

# COP28, Dubai, UAE



# COP28 UAE

## Events program at the Bulgarian pavilion

1 – 10 December 2023



## Overview of the Program

Date	Time	Topic
1 Dec.	17.00 – 18.30	<a href="#">Bulgaria's efforts towards systematic transformation following climate action pathways</a>
2 Dec.	10.30 – 12.00	<a href="#">Climate-friendly scientific solutions - tech and innovation</a>
3 Dec.	12.30 – 13.15	<a href="#">New Generation Early Warning Technologies in Action</a>
	14.30 – 15.15	<a href="#">Healthily ever after: Building the future on innovation</a>
4 Dec.	12.00 – 13.00	<a href="#">Upscaling Cutting Edge Technologies for Industrial Decarbonization in Central and Eastern Europe</a>
	14.00 – 15.30	<a href="#">Financing the Transition: The CEE perspective</a>
	16.00 – 17.00	<a href="#">Addressing Climate Risk: making societies and finance resilient to future crises</a>
	17.30 – 18.00	<a href="#">Fire-side chat: Real-world solutions for ensuring climate resilience of critical infrastructure</a>
5 Dec.	09.00 – 10.00	<a href="#">Unlocking Offshore Wind Energy Potential in the Three Seas</a>
	12.00 – 13.30	<a href="#">Challenges and Opportunities of the Green Energy Transition</a>
	14.30 – 15.15	<a href="#">Bulgarian Leadership in the Global RES Business</a>
	16.30 – 17.15	<a href="#">Central and Eastern Europe and Southeast Europe contributing to the ambition for tripling renewables by 2030 (Part 1)</a>
6 Dec.	09.00 – 09.45	<a href="#">Central and Eastern Europe and Southeast Europe contributing to the ambition for tripling renewables by 2030 (Part 2)</a>
	11.00 – 11.45	<a href="#">Bulgarian Business Leadership towards heavy industry decarbonisation</a>
	12.30 – 13.15	<a href="#">SMEs as leaders of ecosystem innovations</a>
8 Dec.	13.00 – 14.00	<a href="#">Children, Youth and Climate action – enhancing the joint efforts to respect and promote the rights of children and young people</a>
	15.30 – 16.15	<a href="#">Engaging approaches for climate education of youth</a>
9 Dec.	10.00 – 10.45	<a href="#">Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation of the Black Sea</a>
	12.00 – 13.00	<a href="#">Green recovery of Ukraine</a>
	17.00 – 18.00	<a href="#">Scientific research in the South Shetland Islands region, a key to unravelling climate change in West Antarctica</a>
10 Dec.	10.30 – 11.15	<a href="#">Green transition from fossil fuels</a>
	12.00 – 12.45	<a href="#">Industrial symbiosis: an economic and climate opportunity</a>
	14.00 – 15.00	

## **Bulgaria's efforts towards systematic transformation following climate action pathways**

**Date:** 1 December 2023

**Time:** 17.00 – 18.30 h

**Location:** Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

**Format:** Reception by invitations

The first-ever Bulgaria's Pavilion at COP28 is an illustration of Bulgaria's strong commitment to implementing appropriate measures against climate change and highlights the ambitions to achieve the climate targets covering all key economic sectors.

It is an opportunity to present Bulgaria's efforts towards systematic transformation following climate action pathways with a focus on scientific solutions integrating modelling and environmental monitoring based on satellite and surface data.

### **Host of the event:**

The President of the Republic of Bulgaria H.E. Mr. Rumen Radev

### **Official guests:**

Distinguished Head of Delegations to COP28 (tbc)

Members of the European Commission (tbc)

## Climate-friendly scientific solutions - tech and innovation

Artificial Intelligence, Satellite Technology, Big Data,  
Clean Energy, Carbon Neutral Industries

**Date:** 2 December 2023

**Time:** 10.30 – 12.00 h

**Location:** Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

### **Annotation**

The panel discussion is focused on different tech and innovation components such as tackling climate change with machine learning, space technology and satellite data, gyrocopters – emissions – saving alternatives, and development of a carbon-neutral Industrial zone.

