



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION
PABSEC

Istanbul, 9 July 1999

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

FOREWORD

OPENING CEREMONY

The Thirteenth Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation was held in Ankara, at the Turkish Grand National Assembly on 22-24 June 1999, upon the invitation of the Turkish Grand National Assembly.

The Opening Ceremony was addressed by Mr. Yıldıırım Akbulut, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, President of the Turkish Grand National Assembly and by Mr. Grigoris Niotis, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic, representing the Chairman-in-Office of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation

PARTICIPATION

The General Assembly was attended by:

1. *Speakers/Presidents* of the Parliaments of Albania, Bulgaria and Turkey.
2. *National delegations* of all the Member Countries: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine.
3. *Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation*: the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic, the representative of the BSEC Chairman-in-Office and the BSEC Secretary General
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.
6. *PABSEC International Secretariat*.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. Agenda

The General Assembly decided to include into the agenda of the 13th Plenary Session the additional item "Election of the Secretary General" as item 9.c of the agenda.

2. General debate.

The General Debate was devoted to the parliamentary actions in support of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation process.

The Speakers/Presidents of the Parliaments of the BSEC Participating States, heads of national delegations, observers from the People's Assembly of Egypt and the Knesset of Israel as well as the BSEC Secretary General and the BSTDB President took part in the general debate.

The participants in the debate stressed the role of the national parliaments as well as of the Parliamentary Assembly in the ratification process of the Charter of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, which has become a turning point in the consolidation of the cooperation among the Participating States.

The transformation of the BSEC into a full-fledged regional economic organisation has opened new prospects, highlighting new objectives and challenges for the Black sea region on the eve of the 21st century.

This new status requires also new approaches by the BSEC Parliamentary Assembly called upon to bring its substantial contribution to the multilateral economic cooperation process in the region, to the efforts undertaken by the Member Countries with a view to stimulate economic growth, strengthen the rule of law, ensure stability, prosperity and peace in the region. To this end, the Parliamentary Assembly has to elaborate strategies for its long-term development, to better define its place among other BSEC components. In this framework the members of the Parliamentary Assembly appreciated the Work Plan of the Committees, endorsed by the Standing Committee, which will provide better perspective of the PABSEC activities.

3. Recommendations adopted by the General Assembly:

- a) Recommendation 32/1999 on "Development of Tourism in the Black Sea Region" (Doc GA 6120/99)
- b) Recommendation 33/1999 on "The Black Sea Trade and Development Bank"(Doc. GA 6122/99)
- c) Recommendation 34/1999 on "The Role of the PABSEC following the Yalta Summit" (Doc.GA 6143/99)
- d) Recommendation 35/1999 on "The Legal Framework for Combating Trafficking in People"(Doc. GA 6145/99)
- e) Recommendation 36/1999 on "The Legal Framework for the Social Protection of Pensioners in the BSEC Member Countries "(Doc. GA 6133/99)

4. Reports approved by the General Assembly:

- a) Report on "Development of Tourism in the Black Sea Region"(Doc.GA 6119/99)
- b) Report on "The Black Sea Trade and Development Bank" (Doc.EC 6121/99)
- c) Report on the "The Role of the PABSEC following the Yalta Summit" (Doc. GA 6142/99)
- d) Report on "The Legal Framework for Combating Trafficking in People" (Doc. GA 6144/99)
- e) Report on "The Legal Framework for the Social Protection of Pensioners in the BSEC Member Countries "(Doc. GA 6132/99).
- f) Progress Report of the Bureau and the Standing Committee (Doc.GA 6256/99)