the distant past, where on the banks of the Black Sea lived Greek and Roman colonies, in present days there is no such active dialogue between the Black Sea and the Southern European and Mediterranean countries. With the exception, perhaps, of Greece, as in the south of Ukraine and Russia still live large Greek diasporas.

As for Russia, the issue here is plain: Russia has long been mostly interested in finding an outlet to the Mediterranean Sea and the oceans through the Black Sea, thing that became especially obvious during the reign of Peter I and Catherine II, when Russia established itself on the banks of the Black Sea. Further, its struggle for supremacy on the Black Sea has become one of the causes of a series of Russian-Turkish wars. Now Russian-Turkish wars became legacy to historians. After the First World War, Russia - Turkey relationship was relatively positive, the result of which became their contribution jointly with

Romania to the development of the still acting International Convention on the Black Sea Straits (Montreux Convention, 1936).

Today, the Russian-Turkish relations are experiencing a period of gradual endorsement. But in a larger sense, the normalization of the situation in the Black Sea - Mediterranean area is not facilitated by the domestic and international balance of power, established after the series of "Arab revolutions" in the region and around it.

This is, first and foremost a military-political component. Today we can easily see on the map, on the shores of the Black Sea, states divided virtually in half: these are countries, members of the North Atlantic Alliance - NATO (Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey and Greece, which also considers being part of this region), as well as countries that are not members of NATO - that's Russia and Ukraine and Georgia and Moldova, who through Transnistria, and through the Danube ports has access to the Black Sea. And such a balance of power is ultimately centered on two major Black Sea powers - Russia and Turkey who adopt, on a range of matters, dissimilar or even conflicting positions, yet agree on certain key issues. We can give a particular example in this sense: Turkey adopted an entirely different position from Russia on the conflict on the Syrian territory. This is somewhat understandable, because Syria borders Turkey, there is a massive influx of refugees, and it is possible that military action in Syria bubbles over the territory of Turkey. Whereas Russia adopts a more neutral position on the issue. Or, on the other hand, such an aspect: during the Russian-Georgian conflict in 2008, Turkey, following the Montreux Convention, closed the straits necessary for the large naval forces of the United States to pass, despite the fact that it is a member of NATO and it would have to seemingly comply NATO's discipline. But it acted contrary to this, understanding the need to maintain stability in the region.

The idea of Eurasian cooperation and its prospects

The very idea is still premature, it is quite unshaped, and if we talk about Eurasianism as such, we also have in mind the countries located to the east of the European part of Russia - Kazakhstan and some Central Asia countries; however, for the formalization of the Eurasian idea relating to the Black Sea it is still unlikely to come to a full-blooded resolution. As for Ukraine, it serves as a barometer - both for the Black Sea and for Turkey, and to some extent for Russia. Because for Ukraine European heading is a priority and Turkey, as you know, since the early 1983 has been standing in line to the EU, although it has received only the Association Agreement. Nevertheless, the European direction, even at the household level, is oddly enough notable in Turkey, despite the fact that on state and community levels there is a conflict between the secular component - it is largely Europeanized - and the Muslim component. The Russia has also noticeable discrepancies between the Eurasian direction declared at the state level and the ideas of Europeanists settled throughout the history.

In the Black Sea area the situation is more defined: Romania and Bulgaria - EU members, to which also gravitate states of the Western Balkans, Georgia's European idea or rather the Euro-Atlantic idea is very strong, Azerbaijan actually refused to be part of the Eurasian Union... Therefore, to the scope of our research projects doesn't fit the idea of Eurasianism applicable to the Black Sea.

Big players and the fate of the region

Besides Russia and Turkey, there are also other active major players in the region - Europe in the face of the European Union, America... And there's nothing but wonder what kind of nuance does that give to the evolution of the region. Aren't they making even more complicate the circumstances of the position of external players?

As for the USA, in case they're interested, and here we talk about their interests in the South Caucasus, they eagerly "get involved in the game". Whereas, at large, USA's interests are defined by its strategic position in the Middle East, including Iran and Afghanistan, and today - Syria. From this point of view, America has a great interest in preserving contacts with Georgia. For example, when there will be raised the issue of evacuation of U.S. troops from Afghanistan, Georgia can become one of the possible ways. In the event of a conflict with Iran, which is not excluded, Georgia, can be a stronghold, too.

It's more complicated in case of Azerbaijan. Here, the USA is already interfering into the energy matters of Azerbaijan, and Azerbaijan is a self-sufficient energy power. One of the reasons for USA's collaboration with Azerbaijan remains important, despite existing differences: it is the fact that Azerbaijan, as well as Turkey, has a secular version of Islam. As has been repeatedly stressed in the U.S. documents, it is important for Americans to show that they are not against the actual Islam, but against its extreme forms of terrorism, that is, to exclude the idea of United States anti-Islamic position in essence.

As for the European Union, it has shown for quite a long time no interest towards the Black Sea region, and only in November 1997 appeared the first document - "the European Commission Communication on Regional Cooperation in the Black Sea Area". Next, there were signed bilateral cooperation agreements with a number of Black Sea countries, and these have been included in the European Neighborhood Policy (ENP). After the accession of Romania and Bulgaria to the EU (2007), EU interest in the region has increased significantly, special projects for cooperation have been elaborated - Black Sea Synergy and the Eastern Partnership. Finally, in 2010, the European Commission held a special hearing, by the results of which the Black Sea was declared a European sea (referring to the fact that here are

Romania, Bulgaria), although this matter is disputable...

"Frozen conflicts": forecasts

As for conflict settlement, i.e., returning to the pre-conflict state, then at this stage, international experts see almost no real possibility of a quick resolution of conflicts. Of course, here plays a role the international law: it is alongside preservation of established borders of the European states. The principle of their territorial integrity, along with the principle of self-determination of peoples (this is the exact formulation from the UN Charter, Art. 1, par. 2) has been repeatedly reaffirmed in the Final Act of the CSCE, and a series of international documents until the midst of 1990s. But we are not able to force states adhering to these regulations, especially when conflicts go far enough and each of them has its own specifics. Thus, the Moldova - Transnistria conflict is very special and experts believe that there is no interethnic component here, but there is a status conflict, i.e., it is necessary to solve the matter of Transnistria's status. As for the South Caucasus conflicts - these are very serious conflicts, and there is only one thing to offer - the gradual establishment of practical, and above all, humanitarian ties. Experience has shown that disruption of economic and humanitarian ties, in context of a conflict, has severe consequences on the fate of specific individuals. It is already a matter of human rights.

And another critical point is the problem of the ideologist activity and the activity of the mass media, scholastic interpretation of history in specific countries. The English author Thomas de Waal has written a book about Karabakh - "Black Garden". In that book he showed that completely different versions of history, of Armenia and Azerbaijan, make impossible even communication between the young. It is clear that if from a young age people are given the idea of their reality in a very different way, then it will be very difficult to find

a common language in the future. It is practically impossible to unify the versions of national history, but it's very important to work things in such a manner that on the humanitarian and socio-political level, mutually unacceptable formulae are not used.

The fates of the Black Sea: projection into 2030

The fate of the region depends on what will be the scope of practical cooperation - economic, energetic, how much these directions will differ, and how well will the government leaders and the Black Sea countries agree on solving the most pressing problems, first of all. Even an agreement on the issue of environment and prevention of further pollution of the Black Sea would be a great achievement. This would lay a foundation for a series of further agreements. And, on the whole, to imagine the Black Sea gradually sinking into the further abyss of conflicts - is, in my opinion, absolutely unacceptable...

A priceless contribution can be brought by civil society. It could gradually emerge through negotiation at the community level, to address the pile of issues, including the matters of "frozen conflicts". Over the past five years, we have engaged in informal talks with Georgian experts on the initiative of the European Centre for Conflict Prevention (The Netherlands). We've already had a lot of meetings, and each time new people got involved - both from the Georgian side and ours. This has also contributed in some way to finding mutual understanding within civil society of two countries. At a recent meeting we made a joint Declaration which spoke of the need to gradually restore contacts between community and professional groups of our countries, to promote the development of economic relations and ties in tourism.

It seems that such negotiations may eventually contribute to finding mutual understanding between the nodes of civil society, even in conflict situations. ~~~~~

Oil rush and destiny of the Caspian

Caspian facts and figures

Countries:	Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Iran, Azerbaijan
Surface elevation:	28 m
Length	1200 km
Width	435 km
Surface area	371 000 km ²
Water volume	78 200 km ³
Shore length	7000 km
Inmost depth	1025 m
Average depth	208 m
Mineralization	light-salted
Percentage of salt	up to 13%
Catchment area	3 626 000 km ²
Primary inflows	Volga River, Ural River, Terek River, Kura River and others



The Caspian branch of the Shirshov Oceanology Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Astrakhan, Russia) is working on environmental programs for the conservation of the Caspian ecosystem under conditions of the offshore oil production, which has been booming in recent years. The branch director, Vladimir USHIVTSEV, is talking about the challenges and artificial barriers the scholars have encountered in their marine environmental research.

