

RTF – 1 Black Sea Energy Potential and Investment Opportunities

Ambassador Ashot KOCHARIAN BSEC PERMIS, Executive Manager

Date and Place of Birth

June 8, 1957, Yerevan, Armenia

Education

1979 - Yerevan Institute of Russian and Foreign Languages, department of English and Russian languages and literature

1987-1990 - Institute of Philosophy and Law of National Academy of Sciences of Armenia, postgraduate studies

1992 - Special course for diplomats, the Netherlands Institute of International Relations Clingendael, the Hague

1993-1994 - Vienna Diplomatic Academy, Austria

Professional Experience

1979-1984 – Teacher of Russian and English languages in the secondary school of Marmarashen, Masis region, Armenia

1983-1984 - Deputy Principal of the same school

1984-1986 – Interpreter of English language in Iraq, Baghdad

1991-1992 - Scientific Secretary, Institute of Philosophy and Law of National Academy of Sciences of Armenia

1992-1993 Department of European Countries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, Second secretary

1994-1997 Head of the UN, OSCE and other international organizations division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia

1997-1999 - First Secretary in the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in Vienna, Austria

1999 – 2002 Counselor of the Department of International Organizations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia in charge of Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues

2002-2003 - Director of the International Organizations Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

2002-2003 - Chairman of Interagency Commission on Human Trafficking

2003 -2005 - Press Secretary of the President of the Republic of Armenia

February 2005 – August 2009, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Armenia to the Republic India

July 2005 – August 2011 Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Armenia to Indonesia (with residence in New Delhi).

October 2005 –August 2009 Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Armenia to Sri Lanka (with residence in New Delhi).

July 2006 – August 2009 Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Armenia to Nepal (with residence in New Delhi).

March 2009 – August 2011 Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Armenia to Malaysia (with residence in New Delhi)

September 2009 – March 2016 Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Armenia to the Republic of Lebanon

Since June 2016 – Director of Bilateral and Multilateral Economic Co-operation Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia

June 2016 – July 2019 Member of the Steering Committee of ICRANet (International Center for Relativistic Astrophysics Network)

2016 – 2019 Senior Official of the Republic of Armenia to BSEC

2016-2018 – Participation at the Meetings of the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials and the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States, Belgrade, Kiev, Istanbul, Yerevan, Baku

June 2017- Head of delegation of the Republic of Armenia to the 36th Meeting of the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Istanbul

January 2018 – June 2018 - Chair of the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials

December 2018- Head of the delegation of the Republic of Armenia to the 37th Meeting of the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Baku

March 2018 – July 2019 - Member of the Board of Governors of the International Think Tank for Landlocked developing countries

Since 1 July 2019 – Executive Manager of the BSEC PERMIS in charge of Energy and Emergency Assistance areas

Academic Background

Candidate of Philosophical Sciences

Author of several articles and translations on international relations and human rights

Teaching activities

1988-2000 - Lecturer of Philosophy and English Language at various educational institutions of the Republic of Armenia

Awards

2018- Second degree Medal of Honor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia

2002- Certificate of appreciation of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia

2001, 2013 - Letter of appreciation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia

Languages

Armenian, English, Russian, German (fair)

Tudor CONSTANTINESCU
Principal Adviser to the Director General for Energy, European Commission

Tudor Constantinescu is Principal Adviser to the Director General for Energy, European Commission since March 2011. He coordinates activities related to steering the use of Structural Funds for energy priorities as well as initiatives related to hydrogen and storage in the energy system.

Before starting with the Commission, he set up as founding Executive Director the Buildings Performance Institute Europe (BPI Europe), the European pole of a global best practice network focusing on energy efficiency in buildings. He was the president of the Romanian Agency for Energy Conservation (ARCE), the national Government institution in charge of energy efficiency policies and programs, and promoting renewable energy sources. For the period 2008-2009 he ensured the rotating presidency of the EnR network of European Energy Agencies. In the private sector, he led as a consultant the development of the Energy Efficiency strategy for Petrom (largest oil and gas producer in SE Europe) and served for two years on the Board of the Romanian Energy Efficiency Fund.

