

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC
COOPERATION PABSEC

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REPORT OF
THE BLACK SEA CAPITALS' ROUND-TABLE

Meeting of the Governors and Mayors of the Capital Cities of the
Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States

Istanbul 6-8 September.

1994

Rapporteur Mr. Rauf **BMAILOV** (Azerbaijan)

1. Introduction

According to the decision of the Second Meeting of the PABSEC Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee held in Moscow on 4-5 May, 1994, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation provided its auspices to the Meeting of the Heads of the City Administrations of the Capitals of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Countries in Istanbul where the PABSEC has its headquarters.

In launching this initiative, we were deeply convinced that local administrations - constitutional bodies rendering direct service to the public, and bearing primary responsibility in addressing everyday problems encountered by our citizens - will make a major and valuable contribution to the efforts of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation in order to achieve its basic goals.

2. The Black Sea Capitals' Round Table and its Results

The Meeting of the Mayors and Governors of the Capital Cities of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States "Black Sea Capitals' Round-Table" was held on 6-8 September, 1994 at the invitation of the Governor of Istanbul, Mr. Hayri Kozakcioglu. The Meeting was organised by the Governor's Office of Istanbul in cooperation with the PABSEC International Secretariat.

Both the elected and government-appointed heads of capital city administrations from Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Romania, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine, as well as the Governor and Mayor of Istanbul attended the meeting.

Among the guests of honour who addressed the meeting were H-E. Mr. Olexander MOROZ, President of the PABSEC, President of the Supreme Rada of Ukraine, H.E. Mr. Husamettin CINDORUK, President of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, First President of the PABSEC, Mr. Nahit MENTESE, Interior Minister of Turkey and Mr. Riza AKCALI, Minister of Environment of Turkey.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, H.E. Mr. Olexander MOROZ, President of the PABSEC, President of the Supreme Rada of Ukraine stressed that broader economic, trade and cultural ties and establishing twmship relations among our capitals may make a substantial contribution to enriching the content of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation process, becoming one of its concrete directions. In his turn, H.E. Mr. Husamettin CDMDORUK, President of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, First President of the PABSEC, noted that among the objectives set by the Assembly in the organisation of the Round-Table Meeting of the Governors and Mayors of the Black Sea Capitals, the first and foremost was to create an atmosphere where the member states' administrators would be able to determine their common problems and to hasten the process of solving them within the framework of regional cooperation.

The Black Sea Capitals' Round-Table focused on the infrastuctural development, urbanisation, social, environmental, law and public order problems which challenge the modern metropolis in our region, as well as on the possibilities of cooperation and twinship among the capital cities of the Black Sea nations.

At the conclusion of the meeting the participants adopted the Declaration of the Black Sea Capitals' Governors and Mayors Round Table which puts forward a number of important ideas and initiatives (See Appendix 1).

They acknowledged that social, economic and environmental problems existing in our capitals were to a great degree of common nature and could be better resolved in joint action and appreciated that the Round Table had provided a good opportunity for the

exchange of views, experiences and ideas thus facilitating the identification of specific fields of cooperation.

The participants expressed their determination to make the best use of the results of the exchange of information and experience in order to jointly concentrate on projects aimed at improving the living conditions of our citizens.

They decided to give priority to the following fields of cooperation and joint action:

- safeguarding freedom and democratic values, social and human rights;
- providing adequate infrastructure, affordable housing, social, health, educational and cultural facilities;
- ensuring law and order, public safety and combatting crime in the cities;
- improving urban environmental situation;
- preservation of cultural heritage in the cities.

3. Conclusions and Recommendations of the Assembly

Our capitals can play a major role in developing mutually advantageous cooperation in the region therefore making a substantial contribution to furthering the aims of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation.

We should make the best use of opportunities existing for further regular meetings among the capitals of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States, as well as other contacts at the level of local administrations, in order to develop cooperation of local authorities as an important component of the Black Sea Cooperation process.

The Assembly should recommend the Governments of the Participating States and the BSEC to give support and create conditions for the development of many-sided cooperation among the capitals of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States initiated by the first Black Sea Capitals' Governors and Mayors Round Table. The Governments of the Participating States and the BSEC should also be recommended to assist in the implementation of the cooperation projects proposed in the Declaration of the Black Sea Capitals' Governors and Mayors Round Table in the following fields: social, health, educational and cultural facilities; maintenance of law and crime control; improvement of environment; preservation of cultural heritage.

The Assembly recommends to consider, with the participation of the concerned national ministries and agencies, the concrete proposals made by the first Black Sea Capitals' Governors and Mayors Round Table:

(a) establishment of the Black Sea Police Union (which will function in a way parallel to the Europol of the European Police Union) as an instrument assisting to combat internal and trans-border crime and drug trafficking;

(b) establishment of the Black Sea Trade Centre to speed up economic cooperation among the Participating States.

It is important to support further local authorities meetings and encourage contacts and various forms of cooperation at the local level as an important aspect of the Black Sea Cooperation process.