The North Caspian region where previously oil and gas have not been extracted may soon become a major supplier of hydrocarbons. According to the experts' estimations by 2020 in the Kazakhstan sector of the Caspian Sea only the "Kashagan" field will produce up to 60 million tonnes of oil, in the Russian sector - 30 million tons. Overall production volumes of hydrocarbons will be increasing along the whole sea shelf. The exploration has been conducted and the production of hydrocarbons is planned not only on the shelf but also in the foredeep. Having such field development trends, we anxiously state that the oil and gas rush does not imply any uniform environmental policy. Regarding the shelf in the Russian sector of the Caspian, the situation is safe here. "Lukoil", the main developer with license areas, operates according to the "zero discharge" principle. Since 2006, our team has been annually inspecting all the offshore areas where the field development, exploration, pipeline construction take place and we can assure you that "Lukoil" acts strictly in compliance with its environmental policy. Comprehensive monitoring (seismic sensors and other equipment) is adjusted at the beginning while oil platforms are being installed in order to monitor later during exploitation all the activities and risks that may occur from the geologic and ecologic side.



completely closed for us. And it turns out that of the five Caspian states we have only our surveillance area and partially the Kazakhstan region. The rest that represents the largest part of the sea, we just do not know so we can not answer the questions about the real condition of the whole Caspian Sea and no one can do this until there will be elaborated a unified program that would allow the monitoring of the entire sea area, keeping it under common control. Then we could get the information and say what the sea used to be, what it is now and what will be.

For us, scientists, the geopolitical situation in the Caspian Sea is of utmost importance and it should be resolved somehow. Why did it happen? One day there was a loud statement, perhaps it somehow affected the geopolitics.

At the end of the 90s, I was lucky to work in the Caspian Sea in the team of the famous French explorer Jacques-Yves Cousteau. And when the team handed over its report to UNESCO, the report contained such a conclusion: the largest oil reserves on the Earth were deposited in the Volga-Caspian region. That means, the Caspian Sea has a big oil deposit. Subsequent the collapse of the Soviet Union and free access to the sea, the path to oil and gas was opened. And then a variety of oil companies rushed here, now there are over fifty of them, they created their consortiums, branches. Oil exploration of the Sea became dominant, oil - on the first place, and then - everything else: fish and other

Disunity and secrecy

The trouble is that after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Caspian sea was divided into separate zones, into pieces and each Caspian state protects its waters and does not let anyone to enter. Previously we have been collecting data all over the sea - I have worked for 30 years in the Caspian Research Institute of Fisheries (CaspNIRH, Astrakhan) and every year we used to have a whole ecological picture of the sea. Now if we're going with some academic programs to someone's sovereign waters, we are politely asked there: "Guys, you have nothing to do here! We know what is what, we will study everything ourselves." The area that is more accessible for us - it is the Kazakh sector of the sea where we can still study and evaluate something. But the state waters of Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, and of course Iran are



resources. Therefore, each country primarily started studying their area of the sea bottom in terms of hydrocarbon exploration. It is considered a strategic activity, which is covered by secrecy. Therefore, in contrast to the Black Sea, the Caspian Sea is extremely surrounded on all sides by oil interests and challenges that turned into a kind of black-out Sea.

Total development of hydrocarbons on the seabed, literally at all depths ("Lukoil", for example, is carrying out exploration at depths more than 500 meters, that is possible with the modern technology), will cover the entire area of waters. Therefore, when the seabed was divided, those water boundaries that we once con-

sidered to be available for us - the 20 and 12-mile zone, are almost not working. According to the new seabed boundaries, the security zone of each state is respected.

The sea being a whole
Well, if you take the northern part of the sea available for you - Russian and Kazakh, what is happening here in terms of ecology? What are the risks, hazards?

The Russian sector is exploited according to the "zero discharge" principle. And the exploration and oil and gas complex construction - all the activity is conducted with respect of the green technologies and under the supervision of scientists, so that we do

not observe any significant risk. The only thing that we can notice: given the small depth at which the pipelines are installed on the seabed, there exists a risk of ice conditions that could damage the pipes. Therefore, the pipes at risk are buried in the ground and thus the risks are minimized.

What really bothers us - it is the transfrontier pollution from the Eastern sector, the Kazakh side, where there are a lot of suspended or not properly plugged wells - that substantially "emit radiation". Totally, due to the rising sea levels 15 fields were flooded, about 1,400 wells, at some of them unsealing occurs periodically. The Kazakh scientists openly declare about this. The well abandonment is



On the Malyi Zhemchuzhnyi Island (natural monument, North of the Caspian Sea) nest a colony of rare birds, black-headed gulls being dominant



Unique Caspian seal - the smallest seal in the world, endemic to the Caspian Sea. Under the threat of extinction

According to one of the hypotheses, the Caspian Sea got its name in honor of ancient tribes of horse-breeders - Caspians, that lived in the I millennium BC on the South West Coast. During its history, the Caspian Sea had about 70 names with different tribes and nations, such as the Khvalynskoe Sea (Old Russian name that comes from the name of the inhabitants of Khorezm - hvalisy, trading in the Caspian Sea) and the Khazar Sea (the name in Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Azerbaijani, Crimean Tatar and Turkmen).

The Caspian Sea has oceanic origin - its bed is piled with an earth oceanic crust. It was formed about 10 million years ago when the closed Sarmatian Sea lost touch with the world's oceans about 70 million years ago, and was divided into two parts - the Caspian Sea and the Black Sea.

The Caspian Sea hosts around 50 great and medium islands with a total surface of around 350 km².

There have been recorded 101 species of fish in the Caspian region, it also had the majority of the world's sturgeon, and

freshwater fish such as roach, carp, perch. The sea is a habitat of fish such as carp, mullet, sprat, kutum, bream, salmon, perch and pike. There also resides a marine mammal - the Caspian seal.

"The problem of preserving the ecology of the Caspian Sea should be addressed comprehensively. Each country provides annual reports. All is fine. But in general, there is no joint monitoring group to oversee the environment, the problem is not resolved," says Chingiz Ismailov, Professor of Baku State University, Director of Research Center «Caspian», chairman of the Center for Regional Development

Kazakhstan considers it necessary to join the international moratorium on Caspian Sea sturgeon fishing, which would apply to all states in the region. This was stated by the Minister of Environment Mr. Nurlan Kapparov. The moratorium on sturgeon fishing in the Caspian Sea was adopted a few years ago by Russia, where he works now. Azerbaijan and Iran are also ready to introduce it, while Turkmenistan is still undecided on this issue.



First tests of the RIF deep water submersible (Vladimir Ushvisev - in the center), 1987



Launch of the RIF deep water submersible



Institute employees participating in the Youth Festival "Artificial Reefs" in Egypt, 2009



Sampling from the seabed

complicated by the fact that it is very difficult to install technical equipment there because the depth measures only about a meter - neither a land nor a maritime vehicle can pass through. Meanwhile, there are a lot of wells of the kind: they emit radiation and the transfrontier pollution of the Russian sector threatens fish and seals.

In the Azerbaijani sector there are also many wells left - since the Soviet era, and there is also a high level of pollution that is transferred from the southern to the northern sector of the sea. It is also true that the Caspian Sea still has a fairly high tolerance and a high level of self-cleaning capability.

The second issue that bothers us, annually increasing volume of shipping when the transit vessels on their way may dump all kinds of waste at sea: fecal matters, bilge and ballast waters. It can be now monitored from space, but vessels still pollute the sea. When this transit corridor was examined for toxicology, it appeared to have the highest pollution by petroleum products and other indicators.

Disaster threat

Currently, tankers annually make about 2,500 runs in the Caspian Sea and transport from 12 to 14 million tons of oil. After the exploitation of

the fields started in the Russian and Kazakh sectors of the sea, a strident increase of traffic is expected. Such heavy traffic, especially in conditions of the severe winter storms and poor technical condition of vessels (unequipped tankers with a one-fold hull plating) considerably increases the likelihood of major accidents. The scale of the environmental disaster that may occur in the Caspian Sea, one can imagine on the example of the tankers' crash on November 11, 2007 in the Kerch Strait.

What happens in case of the oil spill?

An oil film is formed on the surface that aggravates the water gas exchange with the atmosphere which slows the aeration rate (oxygen saturation) and removal of the carbon dioxide formed in the process of the oil oxidation. 12 km of the sea surface can be covered up by only one ton of oil. Every drop of oil covers with an impermeable film 20 sq. m. of the sea surface. It changes all the physical and chemical processes: increasing surface temperatures, deteriorating gas exchange, living organisms die or leave the dangerous zones. But even the oil settled on the bottom may persist for 10 years and more, thus poisoning benthic organisms.

The Caspian Sea has a specific nature, especially its shallow northern part, as only one major oil spill can turn out to be a fatal strike for fisheries and bird nesting sites. Experts estimate that the annual cost of the loss of fish resources for all the littoral states could reach \$ 15 billion.

Subaquatic biostations

Taking all the above mentioned into account, with the support of "Lukoil" we have developed the biotechnology intensifying the self-cleaning process of the sea with the special biological stations. Our task was to create biologic filters by some sea biota, that could clean the aquatic environment. The fact that the biota of the Caspian Sea has a very high potential for all kinds of complex fouling organisms-filter feeders that are actively formed on special constructions - biological stations that we build at the seabed of the Caspian and which purify water very well. As well a complex of microorganisms is growing there that degrade oil. There are lots of clams which act as active water regenerators. Such biological station can be installed in the most environmentally sensitive areas of the Caspian Sea - for example, near the Malyi Zhemchuzhnyi (Small Pearl)





Preparing the Gnome submersible for diving



Marine predator Mnemiopsis, dangerous eater of plankton in the Black and Caspian Seas



Artificial reef quickly acquires all sorts of organisms that filter water from contamination



Crayfish – an indicator of clean water



Island that is inhabited by seals and where thousands of birds nest and fish fattening takes place. In the case of the oil pollution and oil settling to the bottom, such biological station can hold up this oil, decompose and neutralize it. Due to many indicators, our technology has significant advantages over other methods of the seawater purification.

Can this technology be applied in other areas of the Caspian Sea?

