

## EU's Black Sea Synergy from concept to implementation

The European Neighbourhood Policy:  
The Time to Deliver  
Sofia, 7 December 2007

## The Concept

- ◆ A ten-year-old policy – first Commission Communication on the Black Sea region in 1997
- ◆ The development of the European Neighbourhood Policy
- ◆ The accession of Bulgaria and Romania in 2007
- ◆ The growing importance of the region for the EU

## The EU in the Black Sea Region

- ◆ A multitude of policies - enlargement (Turkey), ENP (5 countries), partnership (Russia), sectoral initiatives (TRACECA, Baku Initiative), CFSP (EUSRs, ESDP missions)
- ◆ A multi-track, multi-speed Europeanization strategy
- ◆ 3 Member States - Bulgaria, Romania (littoral) and Greece

## Enter Black Sea Synergy

- ◆ A new regional framework without an institutionalized structure
- ◆ Inclusive - all littoral states + Greece, Moldova, Armenia and Azerbaijan
- ◆ 14 sectors of interest - huge scope of priorities
- ◆ 14 February 2008 (Valentine's Day) - the launch
- ◆ The last sea around the EU to get its own policy

## The Implementation

- ◆ The Synergy - a crucial test for EU's ability to pursue a coherent foreign policy
- ◆ How to match it with EU's policies in the region - and the increasingly differentiated
- ◆ How to attract Russia (and Turkey)
- ◆ How to ensure the support of the Member States
- ◆ How to work with the regional actors - BSEC

## It's a stormy sea...

- ◆ The Kerch Strait disaster
- ◆ The biggest added value of the Synergy - if it becomes a practical, result-oriented policy with stable financial resources
- ◆ This could be the "good news" coming from EU's problematic Eastern borderlines - Kosovo, Bosnia, Russia, Georgia, Turkey...
- ◆ The lesson for the EU to learn - not only to do more, but to do it better



**Thank you for your attention!**

**Georgi Kamov**