

ANKARA DECLARATION

OF THE FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA CAPITALS' ASSOCIATION

We, the Heads of City Administrations of the Capitals of the Black Sea Nations and the participants in the First General Assembly of the Black Sea Capitals' Association held in Ankara on 5-6 September 2000 under the auspices of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation –PABSEC– and at the invitation of the Offices of the Governor and Mayor of Ankara,

welcoming the transformation of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation – BSEC– into a full fledged regional economic organization as a turning point and a land mark in the institutionalization of a solid framework of cooperation aimed at promoting the lofty goals of friendship, cooperation, prosperity, stability and peace in the Black Sea region,

highly appreciating the initiative of the PABSEC in bringing together the Governors and Mayors of the Black Sea Capitals, which highlights the particular attention attached by 70 parliamentarians of 11 member countries to the role of local authorities in developing mutually advantageous cooperation in the region and furthering the aims of the BSEC Organization,

reiterating their adherence to the principles and goals enshrined in the Statute of the Black Sea Capitals' Association adopted in Bucharest, on 15 May 1998, which opened tremendous perspectives for a more intensive cooperation among the participating cities within the framework of the Black Sea cooperation process,

stressing the leading role of the Capital cities in the overall development of our countries as well as the fact that the First General Assembly of the Black Sea Capitals' Association represents a remarkable development of the cooperation among the Capitals of our countries,

Hereby agree on the present Declaration

Contribution of the Black Sea Capitals to Fostering Cooperation in the Black Sea Region

- 1. The first three Black Sea Capitals' Governors and Mayors Round Tables held in Istanbul on 6-8 September 1994, Kyiv on 13-14 September 1995 and in Bucharest on 14-15 May 1998, played a major role in preparing the ground for setting up a proper framework of cooperation among the Capitals of the countries of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation.*

The important developments, which have taken place in the Black Sea region over the last years require a growing cooperation among the Capitals as a contribution to expanding and consolidating the process of multilateral cooperation in the Black Sea basin, given their unique place as the political, administrative, economic and cultural centres of their countries.

- 2. In this context it is of paramount importance that the Heads of State or Government of the BSEC Member States, gathered in Istanbul on 17 November 1999, confirmed their commitment to promote effective economic, social and democratic reforms in the BSEC area, the establishment of vigorous market economies and the development of civil societies as prerequisites of building up an articulated and efficient cooperation.*

At the same time, the resolutions adopted by the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, recommendations of the PABSEC, activities carried out by the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank, BSEC Business Council, International Center for Black Sea Studies, have