The fact is that the northern Caspian grounds consist of sand, silt, various mixtures of shells, thus there is an acute shortage of solid substrate. Therefore, when creating subaquatic biological stations, biota realizes its fouling potential in a full manner. On underwater structures made of concrete with bio additives, pelagic modules of polypropylene, all kinds of abundant organisms such as microflora, crustaceans, fish and shellfish start developing. This complex implemented in such biological stations has a high fishery potential and ecologic potential - in terms of self-cleaning of the marine environment and water recovery. In order to learn about the effectiveness of these biological stations in other areas of the Caspian Sea, one must first install them there and observe how the complex organisms are formed, how it will function, what will be their species composition and biomass.

And one more interesting detail: these biostations are very heavy - up to one ton weight. That is why the nets of the poachers that are several kilometers long, in many places cling to these biological stations, being torn and becoming useless. And the

poachers are forced to leave these areas providing freedom for the sturgeon feeding. Besides, installing biostations rationally in a "checkrow way" in the areas where the sturgeon is fattened, one can extrude the poachers and protect huge areas of the sea from them.

Caviar and poachers

Russia imposed a moratorium on the sturgeon fishing. Kazakhstan more likely joined this initiative. Do these actions bring any results, how effective are they?

Reducing the sturgeon population - is our common misfortune. The fact is that the sturgeon remained actually without supervision and protection. If recently there existed a single organization that studied and protected stocks of this species, but now every power in the Caspian Sea is a sovereign master in its sector, and if sturgeon wandered into „our waters „, it must be immediately fished as when it leaves our waters, we will lose bioresources and the neighbors will certainly catch it. That is a policy under the slogan „it will be enough for our age" that is really practiced in the Caspian Sea. And no matter how much effort is put in order to protect sturgeon, all this in general does not work on the whole sea. From the social aspect, it was fished in the past, is being fished now and will be fished, as they say: „Carthage must be destroyed."

In our sector the fish inspection is well organized, but sturgeon migrate across the sea, and what happens to it, for instance in Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan or Iran area, we do not know. If you only knew how much gear and nets there are under the water! In

fact, the poachers operate over the entire area of the sea, there are plenty of them, it is a whole illegal fishing industry. And now they have the most modern means of transportation, navigation and gear. Therefore, they can be stopped either by a force majeure such as our biological stations, or more likely the economic component of the fishery profitability.

After the breakup of the Soviet Union, the entire Russian fishing industry in the Caspian basin almost completely collapsed. Namely, all these huge ships that were previously fishing for sprat, were divided between different countries. And now, the Russian fishing fleet in the Caspian consists of small, scattered vessels which are mainly based in Makhachkala. Thus, the fishing industry which used to produce thousands of tons of sprat, had collapsed. It collapsed also because the transportation corridor had greatly expanded - in quantitative and qualitative terms. The sea freight became apparently more profitable. And it was almost a coincidence that after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the division of the Caspian, Quarantine Service that gave access to the vessels into the Caspian Sea only after settling and changing ballast water, suspended its activity. Afterwards, in the middle 90s, the ctenophore Mnemiopsis lady was brought into the sea that once ravaged the Black Sea getting there from the Atlantic. It is a predator that kills almost all zooplankton. Then, the Black Sea faced huge environmental problems that severely damaged its bioresources. The same fate befell the Caspian Sea and on a more severe scale - it is a landlocked sea. And

Mnemiopsis just raged, destroying most of the planktonic organisms that consisted the feeding base of the sprats, and the commercial stocks of the fish which are the largest in the Caspian Sea, decreased sharply. Currently, its reserves have been stabilized but a lot of time lost and the prospects for the revival of the fishery is clearly not on Russia's side because the basic stocks of sprat are located in Azerbaijan and Iran.

Thus, reducing the importance of fishery, on the one hand, and the discovering and developing hydrocarbon resources, on the other hand, resulted in the complex changing of interests towards the Caspian Sea that generally had a significant influence on the geopolitics.

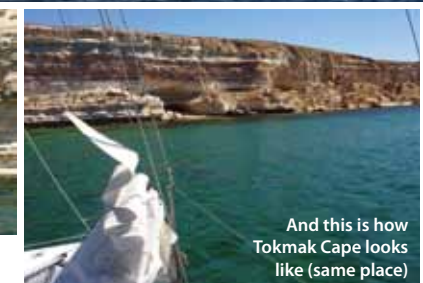
In the Russian sector, the sturgeon is fished now only for the purposes of reproduction in the hatcheries. Today the aquaculture is being developed worldwide. In Astrakhan, there is a center „Bios", biologic farms growing sturgeon in the ponds. They are fed with a special fodder, made all kinds of injections for the rapid roe maturation - it is a „milking herd". So the sturgeon caviar is now obtained from the alive fish - there are different methods in order not to kill fish, but to „milk" the sturgeon, and then to release them back into the pond, and after five years they produce roe again and it is extracted. Therefore, one fish can have five or six cuts, scars. The caviar produced in such artificial way, prevails in the world market today.

But the problem is that the poaching market still exists. It must be stopped not only in the Russian sector, but in other parts of the sea too - because the fish tends to

The Rift, research fleet flagship, is sent from Astrakhan to another expedition



Peschanyi (Sandy) Cape area (Kazakhstan)



And this is how Tokmak Cape looks like (same place)



Scientists of the Institute of Oceanology during the expedition

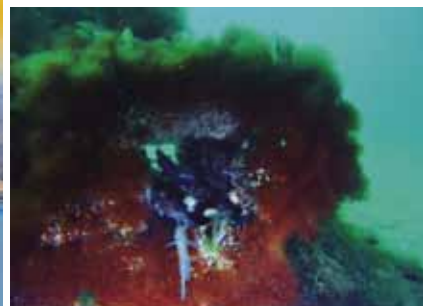




Spillway from rivers, shipping and oil wells on the shelf - the main pollutants in Caspian seawater



Assembling biological stations on the seabed



Biological stations or artificial reefs - real oasis on the deserted seabed



migrate and despite one's efforts to breed the sturgeon in the sea, eventually, it will find its way into the hands of the poachers. The problem is not solved and will not be solved until it presents an economic interest for the poachers.

Trans-Caspian pipeline and high risk area

There is a pipeline project across the Caspian Sea from Turkmenistan to Azerbaijan, which is controversial and, above all, induces the objections of ecologists. Do you think it is more about environment or politics? We had an idea to explore carefully the route of the pipeline, to dispatch equipment, submersibles there. After all, there is very complex bottom topography: underwater mountains and valleys. And before constructing a pipeline there, it is necessary to properly learn the route, all the risks that such a construction could be exposed to. As in a certain sections the pipe may be in a hanging position under the water. I do not know technically how to do it. Undoubtedly, there is very complex bottom topography so the specialists on oceanography, underwater geology should carefully work there – in addition it is a rift zone, a very active seismic area. In my opinion, this site is very dangerous for the pipeline to be constructed especially at depths 150-200-300 meters! For instance, in order to make urgent

repairs there, advanced diving equipment is required. That is, if the environmental disaster happens, it will be much worse than the one that occurred in the Gulf of Mexico - because the Caspian Sea is land-locked.

For a period of thirty years I have been in sea expeditions five times a year, conducted underwater explorations, dived myself many times. In the Soviet period, our expeditions started in the northern Caspian and ended almost at the border with Iran. So all the sea was under our control, all the water area had the stations network, and we knew what was happening there, what were the ecological peculiarities practically on every square kilometer. The trouble is that during all these years the Caspian accumulated a vast range of materials, and now it is not claimed and begins losing its value because the material is inconsistent, it is fragmented. There are no studies worldwide the results of which could be compared with the material that was previously gathered as to show how the sea feels, how it has changed, its ecologic problems.

The whole organism needs to be diagnosed

To sum it up, what steps should the riparian countries primarily take to normalize the situation in the Caspian Sea – in order to preserve and even save the marine environment and biological resources?

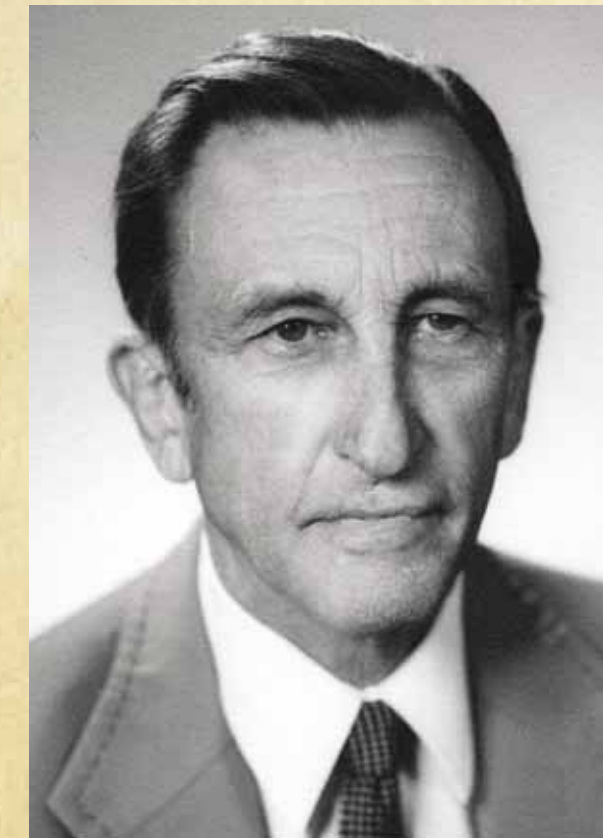
Firstly, the borders should be open for all scientific vessels, all scientific organizations who work in the Caspian Sea, to study it, to understand, compare and identify any working programs, to determine the plan of the activity. Thus this inaccessibility of the Caspian countries for science (we are “scientific spies”!) – is connected to the fact that there are some strategic reserves of resources, especially on the shelf sea and these reserves are protected and kept secret.