### **Speakers:**

- Tackling Climate Change with Machine Learning – **Mr. Borislav Petrov**, CEO, Institute for Computer Science, Artificial Intelligence and Technology (INSAIT)
- Space Technology and Satellite Data – **Mr. Raycho Raychev**, CEO, EnduroSat
- Gyrocopters – emissions – saving alternatives – **Ms. Miglena Nikolova**, Managing Director, Niki Rotor Aviation
- Environmental monitoring and modelling – **Prof. Miroslav Tsvetkov**, Nikola Vaptsarov Naval Academy
- Carbon-neutral Industry – **Mr. Martin Panchev**, BIM Manager, Trakia Economic Zone
- Environmental-friendly practices and innovations – **Ms. Plamena Nenkova** – Deputy Executive Director, GBS BG

### **Moderator:**

Mr. Iliya Lingorski, Member of the BNB Governing Council and Assistant Professor, Economics for Climate Change and Management, Sofia University

### **Host of the event:**

The Administration of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria H.E. Mr. Rumen Radev

## New Generation Early Warning Technologies in Action

Delivering safety, better health and wellbeing

**Date:** 3 December 2023

**Time:** 12.30 – 13.15 h

**Location:** Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

### **Annotation**

The event is focused on a range of critical topics that are shaping the future of green technologies and sustainability, along with protecting and improving human health and wellbeing through joint multi sectoral actions, and is set to be an insightful platform for knowledge exchange and enhancement of multilateral collaboration within the following areas:

- On-demand space data for disaster and emergency management
- Climate change actions through digital transformation of urban areas in smart cities with modern secure IoT, ICT and green technologies
- Next Generation emergency call systems; more data (text, video, location or additional data) to help save lives and react faster to crises
- Use of quantum technologies for ultra secure connectivity to facilitate intended use of modern digital transformation and disaster management

### **Speakers:**

- **Mr. Georgi Angelov**, Deputy Minister of Innovation and Growth
- **Dr. Angel Kanchev**, Chief State Health Inspector
- **Mr. Raycho Raychev**, CEO of EnduroSat, Bulgaria
- **Prof. Kliment Naydenov**, Dean of the Geology and Geography Faculty at Sofia university, Bulgaria
- **Mr. Georgi Georgiev**, CEO of Enterprise Communications Group, Bulgaria
- **Mr. Svetoslav Mollov**, Technology Transfer at Centre of Competence QUASAR, Bulgaria

### **Moderator:**

Capt. (Navy) Prof. Miroslav Tsvetkov, Naval Academy Nikola Vaptsarov, Bulgaria

### **Host of the event:**

Ministry of Innovation and growth

## Healthily ever after: building the future on innovation

**Date:** 3 December 2023

**Time:** 14.30 – 15.15 h

**Location:** Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

### **Annotation**

The event will address the response of healthcare and social protection systems to climate change challenges, and the role of innovation in making them more responsive, adaptive and resilient. The discussion will also cover the effort for building a low carbon and climate resilient digital health diagnostic system and the innovative approaches towards adaptation targeting most vulnerable in our societies.

(Joining the Declaration on Climate & Health will be addressed)

### **Speakers:**

- **Address by Milena Stoycheva** – Minister of Innovation and Growth
- **Address by Ivanka Shalapatova** – Minister of Labor and Social policy
- **Keynote by Eleni Myrivili**, Global Chief Heat Officer, UN Habitat
- **Mr. Georgi Kadrev**, Kelvin Health
- **Mr. Ivaylo Petrov**, Shemha Health
- **Prof. Vladislav Popov**, Agricultural University of Plovdiv
- **Mr. Georgi Nachev**, Digi Burn Health
- **Mr. Denis Ivanov**, Vodoraslo
- **Mr. Konstantin Yordanov**, Agron

### **Moderator:**

Dr. Alexander Simidchiev, Deputy Head of the Health Parliamentary Committee

### **Host of the event:**

Ministry of Innovation and growth

## Upscaling Cutting Edge Technologies for Industrial Decarbonization in Central and Eastern Europe

**Date:** 4 December 2023

**Time:** 12.00 – 13.00 h

**Location:** Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

### **Annotation**

The policy roundtable aims to outline a regional roadmap for deploying low-carbon technologies such as advanced offshore wind energy systems, carbon capture, storage and utilization, hydrogen and synthetic fuels development, and various energy storage systems.

