



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION
PABSEC

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

Istanbul, 11 July 2017

SUMMARY

FORTY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OPENING CEREMONY

The Forty-Ninth General Assembly of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation was held in Istanbul, on 4-6 July 2017, upon the invitation of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey.

The Plenary Session was opened by Mr. Ismail Kahraman, PABSEC President, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey. The message on behalf of H. E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Turkey, was presented to the participants at the Opening Ceremony.

PARTICIPATION

The General Assembly was attended by:

1. ***The National Delegations*** of the parliaments of: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine.
2. ***Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)***: The Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS.
3. ***BSEC Related Bodies***: Representatives of the Black Sea Trade & Development Bank (BSTDB) and the BSEC Business Council.
4. ***BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partners***: The President of the Union of Road Transport Associations in the BSEC Region (BSEC-URTA).
5. ***Observers***: Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), Parliamentary Assembly of the Turkic-Speaking Countries (TURKPA), Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC), Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC), Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and Russia (PAUBR), and the National Council of the Slovak Republic.
6. ***Guests***: Representatives of the Baltic Assembly (BA), Marmara Foundation, Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (the Turkic Council), International Fund for Cooperation and Partnership of the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea (BSCSIF), Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8) and the Black Sea University Network (BSUN).

7. ***PABSEC Special Representatives:*** the PABSEC Special Representative to the Silk Road Project and the PABSEC Special Representative to the European Parliament and European Institutions.

THE 49th PLENARY SESSION

1. General Debate

The topic of the General Debate was “*The Role of the Parliaments in Ensuring Peace and Security in the Black Sea Region*”.

During the discussions, the participants pointed out the importance of this topic for the Black Sea Region, also underlining the special role of the Parliaments in promoting peace and security in the area.

It was highlighted that peace and security are of utmost importance, requiring our full commitment, especially today, when the countries in the Region are faced with lots of challenges: terrorism, migrant crises, nationalism, xenophobia, extremism and economic instability. Confronted with such difficulties, efforts must be made in order to assure the security and the peace, both at the national and at the international levels.

The participants underlined that, under these circumstances, common mutually acceptable solutions should be found, so that to create the favourable conditions for the countries’ development. It was also pointed out that the Black Sea stability is essential for the development of a constructive multilateral dialogue and for the achievement of important economic objectives.

The necessity was underlined to enhance the international cooperation where pivotal role is attributed to the parliamentary diplomacy in assuring peace, good neighbourly relations and cooperation with the countries and peoples of the region and across the world.

The speakers considered that it is important to strengthen the role of the European Union in the Black Sea Region and, in this regard, the Eastern Partnership, the Black Sea Synergy and the EU Black Sea Strategy are of a paramount importance.

As a conclusion, it was underlined that all the countries of the PABSEC should continue to be constructive in addressing all the current challenges, in order to preserve regional and European stability. In this regard, it is obvious that the countries of the Region need united efforts, common activities, mutual trust and understanding, also guaranteeing the rule of law, preserving the democratic values and assuring peace, which is necessary for achieving economic progress and a sustainable development.

2. Documents adopted by the Plenary Session:

- a) Recommendation 155/2017 on “Development of New and Renewable Sources of Energy in the BSEC Member States” GA49/EC48/REC155/17
- b) Recommendation 156/2017 on “The Role of the Parliaments in Strengthening Legislative Framework for Economic Growth and Social Integration” GA49/LC49/REC156/17
- c) Recommendation 157/2017 on “The Role of the Parliaments in Providing Sustainable Health Care Systems in the BSEC Member States” GA49/CC48/REC15/17

d) Declaration on “The Role of the Parliaments in Ensuring Peace and Security in the Black Sea Region”

e) Declaration of the PABSEC on the 25th Anniversary of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation

3. Documents approved by the Plenary Session:

- a) Report on “Development of New and Renewable Sources of Energy in the BSEC Member States” GA49/EC48/REP/17
- b) Report on “The Role of the Parliaments in Strengthening Legislative Framework for Economic Growth and Social Integration” GA49/LC49/REP/17
- c) Report on “The Role of the Parliaments in Providing Sustainable Health Care Systems in the BSEC Member States ” GA49/CC48/REP/17
- d) Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly GA49/PROG REP/17
- e) Minutes of the Forty-Eighth Plenary Session of the General Assembly held in Belgrade on 30 November – 1 December 2016 GA48/MIN/16

4. The Plenary Session took note of:

- a) *Declaration of the 25th Anniversary Summit of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation adopted in Istanbul, on 22 May 2017*
- b) *Joint Declaration of the Ministers in Charge of Economy of the BSEC Member States, adopted in Istanbul, on 11 May 2017*
- c) *Joint Declaration of the Ministers of Agriculture adopted in Istanbul, on 17 May 2017*

5. Financial Matters

The Assembly adopted:

