

Viktor IUSHCENKO, President of Ukraine

*Unofficial translation*

**Statement by H.E. V.Yushchenko, President of Ukraine  
at the Black Sea Forum for Dialogue and Partnership  
Bucharest, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2006**

**Distinguished colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Let me welcome all participants of the today's meeting and express my gratitude to the organizers of the Summit for their hospitality and a very opportunity to discuss current situation in the Black Sea region as well as perspectives of its further development.

First and foremost we should regard that the Black sea does not divide us but it is an important factor for mutual approach and cooperation.

Despite of some political problems and economic barriers mostly inherited from the previous regimes, states of the region have got real opportunities to implement a supreme goal – creation of the United Europe.

Such a strategic goal defines the very activity of regional initiatives created on the basis of common values and aspirations.

Democratic changes in Georgia and Ukraine initiated a new wave of spreading of freedom as well as stimulation of regional projects.

A new initiative – Community of democratic choice – was created last December.

2006 Vilnius conference "Common vision of common neighborhood" as well as the present Black Sea Forum became important events in the development of the Community.

Recently a new international institution – "Organization for democracy and economic development – GUAM" has been founded in Kyiv.

Its goals are as follows: strengthening democracy and security, insuring stable development, deepening economic cooperation as well as support for reforms called upon to approximate our states to the European standards.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Today we may definitely state that the range of challenges for the states of the Black Sea region has been sufficiently extended.

First of all, it concerns EU enlargement to the East that surely strengthens the very role of EU and basic principles of the European community in stimulation of Eurointegration processes in the region.

Our common task consists in **working out a system-defined approach to further development of universal instruments of regional cooperation** similar to existing within the framework of "Northern" and "Mediterranean" EU dimensions.

We are interested in working out integral policy that will contribute to the gradual integration to EU of all Black Sea states gradually moving forward to achieving appropriate criterions.

The first priority of regional cooperation is strengthening stability and security.

**The so-called "frozen" conflicts** in the territory of Moldova, Georgia and Azerbaijan remain the basic obstacle in this way.

Transnistrian settlement plays an especial role as its success could become a model for further settlement of such problems in the region.

It is obvious that full-fledged development of the region is impossible without development of **economic cooperation**.

Democracy, security and stability should bring investments and new technologies to the region.

Experience and potential of the present regional initiatives, in particular Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, are of great importance as well.

Besides, large-scale infrastructure projects that have a strategic importance both for development of the Black Sea states and for Europe as a whole are worthy of special attention.

In particular, it concerns cooperation **in the field of energy**.

The Black Sea region occupies a central place in the field of energy resources transportation from the Central Asia to Europe.

Striving for stimulation of cooperation in this field, Ukraine suggests initiating a new consulting institution within the framework of the Community of democratic choice – **Energy dialogue of three seas**.

I believe that its key task consists in working out a coordinated regional policy in the field of energy as well as in discussion of current projects and important perspectives of such cooperation.

It will let us create a new format of cooperation between the state of the Baltic-Black Sea-Caspian region and EU. Such a format could consolidate all interested parties – suppliers, transit facilities and energy consumers.

The moving forces and trends in the market of carbohydrates determine necessity of diversification and enlargement of access to energy sources as well as seeking new supply routes.

First of all it concerns the region of Central Asia that is rich in energy resources.

The project of the Euro-Asian oil transport corridor that is now seems to be the most real and efficient route of transportation for Caspian oil to the Central and South-West Europe is under completion.

Realization of the project will not just ensure supply of Caspian oil to European market but will also consolidate Caspian, Baltic and Black Seas in the joint transnational transportation corridor.

Realization of new projects as to **the transportation of Central Asian gas to Europe** should become an important direction of further development of the dialogue in the field of energy as well.

It shows the best correlation with interests of corresponding states as well as with the new EU energy strategy aimed at diversification of supply routes and ensuring increasing needs of the European energy resources market.

The European Union initiated construction of Nabukko gas pipe-line.

Ukraine is interested in active participation in realization of this project.

Besides, there is an expert suggestion as to construction of the gas-transport route within the Baku-Tbilisi-Odesa-Brody oil corridor.

This idea is supposed to get expert grounds soon.

### **Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Ukraine supports EU enlargement and welcomes our Black Sea region partners that succeeded in the way of Eurointegration.

We stand for a new qualitative dynamics of the regional cooperation in the Black Sea basin.

We strongly believe that the very development of cross border contacts will slacken dividing function of borders, support cultural unity and economic development of the region.

Recently founded in Kyiv Association of news agencies of the Black Sea states has become a prominent confirmation for availability of regional cooperation in the informational and humanitarian fields.

Cross border cooperation projects on the basis of implementation of all current EU instruments should become one of the most important directions of regional cooperation.

**Issues of active development of border and transport infrastructure** should head the list.

The Crimean sea transport and industrial complex "Donuzlav" will be built in Ukraine with the aim of further widening of transit capacities, in particular in the Black Sea direction.

We invite all interested countries to participate in realization of this project.

I would also like to pay special attention to stimulation of cooperation in the field of ecology.

Our joint sea and the Black Sea region are unique piece of natural world heritage. We should do our best to preserve its biological variety.

Ukraine believes that **establishment of comprehensive environmental monitoring, in particular in Low Danube**, should become one of the top priorities.

**Dear friends,**

Our meeting is an important point in further development of dialogue within the Community of Democratic choice.

It let us make a more detailed analysis of the current situation in the Black Sea region, define common goals and urgent problems.