### **Speakers:**

- **Milena Stoytcheva**, Minister of Innovation and Growth, Republic of Bulgaria
- **Dr. Mariya Trifonova**, Research Fellow, Energy and Climate Program, Center for the Study of Democracy
- **Melanie Kenderdine**, Principal, Energy Futures Initiative
- **Jan Theulen**, Group Lead CCUS, Heidelberg Materials Group (tbc)
- **Achovski**, Secretary General, Gas Infrastructure Europe

### **Moderator:**

Martin Vladimirov, Director, Energy and Climate Program, Center for the Study of Democracy

### **Host of the event:**

Ministry of Innovation and growth

## Financing the Transition: The CEE perspective

**Date:** 4 December 2023

**Time:** 14.00 – 15.30 h

**Location:** Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

### **Annotation**

This event aims to bridge the gap between the smallest and most innovative businesses and financing institutions, policymakers, visionaries from Europe and globally.

The purpose of the event is threefold:

- Explore and discuss key SMEs' needs and challenges to scale up and stay competitive
- Share key trends, financing mechanisms and instruments for financing the transition of countries and companies in the region
- Discuss exposure and vulnerabilities to climate change alongside viable policies, practices and trends.

### **Speakers:**

#### **Empowering CEE SMEs in their climate action: challenges and needs**

- Transport: Cargo drones
- Circular economy: How biotech innovation unlocks the decarbonisation of agriculture
- Construction: Sustainable and movable housing
- Zero Waste: Biodegradable packaging
- Digital solutions: Climate reporting

*(Dronamics, Nasekomo, Nomad Cabins, Teda Pack, Plan A)*

#### **Enablers' role: financial instruments & tools to manage the transition**

- Available funds in support of the transition
- Private investment: tools and instruments

*(DG "European Funds for Competitiveness"; Bulgarian Development Bank Chair; Fund of Funds; Postscriptum Ventures; Telelink Investments; Bulgarian Stock Exchange; Bankers Without Boundaries; Webit Foundation; SAP)*

#### **Transition finance: policy trends and instruments**

- LSE, Grantham Institute on Climate Change: *Brendan Curran, Senior Policy Fellow, Sustainable Finance*
- Cambridge Institute for Sustainable Leadership: *Nina Seega, Director for Sustainable Finance*



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- EBRD
  - EPG, Energy Policy Group, Romania & UNECE, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, *Andrei Covatariu*

**Moderator:**

Ms. Tsvetelina Kuzmanova, Senior Policy Advisor, Sustainable Finance, E3G

**Host of the event:**

Ministry of Innovation and growth

## Addressing Climate Risk: making societies and finance resilient to future crises

**Date:** 4 December 2023

**Time:** 16.00 – 17.00 h

**Location:** Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

### **Annotation**

Climate risk is becoming more pronounced around the world with extreme events and natural catastrophes such as droughts, heat waves, floods, being more frequent. Europe is among the fastest warming continents in the world, while Eastern and Southern Europe are among the most vulnerable regions on the continent. Countries in the region face heightened exposure to the risk of heat and water stress compared to other EU countries. At the same time, the CEE region is the least insured. The European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (EIOPA) ranks Bulgaria, Romania and Greece with the highest risk exposure in terms of protection gap between vulnerability and insurance coverage.

Addressing climate risk from both physical and financial perspectives in Central & Eastern Europe will be critical for the region, but also for the needed reforms within the global financial architecture. The event will focus on sharing knowledge, experience and discussing the necessary policies and practices in the region, within Europe and globally. It will be a good opportunity to discuss exposure and vulnerabilities to climate change alongside viable policies and practices.

### **Speakers:**

- **Kristalina Georgieva**, IMF Managing Director
- **Ernest J Moniz**, President and CEO, Energy Futures Initiative, US Secretary of Energy (2013 – 2017)
- **Mr Michael Strauss**, General Counsel, EBRD
- **Mathilde Mesnard**, Deputy Director, Environmental Directorate, OECD
- EIB (TBC)

### **Moderator:**

Ms Milena Stoycheva, Minister of the Innovation and Growth, Bulgaria

### **Host of the event:**

Ministry of Innovation and Growth

## **Fire-side chat: Real-world solutions for ensuring climate resilience of critical infrastructure**

**Date:** 4 December 2023

**Time:** 17.30 – 18.00 h

**Location:** Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

### **Annotation**

The conversational session will explore the role of energy storage as a key enabler of decarbonization paths for hard to abate industries.

