

Istanbul, 14 December 2012

FOREWORD

FORTIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OPENING CEREMONY

The Fortieth General Assembly of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation was held in Baku on 26 – 28 November 2012 upon the invitation of the Milli Mejlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The Plenary Session was opened by Mr. Oqtay Asadov, PABSEC President, Chairman of the Milli Mejlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan, who also presented the message of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H. E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev. Mr. Cemil Cicek, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of the Republic of Turkey, addressed the participants. Ambassador Dr. Victor Tvircun, BSEC PERMIS Secretary General addressed the participants on behalf of the BSEC Chairman-in-Office.

PARTICIPATION

The General Assembly was attended by:

1. ***Special Guests:*** Mrs. Tsetska Tsacheva, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria and Mr. Cemil Cicek, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of the Republic of Turkey
2. ***The National delegations*** of the Parliaments of: the Republic of Albania, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Bulgaria, Georgia, the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Republic of Serbia, the Republic of Turkey and Ukraine.
3. ***The Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation:***
 - ***BSEC PERMIS:*** the Secretary General.
 - ***BSTDB:*** The Secretary General.
4. ***Observers:*** Delegations/representatives of the National Assembly of the French Republic, the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus, the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Dimension of the Central European Initiative, the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of the Independent States, the Parliamentary

Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and Russia, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Turkic-Speaking Countries

5. *Guests:* the Black Sea Universities Network (BSUN), the Marmara Foundation and Child Pact.

THE 40th PLENARY SESSION

1. *General debate.*

The topic of the General Debate was “The cities of the BSEC Member States: problems of the economic, environmental, cultural and social development”.

The heads of the PABSEC national delegations, representatives of the National Assembly of the Parliament of the French Republic, the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean and the Black Sea University Network took part in the debate.

The speakers noted that all the cities are confronted with the same problems and challenges, even if they are different, and highlighted the importance of transborder cooperation as mean to develop regional initiatives of the cities and municipalities.

The participants stressed that currently the cities comprise more than half of the world population, and the process of growing continues, attracting every year more and more people. Nowadays cities are not only industrial centers, but they became also centers of science, knowledge and technology.

The speakers highlighted that the cities challenges are related to the supply of food and water, lack of space and housing, modernizing infrastructure, public services and utilities, safety, land use planning, sanitation, disaster risk management, energy efficiency. Another important aspect is the mobility of people, especially the increase of the flux of immigrants and its consequences for the integration policies of the cities. The process of decentralization could help the cities and the local administration by giving them more authority in order to develop their institutional potential and implement projects of collaboration.

One of the most important challenges is the environmental protection which includes issues like air pollution by cars, acoustic pollution, shortage of potable water, degradation of national and historical monuments, vulnerability to disasters, and destruction of natural land. It was stressed that the local administration should invest in bringing modern technology for waste management and recycling.

Among the measures proposed by the participants in order to solve the current problems facing the Black Sea region cities, there are increasing finance for and good management of city infrastructure and services, developing policy recommendations to reduce vulnerability of the poor and promote inclusiveness, supporting city economies, promoting a safe and sustainable urban environment by supporting integrated municipal solid waste management, promoting municipal energy efficiency, encouraging disaster risk management.

2. Documents adopted by the Plenary Session:

- a) Recommendation 128/2012 on “The role of public-private partnership for sustainable economic development in BSEC member states” (Doc.GA40/EC39/REC128/12)
- b) Recommendation 129/2012 on " Role of Parliaments in enhancing information (Cyber) security in the BSEC Member states” (Doc. GA40/LC40/REC129/12)
- c) Recommendation 130/2012 on “Social welfare reforms in the BSEC Member states” (Doc. GA40/CC39/REC130/12)
- d) Declaration on the 20th Anniversary of the PABSEC (Doc.GA40/DECL/PABSEC20/12)

3. Documents approved by the Plenary Session:

- a) Report on "The role of public-private partnership for sustainable economic development in BSEC member states" (Doc.GA40/EC39/REP/12)
- b) Report on “Role of Parliaments in enhancing information (Cyber) security in the BSEC Member states” (Doc.GA40/LC40/REP/12)
- c) Report on “Social welfare reforms in the BSEC Member states” (Doc.GA40/CC39/REP/12)
- d) Granting the Observer status with the PABSEC to the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking Countries (TURKPA) (Doc. INC/722/12)
- e) Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly (Doc.GA40/PROG/12)
- f) Auditing Report for the Financial Year 2011 (Doc.GA39/AUDR/12)
- g) The Minutes of the Thirty-Ninth Plenary Session of the General Assembly held in Yerevan on 23 May 2012 (Doc.GA39/MIN/12)

4. The Plenary Session took note of:

- The Report on the 26th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States, 11 June 2012, Belgrade (Doc.GA40/REP/BSEC/26CMFA/12)
- The Istanbul Summit Declaration on the occasion of the Twentieth Anniversary of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, 26 June 2012

5. New Credentials:

The Assembly **ratified** the credentials of the new members and proxies of the delegations of Armenia, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Russia, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine. (Doc.GA40/CRED/12)

6. *Election of the PABSEC Vice-Presidents*

The Assembly **elected** Mr. Dimitar Atanasov, Head of the Bulgarian PABSEC Delegation, as PABSEC Vice-President for a term of two years till November 2014, and Mrs. Ekaterini Sidiropoulou-Papakosta, Head of the Hellenic PABSEC Delegation, as the PABSEC Vice-President in charge of Financial Matters, till June 2013(*to complete the term of office of Mr. Amoiridis*).