There are five countries and one sea. If you study only the northern Caspian, you study only the head but the arms, legs, everything else - what can you say about them? And until you do not examine the whole body, you can not draw conclusions about what and how to do, there is no diagnosis, no common working program on the sea. Now, speaking the words of wisdom - “too many cooks spoil the broth”.

The cooperation of the coastal countries of the Caspian Sea is quite difficult because there is no strong coordinator to be involved in the whole affair. Apparently, there is no common interest and large source of funding in order to organize an international framework that would encourage, stimulate and push to work in alignment in terms of research and environmental monitoring. ~

Deed of humanity

Jean-Jacques Gautier: Torture - the absolute weapon in the service of the powers of the evil



Today, the movement for the prevention and prohibition of torture seems to be something quite normal and natural. Since 1987, there is the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. That was also when a similar UN Convention entered into force. And in 2002 the UN General Assembly adopted the Optional Protocol to this Convention, which provides for the establishment in each country of a national mechanism to prevent torture - an independent supervisory body responsible for regular monitoring of prisons. Torture is considered shameful and in many countries it is prohibited by law.

But few know that the origin of this movement was Geneva banker Jean-Jacques Gautier (1912-1986).

Inspired by the example of his countryman Henri Dunant, founder of the International Red Cross, he set a noble goal to create an independent structure that would deal with the prevention of torture in the world.

“Buying and selling securities at the right time to multiply customers’ estate is a fascinating economic game. But I always thought that one day I’ll do something else. Living among the privileged, I had to give back to other people... Torture more and more

seemed to me the absolute weapon in the service of the forces of evil and shame of our century. When people ask me why I started to address the issue of torture, I’m trying to answer: but how can it be ignored?” - Gautier explained his position.

Sense of responsibility to society

He was born in the canton of Geneva Chêne-Bougeries on June 28 – the same day as Jean-Jacques Rousseau, hence the name of the great thinker that he was christened with. In the family with many children of a banker, where he grew up, ideas of humanism

were deeply respected. Mother Helene Gautier Pictet was vividly interested in the problems of women’s rights in Switzerland and the rights of people who refused universal military service for ideological reasons. His father, Charles Gautier, being dissatisfied with his status of Geneva private banker, helped unions and participated in the movement for the creation of family gardens, orchards and social housing in the city. On one hand, the classical bourgeois surroundings, on the other - the family environment of social responsibility, which had a strong influence on the personality of young Jean-Jacques.



He studied law, received his doctorate from the University of Geneva in 1938 and married Catherine Zanello who came from an artistic family and brought her artistic perception of life into this rather cold environment in which she found herself.

Since the beginning of war, Jean-Jacques joined the League of Gotthard – a secret group of militaries, who decided to organize resistance in Switzerland in case of an invasion of the “axis” countries. Horrors of Nazism – deportation, concentration camps, death factories, then Hiroshima and Nagasaki could not pass in vain for such a delicate and sensitive nature like Jean-Jacques Gautier...

In 1955 he continued his career with Pictet & Cie Bank (currently one of the leading banks in Europe on private capital management), later becoming one of its associate members. At that time Geneva banks and the entire economy experienced a period of maximum growth, and everything seemed possible. But a successful career didn't mean the world for Jean-Jacques. He had the soul of a philanthropist; he wanted to help somehow people who were not in the circle of privileged. He was interested in everything that was happening around him and in the world; he sympathized with supporters of solidarity with the third world countries and in 1968 took part in the creation of the Berne Declaration (Déclaration de Berne), which was initiated by theology professor André Biéler. And shortly before that Gautier created a private association on providing assistance for development. (l'Association privée d'aide au développement). In addition, in the “Protestant Rome”, as Geneva is sometimes called, he participated in ecumenical groups with their concept of “responsible society”.



Geneva suburb - Chêne-Bougeries. In this house, Jean-Jacques Gautier has lived for many years

In Solzhenitsyn's footsteps

In the early 70s there were events which, one can say, turned around Jean-Jacques's life. This is the bloody military takeover in Chile, the end of the Vietnam War, the first battles for human rights in their modern sense, the emergence of Amnesty International, which was one of the first to raise voice against torture. A significant role was also played by the release in West of Alexander Solzhenitsyn's books “Gulag Archipelago”, “One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich” and others that shook Jean-Jacques Gautier with their truth about inhumane conditions of detention in Soviet labor camps, with their devious system of torture and humiliation.

About the intense activity of thoughts and feelings that Jean-Jacques experienced during this period, testify his words from an interview with “Le Monde” newspaper: “The fight against torture is my way of contiguity to Christianity. My mother gave us a very strict moral education, but left us totally free in terms of religion. I went from God of Ethics to God of Love. I beheld acquaintance with Jesus Christ. For loving God means to love his creatures, too. I think we are born with God's imprint in our conscience. Whenever we trodden our conscience, we are somewhat overshadowing this representation”. His faith was certainly the driving force behind his humanitarian demarche, but, still not less to say had, oddly enough, his status of banker.

“Bankers-humanitarians - a Geneva tradition”

As a lawyer and banker he was under the rule of professional secrecy, which was at times a heavy load to bear and the secret information entrusted to him did not always co-

incide with his ideas about morality. But from legal and moral point of view, he was obliged to keep secrets. On the other hand, he could not help but wonder: could he handle torture himself? “I was never afraid of death - he wrote in the weekly “La Vie”. - I do not think it is a terrible thing, but rather something beautiful ... But torture? I told myself that if I had been in this situation, I wouldn't have shown resistance and would have given up the secret.”

Painful reflections on this subject did not leave Jean-Jacques Gautier.

“... no matter how huge is the suffering faced by the body of the tortured, for the attempt on his soul the most dreadful. In fact, often the purpose of torture is to force the victim to act against its conscience, whether it regards the conviction of mates or the location of the spouse or just to break its ideals” (weekly “La Vie”).

And it feels like emphasizing that Jean-Jacques belonged to the privileged stratum of Geneva who felt its social responsibility, its duties towards society. Journalist Jacques-Simon Eggly wrote about it this way: “By changing the self-centered course where such people could live a very privileged life, they, on the contrary, committed to serving the community and the solidarity with others. We must recognize that it was a valuable catalyst in Geneva's history...”

“Bankers-humanitarians exist, it is even a Geneva tradition, which I am proud to observe” - liked to say Jean-Jacques, too.

Conquest of Everest

At first he was alone, and then he was joined by a few closest friends. Nevertheless, Jean-Jacques faced with the

fact that his views have not yet found a proper understanding at European level. He didn't indulge in illusions that his banking associates would recognize his ideas, but still regretted their somehow polite indifference. As an example, his numerous letters sent to Geneva bankers with requests to assist, to which the Swiss Banking Society politely replied that human rights are not a priority for them.

In 1973, Jean-Jacques Gautier left Pictet & Cie Bank and went to Nepal for mountain climbing. There, in a world of silence, surrounded by the greatness of the mountains, he developed a well-defined plan for the conquest of his Everest. Upon his return, full of fresh forces, Jean-Jacques began to act. First of all, it was necessary to establish an international convention against torture. To implement his intentions from 1973 to 1977 Gautier made necessary connections and started to work with the World Council of Churches and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

In October 1976, Geneva's weekly “La Vie Protestante” published an article by Jean-Jacques Gautier called “New weapon against Torture”. The paper presented in detail a proposal for an international convention establishing a system of unannounced visits to places of detention. The idea of Jean-Jacques Gautier aimed not so much at the denunciation of violations, as at their prevention.

The newspaper also published opinions of 18 prominent political and academic figures about the “Gautier Proposal”. Many of them encouraged entirely and recommended Gautier and Switzerland to not cease, but to promote this project to fruition. Others embraced the idea as “unrealistic”, “utopian” and “overly optimistic”. In the following months, the International Committee of the Red Cross issued a letter of support, and Gautier continued to publish articles and organize conferences to attract even more attention to its initiative. To promote “Gautier Proposal” on the initiative of Martita Jöhr-Rohr, an informal Saint-Gallen group was created. There were other organizations and individuals



GENEVA. Jean-Jacques Gautier Center, inaugurated in September 2012, became the headquarters of the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT)



During the official opening of the Centre. Pictured second from the left - Catherine Gautier - widow of the founder of APP. To the right: sculptural portrait of J.J.Gautier

who encouraged the idea, and among them - the International Commission of Jurists, Amnesty International and the Association of Christians for the abolition of torture.

Finally, for Jean-Jacques Gautier came the “finest hour” in January 1977, when he registered the Swiss Committee against Torture, which was further renamed into the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT), which has become the main tool to approve the idea of eradicating torture. After 10 years, the association has played a crucial role in the adoption of the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture, which at the same time established the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture. Based on this success, APT has become a leading developer of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture (OPCAT), a groundbreaking international treaty that entered into force in 2006.

The Fight Continues

Currently, the Convention against Torture has been ratified by 61 countries, including all 47 member states of the Council of Europe and another 22 have signed it. Already 37 countries

have set up their national preventive mechanisms - independent monitoring bodies. They include public figures and human rights advocates, Internal Affairs representatives, judges, doctors, sociologists and psychologists.

Jean-Jacques Gautier died in 1986 from cancer, bringing the deed of his life to win. In September 2012, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of his birth, in the heart of Geneva was inaugurated “Jean-Jacques Gautier” Center, which became the new APT headquarters and the venue for important international forums on this subject. At the latest of meetings, the Secretary General of the Association for the Prevention of Torture, Mark Thompson said: “The governments of many democratic and developed countries fully support the idea that torture is crime. Unfortunately, this is not enough. We must fight in the field for the eradication of torture as a separate phenomenon to change public opinion”.