We will talk about real-life examples of:

- Transformative solutions to make critical infrastructure more resilient to climate change;
- The challenges of climate adaptation and climate mitigation strategies for hard-to-abate industries; and
- How regional cooperation can lead to innovative local solutions with a global footprint.

### **Speakers:**

- **Ms. Mariyana Yaneva**, Association for Production, Storage and Trading of Electricity
- **Mr. Alexander Rangelov**, IPS

### **Host of the event:**

Ministry of Environment and Water

## Unlocking Offshore Wind Energy Potential in the Three Seas

### Paths to Faster Decarbonisation

**Date:** 5 December 2023

**Time:** 09.00 – 10.00 h

**Location:** Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

### Annotation

The roundtable discussion will serve as a pivotal platform for igniting dialogue among diverse stakeholders, including influential national policy-makers, business leaders, and esteemed independent experts. The central theme of this discourse is the dynamic synergy between offshore wind energy and industrial decarbonization in the Three Seas region. The event will facilitate the exchange of critical insights, strategies and experiences, with a primary objective of expediting tangible progress in industrial decarbonization through offshore wind energy.

### Speakers:

- **Opening Martin Vladimirov**, Director, Energy and Climate Program, Center for the Study of Democracy
- **Keynotes:** Global paths to industrial decarbonization and energy security **Giles Dickson**, CEO, Wind Europe (tbc) and **Melanie Kenderdine**, Principal, Energy Futures Initiative Giles Dickson, CEO of Wind Europe
- **Nikolay Nikolov**, Deputy Minister of Energy of Bulgaria
- **Alexandra Sdoukou**, Deputy Minister of Environment and Energy of Greece
- **Alexandra Bocse**, State Adviser on Climate and Sustainability at Presidential Administration of Romania (tbc)
- **Angelin Tsatchev**, CEO, Electricity System Operator of Bulgaria

### Moderator:

Dr. Mariya Trifonova, Research Fellow, Energy and Climate Program, Center for the Study of Democracy

### Host of the event:

Ministry of Environment and Water

## Challenges and Opportunities of the Green Energy Transition

### The Bulgarian path for decarbonisation

**Date:** 5 December 2023

**Time:** 12.00 – 13.30 h

**Location:** Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

### **Annotation**

The event will focus on Bulgaria's efforts to achieve the long-term goal of climate neutrality by 2050. Achieving a decarbonised, sustainable and resilient energy system requires transformation in all sectors and at all levels of government and in the socio-economic sphere.

### **Speakers:**

- Keynote by **Nikolay Nikolov**, Deputy Minister of Energy of the Republic of Bulgaria
- **Veselina Kanatova-Buchkova**, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Bulgarian Energy Holding (BEH). BEH is the largest state-owned company in terms of total assets in the country and holds a leading position in the electricity and gas market in Bulgaria and, through electricity exports, in the Balkans. (TBC)
- **Martin Georgiev**, Executive Director of National Electricity Company EAD - the company has a central role to play in the electric power system of Bulgaria and is the leading producer of green electricity in Bulgaria.
- **Dimitar Zarchev**, Director of the National Dispatch Center, Electricity System Operator (ESO) – ESO is the independent transmission system operator of the Republic of Bulgaria.

### **Moderator:**

Kostadin Sirleshtov, Managing Partner at CMS Sofia and South-East Europe Head of Energy & Climate Change

### **Host of the event:**

Ministry of Energy

## **Bulgarian Leadership in the global RES business**

**Date:** 5 December 2023

**Time:** 14.30 – 15.15 h

**Location:** Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

### **Annotation**

Bulgarian renewables development industry works across the globe. Dozens of companies design and build medium and large RES project in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas. The panel will discuss the globalisation of the renewables sector through the lens of a group of leading Bulgarian companies."

### **Speakers:**

- **Mr. Dimitar Enchev**, Postscriptum Ventures
- **Mr. Nikola Gazdov**, Chairman, Association for production, storage and trading of electricity
- **Mr. Stoyan Turlakov**, Member of the Board of Directors, Solarpro Holding
- **Mr. Alexander Rangelov**, International Power Supply

### **Moderator:**

Julian Popov, Minister of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria

### **Host of the event:**

Ministry of Environment and Water

## Central and Eastern Europe and Southeast Europe contributing to the ambition for tripling renewables by 2030 (Part 1)

**Date:** 5 December 2023

**Time:** 16.30 – 17.15 h

**Location:** Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

### **Annotation**

What can take the region beyond the current plans for connectivity, digitalization, industrial and market development?