For 11 years, he worked for the Energy Charter Secretariat in Brussels coordinating energy efficiency and related environmental activities on international level, conducting large scale country reviews and studies on financing and fiscal instruments, carbon trading, and effects of market liberalization. He also served as an itinerant lecturer at the Politehnica University of Bucharest (UPB) and at the Central European University in Budapest.

Tudor Constantinescu holds a master degree in energy engineering from the UPB, a master degree in applied economics from the Institute of Advanced Studies Vienna, and a Doctor of Science degree on regulatory economics in the energy sector from the UPB.

Sándor BENDE
Chairman of the Committee on Industry and Services, Chamber of Deputies

Mr. Sándor Bende was born in Toplița, a town in Harghita County. He has a degree in legal sciences and a master's degree in European Public Administration.

His political career began in 1990, when he became a member of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (U.D.M.R.). In 1997 he was elected a member of the Executive Bureau of U.D.M.R. Toplița and between 2009 and 2017 he was Territorial President of U.D.M.R. Gheorgheni. Between 2004 – 2016 he was a county councilor within the Harghita County Council, respectively Chairman of the Commission for Youth (2004 – 2008) and Chairman of the Commission for Urbanism (2008 – 2016).

In the Romanian Parliament, during the 2016-2020 legislature, he served as Vice President of the Committee on Industry and Services of the Chamber of Deputies, and since December 2020 he is Chairman of the Committee on Industry and Services of the Chamber of Deputies, coordinating several areas including industry, services, energy, mineral resources, competition and public procurement.

Ambassador Tatiana IOSIPER
Special Envoy for Energy and Climate Diplomacy
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Romania

Tatiana Iosiper was appointed Special Envoy for Energy and Climate Diplomacy of the Romanian MFA in September 2021. Prior to her appointment, she served as Romania's Ambassador to Japan from 2016-2021. She was Director of Mass Media Department and spokesperson of the MFA (2000-2001). A 30 years veteran of the Foreign Service, she served in Washington, DC (1996-2000 and 2001-2006) and Tel Aviv (2007-2013), and was Romania's representative in the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC) Committee of Senior Officials (2013-2016). She has degrees in engineering and mass communication.

Vergil CHIȚAC **Mayor of Constanta**

Work experience

November 2020 – present Mayor of Constanta

20 January 2017 - November 2020 Senator in the Romanian Senate

Member of the following boards: Defense Committee, Public Order and National Security Committee, Transportation and Energy Committee, Abuse Inquiry Committee, Abuse Control and Petitions, Head of the Romanian delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly

September 1986 - February 2016

Assistant lecturer eng. (1986-1990), head of university studies eng.(1990-2000), associate professor dr. eng. (2000-2009), university teacher dr. eng. (from 2009)

Education and Training

January 2012 – July 2012

University postgraduate completion course in national security and defence entitled "Current problems of national security", "Carol I" National Defence University" Bucharest, National Defence College

1992-1999

Ph.D. in Science – field of study: naval hydromechanics and naval structures

Superior Mathematics Complements, Ship Theory, Naval Hydrodynamics Complements, Naval Dynamics Complements, Ship Dynamics Complements

"Dunărea de Jos" University from Galati, Naval Faculty

1981-1986

Engineer Diploma, Faculty of Mechanics, Naval Section

Ship theory, Ship building and calculus, Ship dynamics and design, Naval machines and propulsion installations, Naval onboard installations, Fluid mechanics, Special mathematics, Mathematical analysis

University from Galati

Medals and titles awarded

- Order of "Virtutea Maritimă" (Maritime Virtue) in the rank of "Knight" - 2004
- Naval Forces Badge of Honor - 2008
- Honorary Badge of the Romanian Army - 2010
- Badge of Honor of the General Staff - 2012
- Land Forces Badge of Honor – 2013

Scientific activity

- 5 books published in CNCSIS recognized publishing houses, of which 3 as sole or first author
- 26 articles / studies published in recognized international journals or in national journals recognized by CNCSIS, of which 15 as sole or first author
- 25 articles / studies published in the volumes of internationally recognized scientific events in the country and abroad (with ISSN or ISBN), of which 10 as sole or first author
- 6 innovation patents
- 23 research-development-innovation projects, of which 6 as director / project manager

Honorary Professor of the Naval Academy "Nikola Vaptsarov" in Varna, Bulgaria - 2015 Doctor Honoris Causa of the "Angel Kanchev"

University of Ruse - Bulgaria - 2016 Honorary Professor of the Naval Academy "Mircea cel Bătrân" - Constanta – 2017

On the 1st of December 2012 I was promoted to "rear admiral".

