

## **DECLARATION**

### **On the Occasion of the Fifteenth Anniversary of the Establishment of the PABSEC**

1. We, the Presidents of the Parliaments of the Member States of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, have gathered in Athens on 9 June 2008 for the BSEC Parliamentary Summit marking the fifteenth anniversary of the establishment of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation.
2. We reaffirm our commitment to the idea of overall development in the BSEC region, founded on goodwill and mutual willingness for cooperation, as well as the consolidation of inter-parliamentary interaction among the BSEC Member States, directed towards the realization of the common ideals and principles enshrined in the Istanbul Summit Declaration, the Bosphorus Statement and the Declaration on the Establishment of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation.
3. We pledge our full support to the efforts of the heads of state and heads of government of the BSEC Member States; these efforts are aimed at furthering the development of the Organization and the realization of the principles of cooperation put forth in the Declaration on the Occasion of the Fifteenth Anniversary Summit of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, adopted at Istanbul on 25 June 2007.
4. Over the past years, the Parliamentary Assembly has laid a solid foundation for its sustained growth and has gained regional recognition. During these fifteen years, the Assembly has accomplished significant work in achieving the aims and fulfilling the tasks set out in the statutory documents and has proved itself to be an important mechanism for deepening good-neighbourly cooperation, friendship and partnership among the Member States. The sphere of activities of the PABSEC embraces the basic areas of regional cooperation, including enhancement of political interaction, meeting new challenges and threats, promoting environmental protection, trade, energy, transport, tourism, telecommunications, science and technology, and combating terrorism. At the same time, we note with concern that unresolved conflicts and the numerous negative phenomena emanating from them undermine stability, prevent sustainable development and impede the processes of regional and European integration.
5. Inter-parliamentary interaction is an important component of the BSEC. The national parliaments of the BSEC Member States are involved in shaping the legal framework, and play an active role in securing political and legislative support for regional cooperation.
6. We note with satisfaction the repeated acknowledgement by the BSEC Summits of