Today this struggle is continued worldwide by faithful followers of Jean-Jacques Gautier - a banker, an altruist, a Christian. His truly chivalrous devotion to the mankind will remain forever in history... *Geneva*

GALLERY

PHOTO: ARCHIVE



Petar Morozov. Village Houses in Gabrovo. 1937, aquatint



Boris Denev. Veliko Tarnovo. 1950s

▼ Petar Morozov. Eliseyna. 1936, aquatint



Dechko Ouzunov. Bistritza. 1940s



Nayden Petkov. Balchik. End of 1960's

► Bencho Obreshkov. Port. 1961



GALLERY

The path of realism in Bulgaria

Regardless of socio-political changes, even at most radical times Bulgarian art has never gone to the extremes of avangarde but has remained true to the tradition of realism. This is its most characteristic feature. It is also consistent in expressionist experiments and in the effects of post-cezanism, Cubism and the aesthetic of Neue Sachlichkeit (New Objectivity) that infiltrated into the country in the early 20th century.

Art education in academies in Austria, Germany, Italy, France and trips of Bulgarian artists across Europe brought to Bulgaria a dynamic modernist spirit that characterized the art scene in the late 1930s.

While the Baratsite - a group of three prominent artists, Zlatyu Boyadziev, David Peretz and Vasil Barakov, roamed the Rhodopes and absorbed in landscapes and scenes of rural life, their enthusiasm for the museum specimens

of Western art, one of the most iconic artists of this period, Bencho Obreshkov, introduced still-life fish and female portraits on marine landscapes, trying to overcome the traditional genre system. The quest for a "national style" is the leitmotif of several decades. Also among its prominent representatives is the artist and aviator Boris Denev with his huge range of landscapes of the old Bulgarian capital of Veliko Turnovo. Or the first Bulgarian photographer and superbly precise graphic artist

Petar Morozov, who in his works managed to recreate, to the smallest detail, churches, old houses and cobblestone streets. Or the master of watercolours, Konstantin Shtarkelov. It is namely the interest in antiquity, in ethnographic motifs, in their admiration of natural beauty, that the artists find the most purest expression of "home" to which they aspire.

This trend is almost inherent in Bulgarian art, except for the period from the mid-1940s to the early 1960s,

when as a result of political conditions and Soviet influence, it fell to the canonical system of socialist realism. Many of the classicists of modernism disappeared from the scene, others re-orientated themselves to different areas of creativity. The natural process of development was interrupted. The complexities and peculiarities of its time left a lasting mark on all following stages in the history of Bulgarian art. Although at the cost of compromises, artists like Olga Vulnarova, Dechko Uzunov and Naiden Petkov managed to preserve their artistic identity, for the gradual "thaw" that occurred in the 1960s. In this context also appears the generation of their students - modern classicists of Bulgarian art, among them Svetlin Roussev, Georgi Baev, Vladimir Goev, Todor Panayotov, Dimitar Kirov, Yoan Leviev, Georgi "Slona" Bozhilov and Ivan Kirkov.

Under the influence of their teachers and the modernist model of the

1930s, they returned "home" in art in the most varied forms. Landscapes and compositions with religious and historical themes filled again the exhibition halls. The art scene gradually became dynamic and layered with new influences, the most daring and provocative approaches, but against mostly and solely within realism. Bulgarian art knows no abstraction, but there are extremely strong impacts in figuratism in the work of Ivan Vukadinov, Edmond Demirdzhian, Andre Daniel, Greddy Assa and others. There are also artists like Peter Dotchev who crystallizes most successfully his passions in Informa and Arte Povera in industrial landscape, and who not without reason became the ideal of many of the younger generation. No less is the contribution of one of his biggest followers, Stanislav Pamukchiev, who after the end of the 20th century gradually transferred painting into three-dimensional space and the form of an installation.

Besides being one of the largest institutional art collections in Bulgaria, the art collection of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs presents these complex and dynamic developments of realism in Bulgarian art in the 20th century. Initiated in the 1960s, the collection gradually swelled to many thousands of paintings, drawings, sculptures and graphics that adorn Bulgarian missions around the world and the building of the ministry in Sofia. In this way, the intrinsic striving of Bulgarian artist towards "motherland" and their efforts to find an authentic national style in all variations of realism have been turned into a symbol, a sign and an image of the identity with which the country represents itself in the world.

Svetlana KUYUMDJIEVA,
Art critic at the Cultural Institute
of Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Illustrations are copies of paintings
from Culture Institute of MFA Bulgaria



Zlatyu Boyadziev. Under the Walnut Tree



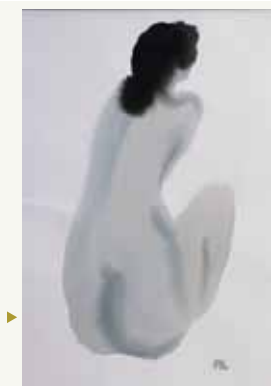
▲ Svetlin Roussev. Landscape. 2005

Konstantin Shturkelov.
Varna shore, aquarelle



► Georgi Baev.
Sea. 1970

► Dechko Ouzunov. Nude. 1950s, aquarelle



► Petar Dochev. Dumpers. 1960'

In pursuit of high technology

The Committee on Innovation and Investment of the Black Sea - Caspian Sea International Fund continues to work on the selection of promising projects, details of which can be found at www.bsccsif.ru. While presenting some of them, the committee chairman and director of the BSCSIF branch in Moscow, Mikhail ZERNOV invites potential investors and partners from the Black Sea-Caspian region to participate in their implementation.



Mikhail Zernov,
President of BSCSIF Commission on Innovations
and Investments

1 Electricity in hard-to-reach places

Currently, the main method of supply in the field, for example, in exploration, is the use of mobile diesel generators, which delivery to the places of deployment can be very difficult. The Russian company «LiveNet» (Dubna) has created a new system of operational field supply for places with based mobile units located in remote areas at a distance 1-7 km from the point of connection to the power grid or mobile power, and operates based on the principles of resonant power transmission which allows reducing the necessary cross section and, accordingly, the weight of the conductor is more than 5 times. Deploying such a power line can be accomplished by walking on foot through rugged terrain and of a knapsack stacker backpack using field cables laid in a Toplan type box. Power capacity of up to 6 kW is achieved by light (1km = 15 kg) low voltage cables. Implementation of the project reduces up to 80% of metal lines for non-ferrous metals, reduces weight and improves mobility of the power line, reduces losses on heating conductor in operation, increases injury and fire safety.



2 The artificial eye

A group of scientists from Nizhny Novgorod (Russia) offers to develop an artificial bioelectronic (bionic) eye with 100% recovery for patients who retained only the optic nerve (people who have lost their vision due to various injuries, or those whose visual functions were affected from birth). The bionic eye is a compact self-running prosthesis inside the eye with the power supply on the basis of modern built photosensitive elements. A skilled surgeon during microsurgery under a microscope, connects the eye with a thin optic nerve. The role of a bionic eye retina is performed by a sensor with microchip - a type of a microcomputer. The result of its action is a processed incoming stream of information that, given the appropriate conversion comes through the optic nerve to the brain with perfect clarity, giving a realistic picture of the observed image.



3 Canine instinct detector

“Neutron Technologies” (Dubna) has created a portable DVIN-1 detector, which locates more than 30 explosives and narcotics, automatically determining the exact position of the inspected object, with full radiation safety - the absence of induced activity in inspected facilities and the environment. Scientists have developed a special identification algorithm based on neural networks, which significantly speeds up the detection of hidden mass. The installation is being tested to monitor bulky loads. There has been created a portable version of the detector, which allows its operation in the field. Work is underway to create a mobile unit to detect explosives in passenger cars.



“Elixir of Life” pilot batch

Alliance of Seas, a group of innovative structures of Russia, which also includes the Moscow branch BSCSIF, released a pilot batch of DiHydro - Siberian larch extract, which has received the name of “elixir of life” as it really extends the life of man. We have already discussed about in our magazine about its unique anti-aging properties and on the original method of its receipt from the valuable Siberian timber.



DiHydro - is a drink that contains many natural components, the essential of them being Dihydroquercetin, one of the strongest antioxidants. It has powerful anti-inflammatory and anti-allergic properties, strengthens and restores connective tissue, helps reduce cholesterol levels, enhances the action of many nutrients (vitamin C and vitamin E), strengthens blood vessels and capillaries, improves blood circulation, prevents the formation of blood clots, reduces inflammation in the prostate, strengthens the immune system. Furthermore, this reference naturally occurring antioxidant protects the stomach and the liver against harmful effects, activates the regeneration process of gastric mucosa. It exerts pronounced effects of prevention of major aging diseases - cancer, cardiovascular, brain diseases and others. It increases tissue resistance to the damaging effects, prevents high blood sugar, reduces the likelihood of diabetes, and also facilitates its evolved forms. Another valuable property of DiHydro is the positive impact on the nervous system, activation of the nervous processes, reducing the formation of carcinogens in the body, skin rejuvenation, as well as recovery of the organism as a whole. But most importantly, the extract slows the aging process. Alliance of Seas invites partners from BSCSIF member-states to participate in the highly prospective project associated with the production and sale DiHydro.