- Exploring the untapped potential of further cross-border cooperation on infrastructure and the huge potential for innovation by the clean energy actors from the region;
- Outlook to boosting the renewable energy initiatives under the 3 Seas Initiative (3SI)
- Value chains and manufacturing

### **Speakers:**

**George Kremlis** - Honorary Director of the European Commission and Representative of the EPLO in Bulgaria

**Alexandra-Maria Bocse** - State Advisor Climate And Sustainability to The President Of Romania

**Mariyana Yaneva** - Deputy Chair, Association for Production, Storage and Trading of Electricity APSTE)

**Zofia Borowczyk** - Analyst, Energy and Climate team, Instrat, Poland

Regional and Institutional interventions (TBC)

**Dr. Lutz Schäfer**, Deputy Director of Energie, Urban Development, Mobility, Infrastructure at The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany

**Oleksii Ryabchyn**, COP negotiator for Ukraine

### **Moderator:**

Genady Kondarev, Senior Associate for CEE at E3G



**Host of the event:**

Ministry of Environment and Water



## Central and Eastern Europe and Southeast Europe contributing to the ambition for tripling renewables by 2030 (Part 2)

**Morning coffee with main takeaways and outlines from the 5th December meeting and daily agenda**

**Date:** 6 December 2023

**Time:** 09.00 – 09.45 h

**Location:** Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

### **Annotation**

Summarizing the roles of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and Southeast Europe (SEE) and the region's prospects for advancing the use of renewable energy sources (RES), based on discussions during COP28. Highlighting areas and projects that require additional effort and collaboration among regional countries. Proposing an agenda for ambitious decarbonization to guide the region's efforts in connection with the upcoming COP29, scheduled to take place in Eastern Europe or Bonn.

### **Speakers:**

**George Kremlis** - Honorary Director of the European Commission and Representative of the EPLO in Bulgaria

**Alexandra-Maria Bocse** - State Advisor Climate And Sustainability to The President Of Romania

**Mariyana Yaneva** - Deputy Chair, Association for Production, Storage and Trading of Electricity APSTE)

Regional and Institutional interventions (TBC)

### **Moderator:**

Genady Kondarev, Senior Associate for CEE at E3G

### **Host of the event:**

Ministry of Environment and Water

## **Bulgarian Business Leadership towards heavy industry decarbonisation**

**Date:** 6 December 2023

**Time:** 11.00 – 11.45 h

**Location:** Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

### **Annotation**

The electrification of the planet is already having a ripple effect on the metals and mining sector. These two sectors need to meet both the increasing demand for raw materials by diversifying their supply chains and ensure the ways these materials are extracted and processed are sustainable and affordable. However, the path to net-zero requires a deep transformation, bringing new challenges that are likely to reshape these industries. The session aims to showcase the Bulgarian industry leaders' achievements and experience.

### **Speakers:**

- Mr. **Martin Katinov**, Aurubis Bulgaria
- Mr. **Rumen Tsonev**, Holding KCM 2000
- Mr. **Ivan Dobrev**, Holding KCM 2000

### **Moderator:**

Julian Popov, Minister of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria

### **Host of the event:**

Ministry of Environment and Water

## SMEs as leaders of ecosystem innovations

**Date:** 6 December 2023

**Time:** 12.30 – 13.15 h

**Location:** Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

### **Annotation**

In the face of drastic global climate change, the transition to a green economy is becoming increasingly important and it is understood as an opportunity to redesign and redefine business models, products and services, market approaches, forms of consumption, and production. Small and medium-sized enterprises are the center of initiatives where innovation can be initiated and where new ventures begin. The session aims to present how Bulgarian SMEs adhere to green innovation activities in logistics, circular modelling, and nature-based solutions.

### **Speakers:**

- **Mr. Hristo Nikolov**, Carbonsafe Ltd.
- **Ms. Gergana Krusteva-Georgieva**, Cupffee
- **Mr. Hristo Popov**, Theoremus
- **Mr. Emil Botusharov**, ITA Group Bulgaria

### **Moderator:**

Marina Stefanova Vice Dean "Sustainability, Empowerment and Engagement"  
Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Sofia University

### **Host of the event:**

Ministry of Environment and Water

## Children, Youth and Climate action – enhancing the joint efforts to respect and promote the rights of children and young people

**Date:** 8 December 2023

**Time:** 13.00 – 14.00 h

**Location:** Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

### **Annotation**

To recognize the role of champion governments and signatories of the Declaration on Children, Youth and Climate Action in promoting the fulfillment of children's inalienable right to a healthy environment, and to take steps to enshrine these rights in the implementation of the Paris Agreement, in EU Member States' national climate adaptation and mitigation measures, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and long-term greenhouse gas emissions development strategies.