NICULAE HAVRILEȚ **Energy Expert**

Niculae Havrileț is an expert in the energy field.

He is the Former President of the Romanian Energy Regulatory Authority (ANRE). Prior to his appointment as President of ANRE in June 2012, Mr. Havrileț successively held the positions of technical services engineer and human resources manager and technical regulation / authorization at the largest natural gas producer in Romania S.N.G.N. Romgaz S.A. / Distrigaz Nord (between 1982-1998), chairman of the Board of Directors / chairman of the State Domains Agency (between 1998-2001), administrator / general manager of SC GASCOP SRL (between 2001-2012), vice-chairman of the National Union of Romanian Employers - UNPR (between 2005-2012).

He is a member of several important national and international organizations, including the following: Board of Regulators of the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators - ACER, General Assembly of the Council of European Energy Regulators - CEER, Regional Regulators Energy Association - Romanian National Committee ERRA and WEC - RNC.

He holds a degree in mechanical engineering from the Technical University of Cluj (1982) and has 33 years of experience in engineering and the natural gas sector, of which 19 in management positions and three in central public administration.

For special merits in his professional activity, Mr. Havrileț was awarded the national Knight decoration of the "Order of the Star of Romania" in 2000 and since 2009 he is a member of the Rotary Club Mureș.

VALERIU BINIG

ENEL, Regulatory Director AMCHAM, Head of Energy Committee

Valeriu Binig is one of the leading specialists in the energy market in Romania, with over 32 years of professional experience in the sector, in various roles ranging from technical and academic to M&A and finance raising advisory, power plant operation engineer, designer, researcher, lecturer, coordinator of Phare programmes, European Commission Delegation Task Manager, top utility company manager, administrator and consultant in investment banking/financial advisory services in the sector.

In his capacity as Regulatory and Antitrust Affairs Director, Valeriu Binig leads a highly qualified and diverse team, having as main objectives defining, representing, and promoting the company's position on regulatory and antitrust issues. Also, he is responsible of identifying the regulatory trend for the assessment of the economic and financial impact of regulations on local business lines as well as managing regulatory and antitrust issues and proceedings towards interested relevant stakeholders, addressing and monitoring local business lines compliance and defining the optimal local strategy.

Prior to joining Enel Romania, Valeriu Binig held leading positions in consultancy firms like EY Romania and Deloitte, and was also a director within an investment banking and investment fund management team. Before that, he undertook roles in the transformative process of the local energy market, in management positions of energy distribution and generation companies, prior to the unbundling process in the Romanian electricity sector.

He was (Co)Chairman of the AmCham Energy and Environment Committee (2013-2017) and member of Amcham Romania Board of Directors (2013 – 2014); Chairman of the Energy Task Force of the Coalition for Developing Romania (2015, 2017) and the Engagement Partner for assistance to the Romanian Ministry of Energy in quantitative modelling for the elaboration of the National Energy Strategy (2016). He is currently a member of the Advisory Board of the Energy Policy Group.

Mr. Binig graduated the Power Engineering Faculty of University Politehnica of Bucharest . He holds a PhD degree in Reliability of Power Systems after two years of Doctoral School at The Compiegne University of Technology.

Ion STERIAN **SNTGN Transgaz SA, CEO**

As the CEO of the National Natural Gas Transmission System Operator in Romania – Transgaz, Ion Sterian, is a recognized name in the energy sector both in Romania, within the European Union and internationally.

Mr. Ion Sterian joined Transgaz in 2007, as the representative of the majority shareholder, the Romanian State through the Ministry of Economy, in the General Meeting of the Shareholders, then being appointed, in 2013, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Transgaz.