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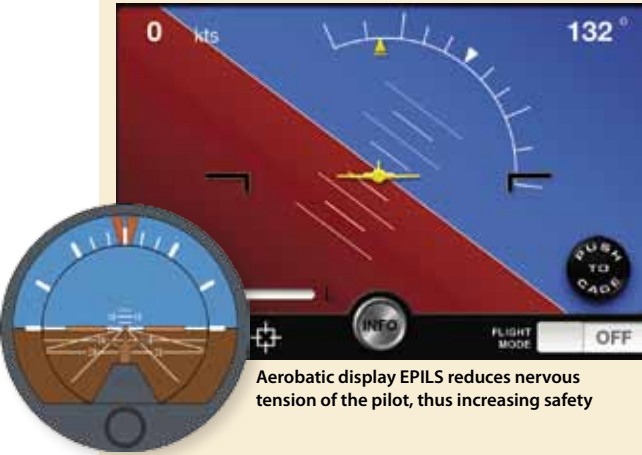
Pilot's friend

Innovation Company "Erkon-NN" presents the development of a completely unique device. This "Electronic flight director indicator" pilot – plane (EPILS), allowing the pilot to determine the position of the aircraft in space, measures the current angles of pitch, roll and glide. Engineers proposed a new principle of visual-figurative representation of the spatial position of the aircraft.

The use of EPILS will allow:

- Expanding the possibility of using aviation in complex weather conditions;
- Eliminating accidents and disasters due to loss of spatial orientation and aircraft control in flight, thus preserving the lives of passengers and aircraft;
- Increasing the level of aircrew training, eliminating psychological stress of crew members due to lack of crew proficiency.

There has been built a program that can supplement device parameters with such pointers as ground collision warning, a dangerous altitude at a certain moment, target designation and position of other aircrafts and many others. The implementation does not imply additional significant costs. Each aircraft and helicopter may be re-equipped with a new display system in home stations of existing devices.



5

Waste and New Technolgy

Specialists of «Protonenergy» created an installation that sorts out institutional and residential waste (IRW), by applying the latest techniques in the framework of the concept of a closed and autonomous energy cycle for use in residential ecosystems. It is an environmentally safe and effective method of sorting and processing IRW. The installing is compact and can improve the quality of sorting and providing favorable sanitary conditions. Having an installation like this the need to dispose IRW on landfills is minimized, which reduces the harmful impact on the environment. Furthermore, the method allows increasing the efficiency of sorting IRW due to multiple cyclic selection of specified wastes, namely, to bring the extraction of moving objects on a defined circle up to 80-90 %, which is 1.5-2 times more effective than known methods. The technology allows building cost-effective and efficient installations for sorting IRW for residences, industries and entire ecology complexes. IRW recycling of paper, plastics, food and vegetable waste, glass, textiles, packaging materials, leather, rubber, stone, ceramics, bones will cost 2.5 Euro/1m³. Estimated projected sorting rate - from 1000 m³.



The New Taming of the Wind

A new type of wind turbines, developed by "AeroGreen" does not require orientation to the wind and provides a stable performance during hurricane winds, snow and rain, causing icing, hail, etc. Compared to the traditional models the noise level of the installation is reduced several times. The structure was built by organic use of solar panels, which increases the production of electricity of one installation per footprint unit. And the use of turbine technologies can improve the utilization rate of air flow more than doubled, and also removes restrictions on the rotor diameter. Designated area: remote industrial facilities and construction sites (e.g. offshore oil platforms), production in regions with expensive local electricity and remote farm houses, residential estates and, in general, any objects of civil and commercial applications in areas with medium and high speed wind.



A rare finding

During excavations of the ancient temple of Jupiter Dolicho in southern Turkey, German archaeologists have found more than 600 ancient seals and amulets. "Such a large number of sacred seals is unheard of for sanctuaries of this kind" - said the head of the excavations, Professor Engelbert Winter. Since 2001, him and his colleagues have been engaged in excavations of the sanctuary of Jupiter Dolicho near the village, where in ancient times was the Syrian city of Dolicho. Local cult of the god Baal, which was identified by the Romans with Jupiter, is widely spread in the Mediterranean Sea since Syrians started to enroll into the Roman army. Archaeologists have found in these places many artifacts, including late-babylonian, Levantine and Syrian seals since Achaemenids. Many of them depicted scenes of deities worshipping. On seals and amulets one can see people praying, kings fighting with animals or chimerical creatures. In addition to cylindrical and flat seals, scientists have also found sacred scarab beetles made of glass, stone, quartz and ceramics. (RIA "Novosti")

NEWS FROM THE REGION

Olympic heroes from BSCSIF countries

Out of 20 countries represented today at the International Fund of the Black and Caspian seas, 18 countries participated at the XXII Winter Olympics in Sochi and only six of them won medals belonging to all awarding categories. If to consider that Sochi had a total amount of 98 sets of medals at stake, that is 294 medals, then 54 medals were won by the countries of the fund of "two seas", i.e. more than 18 percent: 25 gold, 15 silver and 14 bronze. Particularly excelled Russia, Switzerland and Belarus. Their champions, their heroes BSCSIF can rightfully consider its heroes...



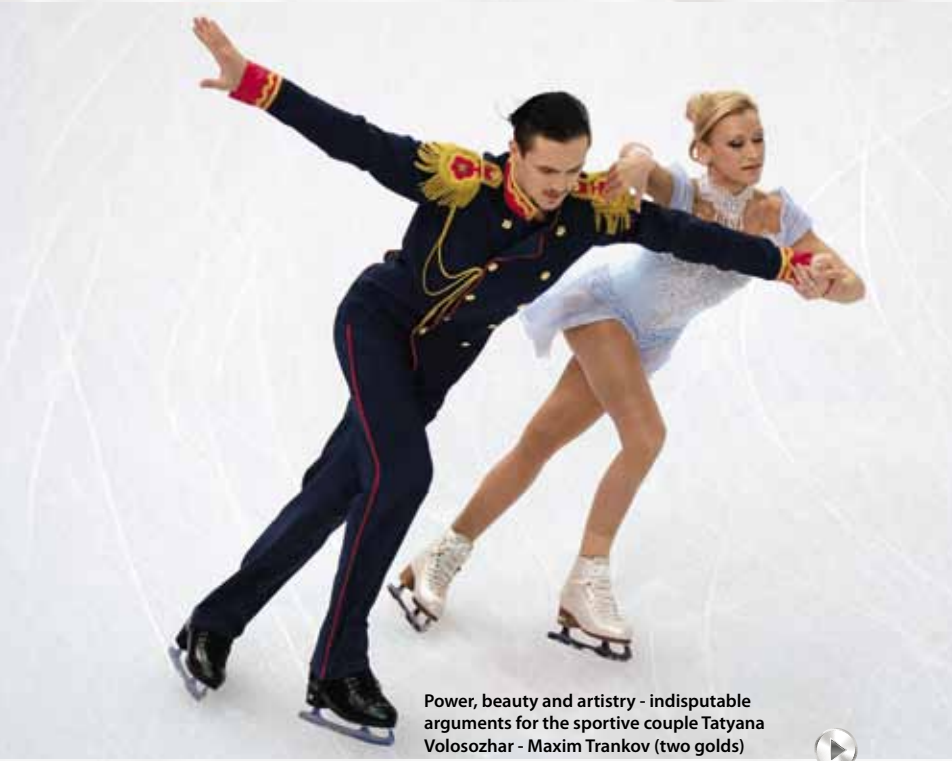
RUSSIA occupied the first place as per total, reaching an unprecedented result and surpassing for the first time by number and dignity of received medals even the highest achievement of the USSR team at Winter Olympics in Calgary in 1988. Among those who brought athletic glory to her particularly significant were Tatiana Volosozhar and Maxim Trankov - they were unequalled at pair skating. They put two gold medals into the penny bank of the national team - in individual and team competition. But the true hero of the Olympics became the 28-year-old Viktor Ahn - ex south-Korean, currently Russian. This short-track genius won three gold and one bronze medals. And one of the most spectacular victories - all three levels of the medal stand in 50 km ski marathon were taken by Russians. However, the Russian national team has also brought disappointment to its fans: disastrous performance of its hockey players...

This is how the final medal table for BSCSIF countries looks like:

PLACE	COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
1	Russia	13	11	9	33
7	Switzerland	6	3	2	11
8	Belarus	5	0	1	6
20	Ukraine	1	0	1	2
25	Croatia	0	1	0	1
26	Kazakhstan	0	0	1	1



Short-Track Genius Viktor Ahn - three gold medals and one bronze for Russia



Power, beauty and artistry - indisputable arguments for the sportive couple Tatyana Volosozhar - Maxim Trankov (two golds)



Although bronze, but still weighty medal for their country won Swiss women's hockey team. In the fight for third place these girls have beaten the Swedes: 4:3



Ukrainian golden biathlon quartet (4x6 km relay)



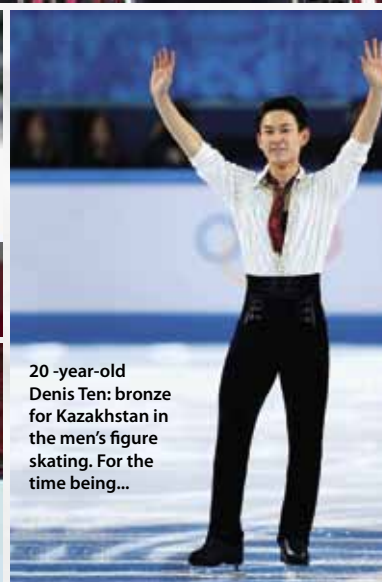
With her three gold medals Belarusian biathlete Darya Domracheva just made history at the Olympic Games



Swiss skier Dario Cologna who missed almost the entire season due to injury, becomes twice Olympic champion in ski racing. Now, that's some will! No wonder one cannot hold tears of joy...



Ivica Kostelic (Croatia) confirmed his worldwide fame, taking silver in slalom



20-year-old Denis Ten: bronze for Kazakhstan in the men's figure skating. For the time being...