UNICEF will moderate a discussion among the EU and ECA countries on the UNICEF Declaration on Children, Youth and Climate Action on commitments and priorities at national and regional level.

### **Speakers:**

- **Julian Popov**, Minister of Environment and Water, Bulgaria
- **Teresa Ribera Rodriguez**, Minister of Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, Spain
- **Ann Skelton**, Chair of UN Committee of the Rights of the Child
- **Zakia Khattabi**, Minister for Climate, Environment, Sustainable Development and Green Deal, Belgium
- Special guests: Bulgarian Youth Delegates to the UN

### **Moderator:**

Kitty van der Heijden, Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF

### **Host of the event:**

Ministry of Environment and Water

## Engaging approaches for climate education of youth

**Date:** 8 December 2023

**Time:** 15.30 – 16.15 h

**Location:** Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

### **Annotation**

Climate education, science and technologies offer diverse opportunities for exciting explorations and collaboration. The variety of formal education programmes, science activities, storytelling and games bring climate change closer to people, provoke their imagination and challenge their engagement. The panel will discuss the international and multi-age tools like 3D mapping exhibitions, synthesis and visualization of open science data, designing climate fresks, and engaging students through electronics, mechatronics, physics, marketing, design, and electric karting.

The panel will start with the premiere of the first immersive sustainability-related data exhibition which video teaser you may watch [here](#)

### **Speakers:**

- **Assoc. Prof. Marina Stefanova** Vice Dean “Sustainability, Empowerment and Engagement” Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Sofia University
- **Teodosiy Teodosiev**, Kinetik Automotive Ltd
- **Pierre Benreguig**, Climate Fresk facilitator

### **Moderator:**

Christina De Bruin, UNICEF Representative in Bulgaria (tbc)

### **Host of the event:**

Ministry of Environment and Water

## Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation of the Black Sea

**Date:** 9 December 2023

**Time:** 10.00 – 10.45 h

**Location:** Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

### **Annotation**

Owing to natural factors, the diversity of species of Black Sea fauna is approximately three times lower when compared with that of the Mediterranean. Specific features of the Black Sea make it very vulnerable to disturbances of its environment and ecosystems. Eutrophication, pollution, and irresponsible fishing resulted in an overall decline of: biological resources, the diversity of species and landscapes, and of the aesthetic and recreational values of the Black Sea, thereby bringing its ecosystems to the edge of collapse.

National efforts and regional - international cooperation in the framework of the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution expressed in the concerted actions of the Strategic Action Plan for Rehabilitation and Protection of the Black Sea brought the first signs of recovery to the Black Sea.

### **Speakers:**

- **Ivelina Vasileva**, EU Mission: Restore our Ocean and Waters
- **Irina Makarenko**, Pollution Monitoring and Assessment Officer, Black Sea Commission's Permanent Secretariat.
- **Miroslav Tsvetkov**, Bulgarian Naval Academy
- **Prof. D.Sc. Julian Revalski**, President of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
- **Assoc. Prof. Nikolay Valchev**, Director, Institute of Oceanology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (online)

### **Moderator:**

Julian Popov, Minister of Environment and Water

### **Host of the event:**

Ministry of Environment and Water

## Green recovery of Ukraine

**Date:** 9 December 2023

**Time:** 13.00 – 14.00 h

**Location:** Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

### **Annotation**

In the context of a green recovery, it's imperative to focus on rebuilding Ukraine in an environmentally sustainable way. This involves establishing renewable energy infrastructure, promoting energy efficiency, and incorporating eco-friendly practices into reconstruction efforts. A green recovery not only helps mitigate the environmental impact of the conflict but also positions Ukraine to better address the challenges of climate change. Furthermore, international cooperation and support are essential for ensuring a successful green recovery. Collaborative efforts can bring together expertise, technology, and financial resources to help Ukraine build a resilient and sustainable future amidst the ongoing geopolitical challenges and the broader context of climate change. As co-chair of Working Group No. 8 "Environmental Security" of President Zelensky's "Peace Formula" Bulgaria, along with Finland and Germany have the responsibility and opportunity to pave the way for investments and policies that promote environmental protection, renewable energy, sustainable practices, and the creation of green jobs.