7. *Election of the PABSEC Deputy Secretary General*

The Assembly **elected** Mr. Hasan Baytekin (Turkey) as Deputy Secretary General in charge of Administrative and Financial Matters for a term of office of three years starting with 15 December 2012.

8. *Changes in the PABSEC Rules of Procedure*

In conformity with the article 35 of the PABSEC Rules of Procedure, the Assembly was reported on the changes in the PABSEC Rules of procedure following the consensus decision of the Standing Committee adopted at its meeting in Baky on 26 November 2012.

9. *Rotation of the Presidency:*

In accordance with the PABSEC Rules of Procedure, on 28 November 2012, the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria assumed the six-month term Presidency of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of Black Sea Economic Cooperation.

10. *The Forty-First Plenary Session of the General Assembly is to be held in Varna on 23-24 May 2013.*

STANDING COMMITTEE

The Fortieth Meeting of the Standing Committee:

- 1. *Adopted*** the proposals of the Committees concerning the subjects to be taken up in the first half of 2013 and to be placed on the Draft Agenda of the Plenary Session of the 2013 Spring General Assembly.

The main subjects for the Spring Committees Meetings are:

- “Development of cooperation in Salvage and Rescue (SAR) among the BSEC countries”
- “PABSEC in the Wider Black Sea Region: 20 Years of Regional Cooperation”.
- “Benefits and perspectives of cooperation at the postgraduate level among universities of the BSEC Member States”.

2. *Approved* the following documents:

- a) Minutes of the Thirty-Ninth Meeting of the Standing Committee held in Yerevan on 22 May 2012 (Doc.SC39/MIN/12)
- b) PABSEC Calendar for 2013 (Doc. SC40/CAL2013/12)

3. *Verified* the credentials of new members of the Assembly.

4. *Endorsed*:

- a) Granting the Observer Status with the PABSEC to the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking Countries (TURKPA) (Doc. INC/722/12)
- b) Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly (Doc. GA40/PROG/12)
- c) Declaration on the 20th Anniversary of the PABSEC (Doc.GA40/DECL/PABSEC20/12)
- d) Draft Agenda of the Fortieth Plenary Session (Doc.GA40/AG/12)

5. *Adopted* by consensus the amendments to the PABSEC Rules of Procedure, the PABSEC Staff Regulations, and the PABSEC Financial Regulations.

6. *Took note of*:

- i) The receipt of Contributions to the 2012 Budget (Doc. SC40/CONT/12)
- ii) PABSEC Action Plan for 2013 to mark the 20th anniversary of the PABSEC (Doc.SC40/PABSEC/ACT-PLAN13/12)
- iii) The participation by PABSEC representatives in international gatherings between May - November 2012.

7. *The Forty-First Meeting of the PABSEC Standing Committee is to be held in Varna on 22 May 2013.*

BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY

The Forty-Seventh Meeting of the Bureau:

1. *Approved the following documents*:

- Minutes of the Forty-Sixth Meeting of the Bureau held in Yerevan on 22 May 2012 (Doc.BA46/MIN/12)
- Draft Order of Business of the Fortieth Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly (Doc.GA40/OB/12)

- Matters of Procedure of the Fortieth Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly (Doc.BA47/MP/12)

2. Considered the following items:

- Report by the Vice-President on the execution of the Assembly's budget (Doc.BA47/EXE/12)
- Participation of the PABSEC representatives in the international gatherings between November 2012 - May 2013 (Doc.BA47/GATH/12)

The new PABSEC President was authorized to take decisions on the participation of the PABSEC representatives in international gatherings between November 2012- May 2013. The decision on the participation by the staff of the International Secretariat will be taken by the Secretary General.

- Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly (Doc.GA40/PROG/12)
- Draft Agenda of the Fortieth Meeting of the Standing Committee (Doc.SC40/AG/12) and the Draft Agenda of the Fortieth Plenary Session (Doc.GA40/AG/12)
- Elections of the PABSEC Vice-Presidents
- Elections of the PABSEC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Administrative and Financial Matters

3. The Forty-Eighth Meeting of the PABSEC Bureau is to be held on 22 May 2013 in Varna.