

## ***STATEMENT\****

*of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation on the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation*

We, the parliamentarians of the Member States of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, reaffirm on this commemorative occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Organization of the BSEC that our commitment to the idea of the cooperation within the BSEC framework lays as a foundation for successful development of mutually beneficial multilateral relations in the region.

The BSEC has addressed priority issues of regional development and has played a catalytic role in a number of important areas, such as trade, transport, energy, communications, environmental protection, health care, agriculture, tourism, prevention of technological disasters and combating crime.

Over the past fifteen years the concerted efforts of the BSEC Member States have consistently promoted the enhancement of regional partnership. The Organisation of the BSEC has served as an effective tool for increasing dynamism and strengthening of practical approach in the development of the regional cooperation based on utilization of successful experiences of the member countries.

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation of the BSEC will continue mobilising the national parliaments to provide political and legislative support to the regional projects generated within the BSEC framework.

The determination for turning the BSEC Region into one of peace, stability and prosperity is as vital today as it was fifteen years ago. The Assembly reaffirms its dedication to attainment of this goal and, at the same time, expresses its concern that remaining conflicts in the Black Sea area hamper the progress of economic development and undermine consolidation of stability in the region. The parliamentarians of the Black Sea countries call for peaceful solutions to the persisting disputes based on observance of the principles of international law and agreements in force.

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\* *The Statement text was approved at the 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Legal and Political Affairs Committee in Bucharest on 25 April 2007 and adopted at the 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Varna on 13 June 2007.*