### **Speakers:**

- Ruslan Strilets, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources, Ukraine
- Kai Mykkänen, Minister of Climate and the Environment, Finland (tbc)
- Bojan Kumer, Minister of the Environment, Climate and Energy of Slovenia

### **Moderator:**

Julian Popov, Minister of Environment and Water

### **Host of the event:**

Ministry of Environment and Water

## Scientific research in the South Shetland Islands region, a key to unravelling climate change in West Antarctica

**Date:** 9 December 2023

**Time:** 17.00 – 18.00 h

**Location:** Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

### **Annotation**

Due to the current trajectory of human emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases, the atmosphere and ocean will continue to warm, the ocean will continue to acidify, circulation patterns in the atmosphere and ocean will be altered, the cryosphere will continue to lose ice, the marine level will increase and biodiversity will decrease. The impacts of climate change on Antarctica, its ecosystems, and species are accelerating and becoming increasingly visible. The session aims to discuss the latest confirmed scientific observations on the Antarctic Peninsula, climate change challenges that the national Antarctic programs are facing, and key climate change messages in relation to a changing Antarctica.

### **Speakers:**

- **Mr. Julian Popov**, Minister of Environment and Water
- **Prof. Hristo Pimpirev**, Bulgarian Antarctic Institute
- **Mr. Dragomir Mateev**, Bulgarian Antarctic Institute
- **Prof. Antonio Quesada**, Manager of the Spanish national Antarctic programme
- **Assoc. Prof. Goncalo Vieira**, Coordinator of the Portuguese Polar Program
- Live connection with from the **Bulgarian ship sealing to Antarctica**

### **Moderator:**

Marina Stefanova Vice Dean "Sustainability, Empowerment and Engagement"  
Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Sofia University

### **Host of the event:**

Ministry of Environment and Water



## Green Transition from fossil fuels

### **How to turn coal regions into competitive power houses of the low carbon industries**

**Date:** 10 December 2023

**Time:** 10.30 – 11.15 h

**Location:** Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

### **Annotation**

In today's time of great transitions, we need a mind and governance shift that seizes opportunities and uses the assets of coal regions to drive Europe's net zero carbon strategy.

Turning lignite mining regions into solar and wind generation centres is only part of the potential these areas have. Their future could be that of zero-carbon industry hubs, thus building the European industry transition "super-labs". To drive this process in the right direction, we should replace the burden and compensation paradigm with one defined by competitiveness and innovation. This way, coal regions will not only reduce their transition bill, but will become the main drivers and beneficiaries of the transition, contributing to Europe's global industrial competitiveness, and strengthening European energy and political security.

We'll engage in a talk about these opportunities with the Bulgarian Minister of Environment Julian Popov, big power and industrial producers from Bulgaria, and the European Digital Innovation Hub ZAGORE!

### **Speakers:**

- Olivier Marquette, Applied Energy Services (AES)
- Rossen Papazov, Holcim Bulgaria
- Romyana Grozeva, Regional Economic Development Agency of Stara Zagora, European Digital Innovation Hub ZAGORE
- **Evgeni Angelov**, Bulgarian VC & PE Association (tbc)

### **Moderator:**

Julian Popov, Minister of Environment and Water

### **Host of the event:**

Ministry of Environment and Water

## Industrial symbiosis: an economic and climate opportunity

### CCUS examples from Bulgaria

**Date:** 10 December 2023

**Time:** 12.00 – 12.45 h

**Location:** Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

### **Annotation**

How could forming industrial clusters help create CO<sub>2</sub> and other waste offtake opportunities for energy-intensive sectors. Some great examples from the Bulgarian industry related to carbon capture, utilisation and storage, and creating valuable new products.

### **Speakers:**

- **Konstantin Bozhinov**, ANRAV Project Manager, Heidelberg Materials Group
- **Igor Rombaut**, Agropolyhim
- **Todor Nikolov**, Solvay Bulgaria

### **Moderator:**

Julian Popov, Minister of Environment and Water

### **Host of the event:**

Ministry of Environment and Water