



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION  
**PABSEC**

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

Istanbul, 5 December 2016

**SUMMARY**

**FORTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**OPENING CEREMONY**

The Forty-Eighth General Assembly of Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) was held in Belgrade on 29 November – 1 December 2016, upon the invitation of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia.

Mrs. Maja Gojkovic, PABSEC President, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, and Mr. Ivica Dacic, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, Chairman-in-Office of BSEC, addressed the gathering at the Opening Ceremony.

**PARTICIPATION**

The General Assembly was attended by:

- 1. *The National Delegations*** of the parliaments of: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine.
- 2. *Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)***: The Deputy Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS.
- 3. *BSEC Related Bodies***: The President and the Secretary General of the Black Sea Trade & Development Bank (BSTDB).
- 4. *BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partners***: The President of the Union of Road Transport Associations in the BSEC Region (BSEC-URTA).

**5. Observers:** delegations/representatives of the Parliament of the French Republic, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE PA), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and Russia (PAUBR), the Parliamentary Assembly of the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECF PA), the Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy (IAO), the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Turkic Speaking Countries (TURKPA), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) and the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS).

**6. Guests:** representatives of the Parliament of the Republic of Italy and the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (the Turkic Council).

## **THE 48<sup>th</sup> PLENARY SESSION**

### **1. General Debate**

The topic of the General Debate was *Reforms in the BSEC Member States – the Role of the National Parliaments*.

During the discussions, the participants have underlined that this topic is highly relevant for the Black Sea Region. It was stressed that in our dynamic developing world, in which the problems facing the countries and the parliaments in the Region become more and more complicated, it is necessary to take measures to address the challenges related to ensuring a better life and prosperity for the peoples in the Region.

It was highlighted that efficient democratic institutions is the most important prerequisite for political stability, economic development, social cohesion and enhancement of culture of democracy. To this end, parliaments play a key role in implementing major reforms towards increasing efficiency and transparency of the state structures.

It was noted that Parliaments, within their competences, have to take a more decisive stand in establishing priority directions and programmes of activities at international, regional and national levels.

In conclusion, the speakers stressed that in the process of strengthening the synergies between the PABSEC and its international partners, new forms of international dialogue are required in order to achieve better results. To this end, it is important to enlarge the interaction between the parliaments in the BSEC Region and to strengthen the cooperation for building a common prosperous future.

### **2. Documents adopted by the Plenary Session:**

a) Recommendation 152/2016 on Report on “International Investments in the BSEC Member States”  
GA48/EC47/REC152/16

b) Recommendation 153/2016 on “The Role of Religion in Fight against Terrorism and Extremism”  
GA48/LC48/REC153/16

c) Recommendation 154/2016 on “Education and Science for Sustainable Development in the BSEC Member States” GA48/CC47/REC154/16

### ***3. Documents approved by the Plenary Session:***

a) Report on “International Investments in the BSEC Member States” GA48/EC47/REP/16

b) Report on “The Role of Religion in Fight against Terrorism and Extremism”  
GA48/LC48/REP/16

c) Report on “Education and Science for Sustainable Development in the BSEC Member States”  
GA48/CC47/REP/16

d) Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly GA48/PROG REP/16

e) Minutes of the 47<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session of the General Assembly held in Moscow  
on 29-30 June 2016 GA47/MIN/16

### ***4. Financial Matters***

The Assembly:

a) Adopted the Budget for the Financial Year 2017 GA48/BUDG17/16

b) Adopted Decision on the execution of 2016 and 2017 budgets

c) Set up the Draft Budget and Auditing Commission composed of Russia, Albania and Armenia.

### ***5. New Credentials***

The Assembly **ratified** the credentials of the new members and proxies of the delegations of Serbia, Romania and Ukraine. GA48/CRED/16

### ***6. Rotation of the Presidency***

In accordance with the PABSEC Rules of Procedure on 1 December 2016 the Grand National Assembly of the Republic of Turkey **assumed** the Presidency of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation for the next six months.

***7. The Forty-Ninth Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly will be held in Turkey on 4-6 July 2017.***

## **STANDING COMMITTEE**

### **The Forty-Eighth Meeting of the Standing Committee:**

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

The main subjects for the Spring Committees Meetings are:

- *“Development of New and Renewable Sources of Energy in the BSEC Member States”;*
- *“The Role of the Parliaments in Strengthening Legislative Framework for Economic Growth and Social Integration”;*
- *“The Role of the Parliaments in Providing Sustainable Healthcare System in the BSEC Member States”.*

**2. *Approved*** the following documents:

- a) Minutes of the 47<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee held in Moscow on 28 June 2016  
SC47/MIN/16
- b) PABSEC Calendar 2017  
SC48/CAL2017/16

**3. *Endorsed:***

- a) Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly  
GA48/PROG REP/16
- b) Draft Agenda of the Forty-Eighth Plenary Session  
GA48/AG/16

**4. *Took note of:***

- a) The information regarding the strengthening of the status of the Assembly and the relocation of the Headquarters of the PABSEC International Secretariat
- b) The receipt of contributions to the 2016 Budget  
SC48/CONT/16
- c) The information on the participation by the PABSEC representatives in international gatherings between June - November 2016.

**5. *Decided:***

- a) To amend the Appendix II “Number of Seats in the Committees of the Member States” and to move one seat of the Azerbaijani delegation from the Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Committee to the Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee
- b) To organize the meeting of the Working Group on the PABSEC Rules of Procedure in Istanbul in February 2017
- c) To appoint Mr. Vlad Nistor, Head of the PABSEC Romanian Delegation as the PABSEC Special Representative to the European Parliament and European Institutions.

**6. *The Forty-Ninth Meeting of the PABSEC Standing Committee will be held in Turkey on 4 July 2017.***

## **BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY**

### **The Fifty-Fifth Meeting of the Bureau:**

#### **1. *Approved the following documents:***

- Minutes of the 54<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Bureau held in Moscow on 28 June 2016  
BA54/MIN/16
- Draft Programme of the Forty-Eighth PABSEC General Assembly  
BA55/PROG/16
- Matters of Procedure of the Forty-Eighth Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly  
BA55/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  
BA55/EXE/16
- Participation of the PABSEC representatives in international gatherings between December 2016 – June 2017  
BA55/GATH/16

The new PABSEC President was authorized to take decisions on the participation of the PABSEC representatives in international gatherings between December 2016 – June 2017. The decisions on the participation of the staff of the International Secretariat will be taken by the Secretary General.

- Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly  
GA48/PROG REP/16
- Draft Agenda of the Forty-Eighth Meeting of the Standing Committee  
SC48/AG/16
- Draft Agenda of the Forty-Eighth Plenary Session  
GA48/AG/16

**3. *Decided:*** to appoint Mr. Arthur Martirosyan (Armenia) as the Secretary of the PABSEC Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee for the term of office of three years starting with 1 March 2017.

**4. *The Fifty-Sixth Meeting of the Bureau of the Assembly will be held in Turkey on 4 July 2017.***