



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION
PABSEC

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

Istanbul, 6 July 1998

FOREWORD

OPENING CEREMONY

The Eleventh Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation was held in Bucharest, at the Palace of the Parliament, on 23-25 June 1998, upon the invitation of the Parliament of Romania.

The Bucharest General Assembly represented the climax of the events carried out in the first half of 1998, marking the Fifth Anniversary of the Parliamentary Assembly.

The Opening Ceremony was addressed by H.E. Mr. Emil Constantinescu, President of Romania, Mr. Petre Roman, President of the PABSEC, President of the Senate of Romania, and Mr. Ion Diaconescu, President of the Chamber of Deputies of Romania. The address by Mrs. Nadezhda Mihaylova, the BSEC Chairperson-in-Office, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria, was presented by Ambassador Vassil Baytchev, Secretary General of the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat.

PARTICIPATION

The General Assembly was attended by:

1. **Speakers/Presidents** of the Parliaments of Albania, Armenia, Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania (the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies), Russian Federation (the State Duma) and Turkey.
2. **National delegations** of all Member Countries: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine.
3. **Black Sea Economic Cooperation:** The Secretary General of the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat.
4. **Black Sea Trade and Development Bank:** The President of the Bank.
5. **Observers:** Delegations of the People's Assembly of Egypt and the Knesset of Israel, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States.
6. **Guests:** House of Councillors of Morocco and Black Sea University Foundation.
7. **PABSEC International Secretariat.**

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. *General debate.*

The General Debate was devoted to the Fifth Anniversary of the Parliamentary Assembly.

The Speakers/Presidents of the Parliaments of the BSEC Participating States, heads of national delegations as well as the representatives of the People's Assembly of Egypt, the Knesset and the IPACIS, as observers, and the representatives of the House of Councillors of Morocco, as guests, took part in the general debate.

The participants in the debate emphasised the role of the Parliamentary Assembly in deepening and consolidating the multilateral cooperation process in the Black Sea region. They also stressed that the Parliamentary Assembly occupies a unique place, offering not only a democratic forum for inter-parliamentary dialogue, but also maintaining an essential link between governments and peoples through their elected representatives. They underlined the positive results of the inter-parliamentary diplomacy in promoting stability, prosperity and understanding among the peoples in the area, as an important contribution to the new European architecture.

2. *Anniversary Declaration.*

The General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Fifth Anniversary of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation.

The Anniversary Declaration was signed by the Speakers/Presidents of the Parliaments of the member countries.

3. *Recommendations adopted by the General Assembly:*

- a) Recommendation 25/1998 on "The BSEC Stock- and Commodities Exchanges"(Doc GA 3965/98)
- b) Recommendation 26/1998 on "Plan of Action for the Establishment of the BSEC Free Trade Area"(Doc.GA 3991/98)
- c) Recommendation 27/1998 on "Cooperation of the Academic Communities of the BSEC Member Countries and its Legal Framework"(Doc GA 3978/98).
- d) Recommendation 28/1998 on "The Black Sea Capitals' Association " (Doc.GA 4851/98)

4. *Reports approved by the General Assembly:*

- a) Report on "The BSEC Stock- and Commodities Exchanges" (Doc.GA 3964/98)
- b) Report on the "Plan of Action for the Establishment of the BSEC Free Trade Area"(Doc.GA 3990/98)
- c) Report on "Cooperation of the Academic Communities of the BSEC Member Countries and its Legal Framework"(Doc. GA 3976/98).