High-Level Discussion

Environmental and Humanitarian Impacts of the War in Ukraine

Black Sea Perspectives and European Implications

Programme

25 November 2026 | 12:30–16:30 CET | Copenhagen

Odd Fellow Palæet · Bredgade 28

Moderator: Michael Strangholt, Aarhus University

12:30–12:35	**Welcome Aims and Context of the Discussion**
	Rüdiger Strempel, Executive Secretary, HELCOM **Markus Helavuori**, Deputy Director General, Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) Secretariat
12:35–13:00	**Perspectives from Ukraine**
	The Impact of the Russian War Against Ukraine on Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Food Security **Taras Vysotskyi**, Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food, Ukraine (online) **Legal and Regulatory Framework for Environmental Protection and Natural Resource Management During Wartime and Post-War Recovery** **Oleg Bondarenko**, MP (Verhovna Rada), Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Environmental Policy and Nature Management, Ukraine
13:00–13:30	**Regional Cooperation for Environmental Security and Resilience**
	HELCOM and Regional Environmental Security **Rüdiger Strempel**, Executive Secretary, HELCOM **Baltic Sea Region: Cooperation for Resilience** **Markus Helavuori**, Deputy Director General, Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) Secretariat

13:30–14:15	**Nature at War — First-Hand Evidence**
	Ecosystem Risks in the Black Sea Under Multiple Anthropogenic and Wartime Pressures **Dr V. Komorin** and **Dr O. Storozhuk**, Ukrainian Scientific Centre of Ecology of the Sea, Ukraine **The Impact of War and Climate Change on Agricultural Potential in Ukraine: Implications for National and Global Food Security** **Prof. Dr O. Danchuk** and **Dr T. Zhygailo**, Institute of Climate-Smart Agriculture of the National Academy of Agrarian Sciences, Ukraine **Impact of Sunken Munitions on the Black Sea Marine Ecosystem** **Prof. Dr Yu. Kvach** and **Dr B. Hulak**, Institute of Marine Biology of the National Academy of Sciences, Ukraine
14:15–14:35	**Coffee and Conversation**
14:35–14:50	**What Can Decades of Experience with Submerged Munitions Offer Ukraine?**
	80 Years of Submerged Munitions in the Baltic Sea: Potential Lessons for Ukraine **Prof. Dr Hans Sanderson**, Aarhus University, Denmark
14:50–15:20	**People and Communities**
	War in Ukraine and Ecosystem Destruction: European and Global Challenges for the Human Dimension **Prof. Dr M. Khvesyk**, M. Ptoukha Institute of Demography and Research on the Quality of Life of the National Academy of Sciences, Ukraine and **M. Malkov**, FAO Government and Stakeholder Relationships Coordinator in Ukraine **Mykolaiv and Mykolaiv District: Territorial Potential, Consequences of the War, and Community Needs** **Andrii Dobrovolskyi**, Deputy Chairman of the Mykolaiv District Council, Mykolaiv Region, Ukraine
15:20–16:10	**Rebuilding Ukraine: Environmental Protection as a Component of Reconstruction** *An interactive dialogue moderated by Prof.Dr Andriy Grafov, FRSC, HELCOM*
	An exchange between the panel of Ukrainian speakers and the audience on priorities for environmental protection and reconstruction. Participants are invited to contribute questions, experiences and proposals for cooperation.
16:10–16:30	**Conclusions and Next Steps**
	From Copenhagen to cooperation Identifying opportunities for continued cooperation between Ukraine, Denmark, Baltic Sea Region organisations and European partners.
16:30	**Closure**