SWITZERLAND. For the country of Alps, Sochi, by the number of acquired gold medals is the most successful Winter Olympics in history. The most outstanding champion - 27-year-old Dario Cologna: two gold medals in ski racing. Other gold in snowboarding brought former Russian Yuri Podladchikov nicknamed IPod. And traditional Swiss ski glory was carried on by Dominique Gislin - gold in downhill racing. The finishing touch was given by hockey girls. Beating Russia in quarterfinals, at the match for the bronze medal they dethroned Sweden team, too. Success is explained primarily because of the fact that in Sochi Swiss probably felt like being on one of their mountain cantons...

BELARUS. One of the biggest surprises was Belarus athletes. Never at Winter Olympics had they performed so powerfully: as much as five gold medals on their belt! Just three of them were won at biathlon by Darya Domracheva, which, by the way, was granted on this occasion the title of Hero of Belarus. Freestyle Olympic champions became Alla Tsuper and Anton Kushnir.

UKRAINE. 20 years after the first Olympic "gold" for the independent Ukraine (Oksana Baiul, figure skating) at 2014 Olympic Games in Sochi, biathletes of this country won the gold medal in relay race. Ukrainian quartet was represented by Vita Semerenko, Juliya Dzhyima, Valj Semerenko and

Elena Pidgrushnaya. Russian girls in this race came second. In addition, biathlete Vita Semerenko won the bronze medal in sprint.

CROATIA was represented by 11 athletes. The outcome is more modest than, for example, at the Olympics in Salt Lake City, where she had three golds. But in Sochi remained true to himself the famous downhill skier, 2002 world champion Ivica Kostelic - he was second in the Super Combined Slalom (Swiss Sandro Villetta took gold).

KAZAKHSTAN. The national team was comprised of 58 athletes from 11 sports. Out of them, Denis Ten took bronze in figure skating.

With pain and joy

The famous poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko authors a myriad of Russian and translated into many languages, books of poetry, prose, essays.

His publications are frequent, his face, alas, irreversibly aging, but still cheerful, energetic, every now and again shows up on television, his presence in literature and life itself is an indispensable factor. But the considerable number of readers and viewers experiencing some fatigue from this flickering frequency should be considering that, without Yevtushenko knowing how to be in the spotlight both in life and in literature it would immediately become unbearably boring. He is indispensable. And, perhaps, referring to the origins of the phenomenon, it would be just at your leisure to look through the first volume of the collected works of Yevtushenko, from the very first pages. And, one would think that from poem to poem the reader might immediately catch the growing sensation of seemingly inexhaustible talent, powerful strength, courage, originality and freshness... It would seem that all this is far gone and several generations of people who put a price on the poet's word, now, having lost touch with the new shoots, grew old, as the author himself. What freshness are we talking about! But the early poetry of Yevgeny Yevtushenko did not age. Holding the spirit of an era, it is still juvenile, young: "In a coat for winter not, red cap on the head, the lad goes out the gate. A roof flavored icicle he grabs with cold teeth..."

Yevtushenko, who cried at the dawn of his misty youth: "There are no uninteresting people in the world!" and in fact he always showed a burning interest in human destinies.



Mikhail Sinelnikov, poet, academician at the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences and at Petrovsk Academy

Which, incidentally, strongly distinguishes him from those in the same group who became famous poets early, the so-called "Yevtushenko's generation," but for the most part focused on the private and personal. Nevertheless, Yevtushenko was similar to all his contemporaries, whose youth coincided with the era of change. He thinks, feels like they do, he does not separate himself from them, the greedy for life and wanting a big change, and seriously thinking about the past and the future: "... Into a large steaming foam a lad comes out the gate. He wears a cap dripping wet from the drop and walks on the loud streets. And nearby - with pain and joy they think the same, they are sad, they crunch the same vernal ice, they want the same."

Yevtushenko, who wrote some wonderful poems and published his first book "Scouts of the future" under Stalin, is marked in the history of literature as a "thaw poet". The lead poet of the stream, of course. It was his poems, and songs of Bulat Okudzhava that gave the era of hope, expectations, frustration, and at the same time, the era of awakening forces and maturing young likelihood its

full expression of vibrant color, its chlorophyll dye. Everything else, and depending on the mood, and in their own way talented, gifted, rich qualities, certainly not redundant in poetry (whether it is a sharp eye and the ability to compose exquisite metaphors, or passionately soulful melos and wonder plastics) was also "abreast with the times" and turned out to be opportune. And yet it was only an addition to all these things. It was not mainstream.

Yevtushenko, from his earliest years sought "to cry out" to the very simple and desirable reader, and finally - to the ever suffering Russian people (thus, the symbolic title of the poem "The long screams" representing simultaneous despair and hope.) He started as a pioneer of new civil lyrics. But the current took him further to the side of publicism. Two poems, which brought the greatest success with readers, that built worldwide reputation, "Babi Yar" and "The Heirs of Stalin," were brought to life by lofty sentiments and met the needs of the era. But one must admit that in essence they do not belong to the realm of poetry. Time when poems were avidly consumed by three hundred thousand readers in gatherings at the Luzhniki stadium entrusted poets with unusual poetry features. So in that sense I understand Yevtushenko's notorious dictum "A poet in Russia is more than a poet." But, in my humble opinion, there cannot be anything more! A poet is a poet.... With all the breakdowns, errors, failures Yevtushenko always remained a poet. Once, I wrote a very critical article for The Moscow News weekly about one of his failed poems (later my fervent harsh words were forgiven by easily appeased Yevtushenko, who understood I do not write

against him, but for him, the way he should be, the way nature intended him). But in this review, along with reproaches and attacks, there was a phrase saying that on a scale of authenticity and quality of the talented “Wedding” bard and author of a poem about a professor whose wife left, is superior to Nobel laureate Brodsky. I still believe so. I do not know, maybe the problem lies in the relation to the subject of poetry. For me, as a reader of poetry more valuable than the exquisite rhymed essayistics must be some alive and living text detail. Just like young twenty-two year old Yevtushenko said: “I drink brown kvass in dusty Kuntsevo town, with my back to the heated kvass tank. The saleswoman hands over wet coins.”

Yevtushenko brought into new Russian poetry not only its own themes, but its rhythms and its rhyme. My teacher in poetry, “Russian Leconte de Lisle” last Acmeist Mikhail Zenkevich once told me, “Yevtushenko — bravo! We spoke with Gumilev and Mandelstam even before the Revolution that Russian rhyme should be changed ... “.

Incredible, but forever young, heroically, tragically, as a hero described with Nekrasov force in “Weddings”, who danced his way “with hair on his forehead,” Yevtushenko reached his eighties. The beloved anxiously followed the news of his serious illness and surgery. And all were relieved to learn that Yevgeny was out of the hospital. Unfortunately, he could not attend the event of him being awarded “The Poet” (you might have different approaches about the award itself, but I think Yevtushenko had to get it first, if his intention was to accept one... But the issue dragged on for years). His voice was heard on TV. And this long-familiar voice, loud, pushy, not one of an octogenarian, recited new poems. Good poetry, which is comforting.

Yevgeny
YEVTUSHENKO
(b.in 1933)

Weddings
*Weddings in days of war,
false cheating comfort,
those hollow phrases:
'He won't get killed...'
On a snowbound winter road,
slashed by a cruel wind,
I speed to a hasty wedding
in a neighboring village.
Gingerly I enter
a buzzing cottage,
I, a folk dancer of repute,
with a forelock dangling
from my forehead.
All spruced up, disturbed,
among relatives and friends
the bridegroom sits, just mobilized,
distraught.
Sits with Vera-his bride-
but in a day or two
he'll pull on a gray soldier's coat
and, wearing it, leave for the front.
Then with a rifle he will go,
tramping over alien soil;
a German bullet, perhaps,
will lay him low...
A glass of foaming home brew
he's not able yet to drink.
Their first night together
will likely be their last.
Chagrined, the bridegroom stares,
and with all his soul in anguish
cries to me across the table:
'Well, go on, why don't you dance!'
They all forget their drinking,
all fix me with goggling eyes,
and I slide and writhe,
beating a rhythm with my hooves.
Now I drum a tattoo,
now drag my toes
across the floor.
Whistling shrilly,
I clap my hands,
leap up near the ceiling.
Slogans on the wall fly past,
'Hitler will be kaput!'
But the bride
scalds
her face
with tears.
I'm already a wet rag,
barely catch my breath...
'Dance!'-
they shout in desperation,*



In the history of literature Yevgeny Yevtushenko is known as the lead “thaw” poet

*and I dance again...
Back home, my ankles
feel as stiff as wood;
but from yet another wedding
drunken guests
come knocking at the door once more.
Soon as mother lets me go,
I'm off to weddings once again,
and round the tablecloth anew
I stamp my feet and bend my knees.
The bride sheds bitter tears,
friends are tearful too.
I'm afraid for everyone.
I've no desire to dance,
but you can't not dance.
1955*

Translated by George Reavey

Here Is What...
*Here is what is happening to me:
my old friend doesn't come to visit,
and in idle vanity
come various folk, not those who should.
And he
goes about somewhere not with those
he should
and he understands that too,
and our discord is not cleared up,
and both of us suffer from this.
Here is what is happening to me:
Not the right girl at all comes to visit,
she puts her hands on my shoulders
and steals me from another.*

*And that one-
tell me for God's sake,
on whose shoulders does she put her
hands?
That one
from whom I was stolen
in vengeance also will begin to steal.
She won't respond immediately this way,
but will live in a struggle with herself
and unaware will select
someone superfluous for her.
Oh, how many nervous
and unhealthy,
unnecessary involvements,
unnecessary friendships!
Something rabidly desperate in me!
Oh, somebody,
come,
break up
the conjunction
of people alien to one another
and the estrangement
of souls that are kindred.
1957*

