



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION
PABSEC

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

Istanbul, 20 December 1999

FOREWORD

OPENING CEREMONY

The Fourteenth Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation was held in Kyiv at the Supreme Rada on 7-9 December 1999, upon the invitation of the Supreme Rada of Ukraine.

The Opening Ceremony was addressed by Mr. Olexander Tkachenko, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, Chairman of the Supreme Rada of Ukraine, by the Head of the President's staff, who presented the Message by H.E. Mr. Leonid Kuchma, the President of Ukraine, and by the Ambassador of the Republic of Moldova in Kyiv, who presented the Message by Mr. Nicolae Tabacaru, Chairman-in-Office of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Moldova.

PARTICIPATION

The General Assembly was attended by:

1. **Speakers/Presidents** of the Parliaments of Albania and Ukraine.
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 representative of the BSEC Chairman-in-Office and the Deputy Secretary General of the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat.
4. **BSEC Business Council:** Deputy Secretary General
5. **Observers:** Delegations of the People's Assembly of Egypt, the Knesset of the State of Israel, OSCE PA, IPACIS and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly
6. **Guests:** The National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and Russia, the Chamber of Citizens of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the International Centre for Black Sea Studies.
7. **PABSEC International Secretariat.**

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. *General debate.*

The General Debate was devoted to the role of the PABSEC as the parliamentary dimension of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation process, on the threshold of the 21st century.

Speakers/Presidents of the Parliaments of the PABSEC Member-Countries, heads of national delegations, observers from the People's Assembly of Egypt, the Knesset of Israel, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Member-Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, as well as guests representing the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and Russia and the Chamber of Citizens of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia 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 providing consistent support to the goals of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation.

The transformation of the BSEC into a full-fledged regional economic organisation, as of 1 May 1999, has opened new prospects, highlighting new objectives and challenges for the Black Sea region in the next century.

The official commencement of operations of the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank in Thessaloniki, on 1 June 1999, has ushered in a new stage in BSEC activities, when project implementation can be secured by the BSEC's own financial pillar.

This new situation warrants new approaches by the BSEC Parliamentary Assembly, called upon to bring a 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, in the first half of 2000, the PABSEC will devote its attention to some of the most relevant issues of regional cooperation, such as promotion of small and medium enterprises in the Black Sea region, legislative framework for cooperation among the law-enforcing, customs and immigration authorities, cooperation in the field of public health among the BSEC Member-Countries.

2. *Recommendations adopted by the General Assembly:*

- a) Recommendation 37/1999 on "Trade Development in the Black Sea Region"
(Doc GA 6493/99)
- b) Recommendation 38/1999 on "Promotion and Protection of the investments in the Black Sea Region"
(Doc.GA 6495/99)
- c) Recommendation 39/1999 on "Public utilities in the Black Sea Region"
(Doc. GA 6725/99)
- d) Recommendation 40/1999 on "Legal and political aspects of the transport systems integration process in the Black Sea Region"
(Doc. GA 6540/99)
- e) Recommendation 41/1999 on "The Legal Framework of Child Protection in the BSEC Member Countries"
(Doc.GA 6526/99)