Graduate of the University of Oil and Gas in Ploiești, specialization in well drilling and exploitation of oil and gas fields, at the Faculty of Economic Engineering, Management and Rural Development at the University of Bucharest, the master's degree in Rural Management and Development at the same university, Mr. Ion Sterian has continuously improved his professional knowledge both in the field of energy and in international and diplomatic relations, corporate governance, financial management and the capital market.

With a vast professional experience in both energy and corporate management, Mr. Ion Sterian, managed to lead Transgaz to start and implement one of the most ambitious and important plans for the development of the natural gas transmission infrastructure in Romania in 20 years, with investment projects estimated at 4.02 billion euros.

A charismatic, dedicated leader, a positive and effervescent personality, Mr. Ion Sterian has won the trust and respect of his counterparts of both nationally and internationally, of the European authorities and institutions and those in Romania, the media and the more than 4,500 employees.

In recognition of his professional merits and managerial qualities, Mr. Ion Sterian received, in his own name and on behalf of TRANSGAZ, numerous awards, diplomas and distinctions, being invited to give speeches on topics specific to the energy sector, management and corporate governance, negotiations and financing related to complex and large-scale investment projects in national and European energy infrastructure, and other topics on the prospects for sustainable development of the energy sector in Romania and Europe.

Adrian BOROTEA
Group Strategy & EU Agenda Division Director, CEZ Romania
Vice-president, Romania Wind Energy Association (RWEA)

Adrian Borotea is Vice-president of Romania Wind Energy Association (RWEA) and Group Strategy & EU Agenda Division Director at CEZ Romania, one of the most active companies in Romania's energy sector.

Before joining CEZ, Mr. Borotea was the Vicepresident of the Romanian Electricity Regulator ANRE. He holds an Executive MBA degree from Katz Pittsburgh in the United States. CEZ Group ranks among the largest power utilities in Europe, both in terms of installed capacity and number of customers. In December 2010, CEZ purchased 100% shares of TMK Hydro energy Power System, followed by a period of finalizing the transaction. The total installed capacity of the hydropower system in Caras Severin is approximately 18MW, as the company owns four dams (Trei Ape, Gozna, Valiug, Secu) and four hydropower plants (Grebla, Crainicel I, Crainicel II and Breazova). Each hydropower plant has, currently, no more than 10MW installed capacity.

Florina SORA
Senior Adviser, National Agency for Mineral Resources (NAMR)

Ms. Florina Sora graduated for her MSc. at the Bucharest University, Faculty of Geology and Geography, specializing in geological and geophysical engineering and has more than 25 years of postgraduate professional experience in petroleum and mining sector in Romania, including more than 21 years of post-graduate professional experience in development of national legislation and/or its implementation. She also holds a Certificate in Environmental Management (University of Exeter).

Her career includes various professional positions in the petroleum sector and public administration. She started as a field geophysicist with the Romanian prospecting and exploration company Prospectiuni S.A. In 1994 she joined National Agency for Mineral Resources, the licensing and regulatory authority under the petroleum legislation. As such she was mainly responsible for the promotion and negotiation of petroleum agreements. She has strong expertise and experience in transposition of EU legislation and development of secondary legislation in relation with various directives in the field of primary energy resources, particularly the Hydrocarbon Directive and CCS Directive.

During 2004 to 2006 she was involved in the preparation and implementation of projects co- financed by international institutions and organizations (World Bank, GEF, USTDA).

Member of the Romanian team for the negotiation preparations / negotiation sessions of the UN Committee for Sustainable Development – Mining Chapter (CSD 19, held in New York);

She also acted as Project Assistant Manager in the EU funded Project Interconnection Gas Pipeline between Romania and Republic of Moldova (2013 to 2015). Currently she has been acting as Senior Adviser in the NAMR's Petroleum Directorate.

She is a member of the Romanian National Committee for the World Energy Council.

Ștefan POPESCU
ENGIE, Deputy Director for Public and Regulatory Affairs

Deputy Director for Public and Regulatory Affairs at ENGIE and delegate for European Affairs for Distrigaz Sud Retele.

Ph.D. in international relations at University of Paris 1 – Sorbonne.

Former Secretary of State to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania.