

Istanbul, 15 August 2016

SUMMARY

FORTY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OPENING CEREMONY

The Forty-Seventh General Assembly of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation was held in Moscow, on 28-30 June 2016 upon the invitation of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation.

The Plenary Session was opened by Mr. Sergey Naryshkin, PABSEC President, Chairman of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation. Mr. Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation and Mr. Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Chairman-in-Office of the BSEC, addressed messages to the participants and guests in the Session.

PARTICIPATION

The General Assembly was attended by:

1. ***The National Delegations*** of the parliaments of: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, and Turkey.
2. ***Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)***: The Deputy Secretary General.
3. ***BSEC Related Bodies***: representatives of the Black Sea Trade & Development Bank (BSTDB), the BSEC Business Council and the Union of Road Transport Associations in the BSEC Region (BSEC-URTA).
4. ***Observers***: Mr. Pedro Agramunt, the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), Mrs. Monica Tomic, the President of the Parliamentary Dimension of the Central European Initiative (CEI-PD), Prof. Dr. Janis Vucans, the President of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC), delegations/representatives of the Parliament of the French Republic, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and Russia (PAUBR), the Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy (IAO), the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS), the Parliamentary Union of the Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation Member States (PUIC), the World Bank Group and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Turkic Speaking Countries (TURKPA).

5. **Guests:** representatives of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (Turkic Council) and the Partnership Fund of Georgia.

THE 47th PLENARY SESSION

1. General Debate

The topic of the General Debate was *Through Economic Cooperation to Peace, Stability and Prosperity in the BSEC Region*.

During the discussions, the participants have underlined the fact that this subject is of utmost importance for the Black Sea Region. Promoting dialogue among the PABSEC and the BSEC Members States, developing transport connections, increasing the volume of trade and attracting investments are considered to be the main factors for prosperity and growth in the Region.

They underlined that the Black Sea Economic Cooperation is a constituent part of the European architecture, and in this regard it is vital to attach importance to the Eastern Partnership, the Black Sea Synergy and the EU Strategy for the Black Sea.

The officials who have taken part in the debates stressed the fact that cooperation can be achieved through the implementation of the existing mutual beneficial joint projects aiming at strengthening multilateral cooperation in the Black Sea Region.

Members of the PABSEC national delegations emphasized that the dialogue should include the efforts of the governments to further continue working on building transport infrastructure, harmonizing related legislation of the member states and achieving interoperability in the Black Sea Region countries.

In conclusion, the speakers stressed upon the fact that the key mission of the PABSEC is to actively contribute, through multilateral parliamentary interaction, to the development and further promotion of economic cooperation among the countries by further developing its activity, and considering itself as a serious factor for strengthening the climate of mutual understanding and stability in the Black Sea Region.

2. Documents adopted by the Plenary Session:

a) Recommendation 149/2016 on Report on “Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons and Irregular Migrants in the BSEC Member States - Economic Aspects”

GA47/EC46/REC149/16

b) Recommendation 150/2016 on “Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons and Irregular Migrants in the BSEC Member States - Political Aspects”

GA47/LC47/REC150/16

c) Recommendation 151/2016 on “Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons and Irregular Migrants in the BSEC Member States - Social Aspects”

GA47/CC46/REC151/16

d) Declaration “*Through Economic Cooperation to Peace, Stability and Prosperity in the BSEC Region*”

e) The Joint Statement of the Participating Countries in the PABSEC 47th General Assembly on the Terrorist Attack in Istanbul on 28 June 2016.

3. Documents approved by the Plenary Session:

- a) Report on “Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons and Irregular Migrants in the BSEC Member States - Economic Aspects” GA47/EC46/REP/16
- b) Report on “Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons and Irregular Migrants in the BSEC Member States - Political Aspects” GA47/LC47/REP/16
- c) Report “Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons and Irregular Migrants in the BSEC Member States - Social Aspects” GA47/CC46/REP/16
- d) Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly GA47/PROG REP/16
- e) Minutes of the Forty-Sixth Plenary Session of the General Assembly held in Bucharest on 26-27 November 2015 GA46/MIN/15

4. Financial Matters

The Assembly adopted:

- a) The Auditing Report for the Financial Year 2015 GA47/AUDIT15/16

5. New Credentials

The Assembly **ratified** the credentials of the new members and proxies of the delegations of Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Moldova and Turkey.

GA47/CRED/16

6. Rotation of the Presidency

In accordance with the PABSEC Rules of Procedure on 30 June 2016 the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia **assumed** the Presidency of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation for the next six months.

7. The Forty-Eighth Plenary Session of the General Assembly will be held in Belgrade on 29 November – 1 December 2016.

STANDING COMMITTEE

The Forty-Seventh Meeting of the Standing Committee:

1. **Adopted** the proposals of the Committees concerning the subjects to be taken up in the second half of 2016 and to be placed on the Draft Agenda of the Plenary Session of the 2016 Autumn General Assembly.

The main subjects for the Autumn Committees Meetings are:

- “*International Investments in the BSEC Member States*”;
- “*The Role of Religion in Fight against Terrorism and Extremism*”;
- “*Education and Science for Sustainable Development in the BSEC Region*”.

2. **Approved** the following documents:

- a) Minutes of the Forty-Sixth Meeting of the Standing Committee held in Bucharest on 25 November 2015 SC46/MIN/15
- b) PABSEC Calendar 2016 SC47/CAL 2016/16

3. *Endorsed:*

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| a) Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly | GA47/PROG REP/16 |
| b) Draft Agenda of the Forty-Seventh Plenary Session | GA47/AG/16 |
| c) PABSEC Draft Budget for Financial Year 2017 | GA47/BUDG17/16 |

4. *Took note of:*

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| a) Auditing Report for the Financial Year 2015 | GA47/AUDIT15/16 |
| b) The receipt of Contributions to the 2016 Budget | SC47/CONT/16 |
| c) The information on the participation by the PABSEC representatives in international gatherings between December 2015 - June 2016 | |

5. *Adopted* by consensus the amendments to the Articles 6, 10, 25, 26 and 28 of the PABSEC Rules of Procedure in the framework of the Article 35. The changes regarding the terms-of-office of the Secretary General and the Deputies Secretary General shall be applied to the ongoing terms.

6. *The Forty-Eighth Meeting of the PABSEC Standing Committee will be held in Belgrade on 29 November 2016.*

BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY

The Fifty-Fourth Meeting of the Bureau:

1. *Approved the following documents:*

- Minutes of the 53rd Meeting of the Bureau held in Bucharest on 25 November 2015
BA53/MIN/15
- Draft Programme of the Forty-Seventh Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly
BA54/PROG/16
- Matters of Procedure of the Forty-Seventh Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly
BA54/MP/16

2. *Considered the following items:*

- Report by the Vice-President in charge of Financial matters on the execution of the Assembly's Budget
BA54/EXE/16
- Participation of the PABSEC representatives in international gatherings between July – December 2016
BA54/GATH/16
- The new PABSEC President is authorized to take decisions on the participation of the PABSEC representatives in international gatherings between July - December 2016. The decision on the participation of the staff of the International Secretariat will be taken by the Secretary General.
- Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly
GA47/PROG REP/16
- Draft Agenda of the Forty-Seventh Meeting of the Standing Committee SC47/AG/16 and the Draft Agenda of the Forty-Seventh Plenary Session
GA47/AG/16

3. *The Fifty-Fifth Meeting of the Bureau of the Assembly will be held in Belgrade on 29 November 2016.*