Translated by Albert C. Todd

Human being
*To S. Preobrazhensky
All humans are noteworthy. Their lives
Resemble those of planets in the skies.
Each is specific and unique indeed,
No planet is identical to it.*

*If someone lived an unobtrusive life,
And unobtrusiveness was in his line,
People took interest in him because
Such an uninteresting man he was.*

*Each human has his own inmost world
With the happiest moment to be recalled,
With the most frightful moment to shake off;
But those are things that we know nothing of.*

*And when a person draws his final breath
Everything goes the way of all the earth
For with the death he takes along with him
First snow, first kiss, first battle — everything.*

*It's true that bridges, paintings, books, machines
Remain, along with other things,
It's true that many things are here to stay,
But something is to perish anyway.*

*Such is the rule of game, in other words,
It's people that cease, not their worlds.
We have remembrances of people, well, then
What did we actually know about them?*

*What do we know of our brothers, friends,
Of our only one, whom heaven sends?
And, knowing our own father on the whole,
We don't know anything about him at all.*

*Thus people pass away, and they will not return.
Their inmost worlds will never be reborn.
And every time my heart just screams
About this ir retrievable course of things.*

Translated by Alec Vagapov

** * *
When suddenly I saw you rise
over my miserable living
at first I came to realize
that all I had was void of meaning.*

*Your face, however, like the sun,
lit up the forests, seas and boroughs
and let me uninitiated man
into the world of magic colors.*

*I'm scared that there may be
the end of sudden revelation,
and tears and joys and admiration,
but I don't struggle with my fear.*

*This fear is nothing else but love.
I foster it thought I can't do it,
and, putting up with fears I have,
I guard my love from being ruined.*

*I'm bound down by this fear.
The colours won't last long, you bet;
for me they all will disappear
if, like the sun, your face should set.*

Translated by Alec Vagapov

Breaking up
*I fell out of love: that's our story's dull ending,
as flat as life is, as dull as the grave.
Excuse me - I'll break off the string of this love song
and smash the guitar. We have nothing to save.*

*The puppy is puzzled. Our furry small monster
can't decide why we complicate simple things so -
he whines at your door and I let him enter,
when he scratches at my door, you always go.*

*Dog, sentimental dog, you'll surely go crazy,
running from one to the other like this --
too young to conceive of an ancient idea:
it's ended, done with, over, kaput. Finis.*

*Get sentimental and we end up by playing
the old melodrama, "Salvation of Love."
"Forgiveness," we whisper, and hope for an echo;
but nothing returns from the silence above.*

*Better save love at the very beginning,
avoiding all passionate "nevers," "forevers;"
we ought to have heard what the train wheels
were shouting,
"Do not make promises!" Promises are levers.*

*We should have made note of the broken branches,
we should have looked up at the smokey sky,
warning the witless pretensions of lovers --
the greater the hope is, the greater the lie.*

*True kindness in love means staying quite sober,
weighing each link of the chain you must bear.*

*Don't promise her heaven -- suggest half an acre;
not "unto death," but at least to next year.*

*And don't keep declaring, "I love you, I love you."
That little phrase leads a durable life --
when remembered again in some loveless
hereafter,
it can sting like a hornet or stab like a knife.*

*So -- our little dog in all his confusion
turns and returns from door to door.
I won't say "forgive me" because I have left you;
I ask pardon for one thing: I loved you before.*

Memento
*Like a reminder of this life
of trams, sun, sparrows,
and the flighty uncontrolledness
of streams leaping like thermometers,
and because ducks are quacking somewhere
above the crackling of the last, paper-thin ice,
and because children are crying bitterly
(remember children's lives are so sweet!)
and because in the drunken, shimmering
starlight
the new moon whoops it up,
and a stocking crackles a bit at the knee,
gold in itself and tinged by the sun,
like a reminder of life,
and because there is resin on tree trunks,
and because I was madly mistaken
in thinking that my life was over,
like a reminder of my life -
you entered into me on stockings feet.
You entered - neither too late nor too early -
at exactly the right time, as my very own,
and with a smile, uprooted me
from memories, as from a grave.
And I, once again whirling among
the painted horses, gladly exchange,
for one reminder of life,
all its memories.
1974*

Translated by Arthur Boyars
and Simon Franklin

Epistle to Neruda
*Superb,
Like a seasoned lion,
Neruda buys bread in the shop.
He asks for it to be wrapped in paper
And solemnly puts it under his arm:
"Let someone at least think
that at some time
I bought a book. . ."
Waving his hand in farewell,
like a Roman
rather dreamily royal,
in the air scented with mollusks,
oysters,
rice,*

*he walks with the bread through Valparaiso.
He says:
"Eugenio, look!
You see--
over there, among the puddles and garbage,
standing up under the red lamps
stands Bilbao-with the soul
of a poet -- in bronze.
Bilbao was a tramp and a rebel.
Originally
they set up the monument, fenced off
by a chain, with due pomp, right in the center,
although the poet had lived in the slums.
Then there was some minor overthrow or other,
and the poet was thrown out, beyond the gates.
Sweating,
they removed
the pedestal
to a filthy little red-light district.
And the poet stood,
as the sailor's adopted brother,
against a background
you might call native to him.
Our Bilbao loved cracking jokes.
He would say:
"On this best of possible planets
there are prostitutes and politutes --
as I'm a poet,
I prefer the former."
And Neruda comments, with a hint of slyness:
"A poet is
beyond the rise and fall of values.
It's not hard to remove us from the center,
but the spot where they set us down
becomes the center!"
I remember that noon,
Pablo,
as I tune my transistor at night, ny the window,
now,
when a wicked war with the people of Chile
brings back the smell of Spain.
Playing about at a new overthrow,
politutes in generals' uniforms
wanted, whichever way they could,
to hustle your poetry out of sight.
But today I see Neruda--
he's always right in the center
and, not faltering,
he carries his poetry to the people
as simply and calmly
as a loaf of bread.
Many poets follow false paths,
but if the poet is with the people to the bitter end,
like a conscience--
then nothing
can possibly overthrow poetry.
1973*

Translated by Arthur Boyars
and Simon Franklin

Research topic: Romania and South Caucasus

Last December, at the Department of Geography within the State University of Bucharest, Tabriz Garayev, attaché of Azerbaijani Embassy in Bucharest, successfully defended his doctoral thesis on "Romania and South Caucasus relations: geographic, geo-economic and geopolitical aspects."

According to the dissertation committee, T.Garayev's work has a interdisciplinary nature, it is "original and valuable from a scientific point of view." Moreover, being one of the first studies relating to this perspective, it offers "a new vision of all mutations that occurred in the region over the past two decades." T.Garayev's dissertation "may be an example of deep and comprehensive analysis of the evolution of the South Caucasus region." According to the unanimous opinion of the committee members, the work received an "excellent".



The research adviser, a known Romanian scientist - university professor, Dr. Silviu Neguț, while noting the advantages of T.Garayev's research stressed that it analyzes the region in all the complexity of its historical heritage, which crossed the path of three empires - Ottoman, Russian, and Persian, and in reference to modern times, the thesis reveals interlacing conflicting interests and influences, and, above all, the ones of Russia, Turkey and Iran, not to mention the foreign players - the U.S., the EU, China.

According to Dr. S.Neguț the dissertation revealed the importance that the Caspian basin plays for Romania, which has a Strategic Partnership with Azerbaijan. The author presents unresolved regional problems that hinder the more successful development of countries located there - „frozen” conflicts on the territory of Azerbaijan and Georgia, legal status of the Caspian Sea, and others.



A separate chapter is devoted to the analysis of prospects of Europe's oil and gas, as well as various projects for transportation of hydrocarbons from the region to Western Europe - Nabucco, AGRI, TAP, South Stream ...

The professor had an interesting view on the security issues in the Caspian region. From this perspective, Russia, in his opinion, plays a big role, but it would be necessary to create a certain institution, a mechanism to ensure regional security by the formula: 3 +3 +2 (Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan + Russia, Turkey, Iran, + the United States and the EU). Romania, stressed the Professor, supports the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and Georgia.

Tabriz Garayev studied in Baku, defended his Master's in geopolitics at the Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies. „Ambitious, very capable, serious” - as described by his research supervisor.

Deep-water port in Crimea

Ukraine and China signed a memorandum of cooperation on construction of a deep-water port in Crimea, as well as reconstruction of fishing port in Sevastopol at total cost of at least \$3 billion. The construction site of the new Crimea port is set to be located at Bogayly Lake and its surrounding areas. The harborage area of the port and port infrastructure will be built directly on dry land, and then filled with sea water and connected to the sea by breaking spit that separates the lake from Bogayly marine waters. The depth of port water and berths will be 25 m. For the passage of large ships, a 9 km-long navigation canal is being built. The port with an overall cargo turnover of at least 140 million tons/year will include a container terminal (4.5 million TEU capacity), Ro-Ro terminal, grain terminal (10 million



tons per year), bulk cargo terminal and general cargo terminal. According to the authors of the project, this is the only deep-water port on the Black Sea, capable of having HUB functions (redistribution of goods) and providing services for the largest ships, which execute intercontinental transportation. ("Ukrinform")

SOCAR's experience for "Rosneft"

The largest Russian oil company "Rosneft" has a special interest in working with the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan (SOCAR), which in terms of technology is a leader in the post-Soviet space for the development of offshore fields. This experience has been acquired by SOCAR through long-term cooperation with BP and its own work. In the coming years, "Rosneft" will develop resources of the Arctic Region, but currently the company has no independent capacity and independent technology for the development of resources on the shelf. Therefore, cooperation with SOCAR will focus specifically in the field of underwater drilling and development of subsea fields.