- a) The Auditing Report for the Financial Year 2016 GA49/AUDIT16/17

6. New Credentials

The Assembly **ratified** the credentials of the new members and proxies of the delegations of Armenia, Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russia and Ukraine. GA49/CRED/17

7. Election of the PABSEC Vice-Presidents

The Assembly **elected** Mr. Namik Dokle, Head of the PABSEC Albanian Delegation, Mr. Petar Kanev, Head of the PABSEC Bulgarian Delegation, Mrs. Roberta Alma Anastase, Head of the PABSEC Romanian Delegation and Mrs. Lyudmila Denisova, Head of the PABSEC Ukrainian Delegation as PABSEC Vice-Presidents, and Mr. Ramazan Can, Head of the PABSEC Turkish Delegation as Vice-President in charge of Financial Matters, for a two-year term, starting with July 2017.

8. Election of the PABSEC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Organizational Matters

The Assembly re-elected Mr. Miltiadis Makrygiannis (Greece) as PABSEC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Organizational Matters, for a three-year term, starting with 1 January 2018.

9. Rotation of the Presidency

In accordance with the PABSEC Rules of Procedure, on 6 July 2017, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine **assumed** the Presidency of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, for the next six months.

10. The Fiftieth Plenary Session of the General Assembly will be held in Kyiv, on 29 - 30 November 2017.

STANDING COMMITTEE

The Forty-Ninth Meeting of the Standing Committee:

1. **Adopted** the proposals of the Committees concerning the subjects to be taken up in the second half of 2017 and to be placed on the Draft Agenda of the Plenary Session of the 2017 Autumn General Assembly.

The main subjects for the Autumn Committees Meetings are:

- *“The 25 Years of the PABSEC: Enhancement of the Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation in the Region”*;
- *“Development of the National Innovation System in the BSEC Member States”*;
- *“Social Protection and Benefits for the Young Families in the BSEC Member States”*.

2. **Approved** the following documents:

- a) Minutes of the Forty-Eighth Meeting of the Standing Committee held in Belgrade, on 29 November 2016 SC48/MIN/16
- b) PABSEC Calendar 2017 SC49/CAL 2017/17
- c) Draft Plan of Action on the Occasion of the PABSEC 25th Anniversary

3. **Endorsed:**

- a) Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly GA49/PROG REP/17
- b) Draft Agenda of the Forty-Ninth Plenary Session GA49/AG/17
- c) PABSEC Draft Budget for the Financial Year 2018 GA49/BUDG18/17

4. **Took note of:**

- a) Auditing Report for the Financial Year 2016 GA49/AUDIT16/17
- b) The receipt of Contributions to the 2017 Budget SC49/CONT/17
- c) Activities of the Committees in the second half of 2017 SC49/BP/ACT-17/17
- d) The information on the participation of the PABSEC representatives in international gatherings between December 2016 - June 2017

5. **Adopted** by consensus the amendments to the PABSEC Rules of Procedure and to the Staff Regulations of the PABSEC International Secretariat.
6. **The Fiftieth Meeting of the PABSEC Standing Committee will be held in Kyiv, on 28 November 2017.**

BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY

The Fifty-Sixth Meeting of the Bureau:

1. Approved the following documents:

- a) Minutes of the 55th Meeting of the Bureau, held in Belgrade, on 29 November 2016
BA55/MIN/16
- b) Draft Programme of the Forty-Ninth Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly
BA56/PROG/17
- c) Matters of Procedure of the Forty-Ninth Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly
BA56/MP/17

2. Considered the following items:

- a) Report by the Vice-President in charge of Financial Matters, on the execution of the Assembly's Budget
BA56/EXE/17
- b) Participation of the PABSEC representatives in international gatherings, between July – November 2017
BA56/GATH/17

The new PABSEC President was authorized to take decisions on the participation of the PABSEC representatives in international gatherings, between July - December 2017. The decision on the participation of the staff of the International Secretariat will be taken by the Secretary General.

- c) Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly
GA49/PROG REP/17
- d) Draft Agenda of the Forty-Ninth Meeting of the Standing Committee and the Draft Agenda of the Forty-Ninth Plenary Session
SC49/AG/17 and GA49/AG/17

3. Endorsed:

- a) The candidatures for the election of the PABSEC Vice-Presidents and the PABSEC Vice-President in charge of Financial Matters;
- b) The candidature for the election of the PABSEC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Organizational Matters.

4. Decided:

- a) To appoint Mrs. Natia Gaprindashvili (Georgia) as Secretary of the PABSEC Legal and Political Affairs Committee, for a three-year term, starting with 1 February 2018.
- b) To appoint Mrs. Pavlina Lozanova (Bulgaria) as Secretary of the PABSEC Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee, for a three-year term, starting with 1 August 2018.

5. **The Fifty-Seventh Meeting of the Bureau of the Assembly will be held in Kyiv, on 28 November 2017.**