

Istanbul, 21 May 2014

SUMMARY

FORTY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OPENING CEREMONY

The Forty-Third General Assembly of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation was held in Athens on 12 – 14 May 2014 upon the invitation of the Hellenic Parliament. The Plenary Session was opened by Mr. Vangelis Meimarakis, PABSEC President, Speaker of the Hellenic Parliament. Mr. Antonios Bezas, Deputy Minister of Health of the Hellenic Republic addressed the participants. Mrs. Emilia Krалеva, Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria to Hellenic Republic voiced the message on behalf of the BSEC Chairman-in-Office, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria, Mr. Kristian Vigenin.

PARTICIPATION

The General Assembly was attended by:

1. *The National delegations* of the Parliaments of: Albania, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine.
2. *The Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation:*
 - *BSEC PERMIS*: the Secretary General.
 - *BSTDB*: The Secretary General.
 - *ICBSS*: The Director General.
 - *BSEC-URTA*: The Deputy Secretary General.
3. *Observers*: Delegations/representatives of the National Assembly of the French Republic, Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and Russia, the Council of the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States, the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Eurasian Economic Community, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Turkic-Speaking Countries, the Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy.
4. *Guests*: representatives of the Diplomatic Corps.

THE 43rd PLENARY SESSION

1. General debate.

The topic of the General Debate was “*From Crisis to Recovery: Shaping New Paths towards Growth, Job Creation and Social Cohesion in BSEC region*”.

The speakers stressed that the crisis requires severe reforms with high social costs, as result of unemployment and the lack of economic growth in many of states in the Region. In the post-crisis context, achieving a sustained economic growth requires job creation and the elimination of macroeconomic imbalances.

It was highlighted that it is vital to promote a more integrated and pragmatic approach of sectoral policies in the Black Sea region, in areas such as transport, infrastructure, energy, tourism, SMEs, education and research, and environment protection. It was stated that a solid economy requires sound private sector, the consolidation of public finances, the reduction of budgetary deficits, the creation of institutional climate for attracting investments, enhancing the support for SMEs in order to create new jobs.

Parliaments have a key role in providing legislative support for the implementation of structural reforms, particularly with respect to labor market and investments, taxation systems and social protection. Also, parliaments should be proactive in facilitating entrepreneurship, with a particular focus on SMEs, in reforming the public administration to make it more flexible and more efficient, and in implementing measures to combat tax fraud and tax evasion.

It was stated that on the path from crisis to recovery, the Black Sea region must be seen as a space where many of specific objectives can be pursued more effectively, in an innovative and cooperative way. Tapping the region’s potential for development is also a key approach to increase levels of trust and confidence in the region.

The speakers stressed the importance of interparliamentary dialogue and exchange of views and experiences at various levels which are meant to increase the capacity to act as key actors in the drafting and implementation of economic and social policies, and in monitoring the progress. PABSEC countries should engage in a closer cooperation which brings measurable positive results for the sake of economic development of the countries of the Region. Such cooperation could be achieved by implementing the existing joint projects and by means of development of the new ones.

2. Documents adopted by the Plenary Session:

- a) Recommendation 137/2014 on “The introduction of new technologies in modern construction and architecture in the BSEC Member States”
(*Doc.GA43/EC42/REC137/14*)
- b) Recommendation 138/2014 on “Role of Local Authorities in Strengthening Regional Cooperation between the BSEC Member States ”
(*Doc.GA43/LC43/REC138/14*)

- c) Recommendation 139/2014 on “Youth Unemployment and Employment Policies in the BSEC Region: The Need to Empower the Young Generation ”
(Doc.GA43/CC42/REC139/14)

3. Documents approved by the Plenary Session:

- a) Report on “The introduction of new technologies in modern construction and architecture in the BSEC Member States ”
(Doc.GA43/EC42/REP/14)
- b) Report on “Role of Local Authorities in Strengthening Regional Cooperation between the BSEC Member States”
(Doc.GA43/LC43/REP/14)
- c) Report on “Youth Unemployment and Employment Policies in the BSEC Region: The Need to Empower the Young Generation”
(Doc.GA43/CC42/REP/14)
- d) Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly (Doc.GA43/PROG REP/14)
- e) Auditing Report for Financial Year 2013 (Doc.GA43/AUDR/14)
- f) Minutes of the Forty-Second Plenary Session of the General Assembly held in Tbilisi on 18-19 November 2013
(Doc.GA42/MIN/13)

4. New Credentials:

The Assembly **ratified** the credentials of the new members and proxies of the delegations of Bulgaria, Greece, Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine
(Doc.GA43/CRED/14)

5. Election of the PABSEC Secretary General:

Due to the fact that the absence of certain national delegations made it impossible to make the overall evaluation of the work of the present PABSEC Secretary General during the elections scheduled in the framework of the 43rd PABSEC General Assembly, the Ukrainian Delegation withdrew the Ukrainian candidacy to the position of the PABSEC Secretary General. Thus, the elections of the PABSEC Secretary General were postponed. The elections of the PABSEC Secretary General will be held in the framework of the 44th PABSEC General Assembly in Athens on 7-8 December 2014.

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

The Assembly **elected** Mr. Miltiadis Makriyannis (Greece) as the Deputy Secretary General in charge of Organizational Matters for the term of office of three years starting with 1 January 2015.

7. Rotation of the Presidency:

Following the decision of the Standing Committee the PABSEC Presidency remained vested with the Hellenic Parliament until December 2014.

8. *The Forty-Fourth Plenary Session of the General Assembly is to be held in Athens on 7-8 December 2014.*

STANDING COMMITTEE

The Forty-Third Meeting of the Standing Committee:

1. ***Adopted*** the proposals of the Committees concerning the subjects to be taken up in the second half of 2014 and to be placed on the Draft Agenda of the Plenary Session of the 2014 Autumn General Assembly.

The main subjects for the Autumn Committees Meetings are:

- *“The Role of Parliaments of the BSEC Member States in Enhancement and Regulation of International Passenger and Cargo Transportation in the BSEC Region”*
 - *“Role of Parliaments in Providing Legislative Support to the Development of Small Entrepreneurship in the BSEC Member States”.*
 - *“Gender Equality in the BSEC Region: Achievements and Challenges”.*
2. ***Approved*** the following documents:
 - a) Minutes of the Forty-Second Meeting of the Standing Committee held in Tbilisi on 17 December 2013 *(Doc.SC42/MIN/13)*
 - b) PABSEC Calendar for 2014 *(Doc.SC42/CAL2014/13)*
 3. ***Verified*** the credentials of new members of the Assembly.
 4. ***Endorsed:***
 - a) Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly *(Doc.GA43/PROG REP/14)*
 - b) Draft Agenda of the Forty-Third Plenary Session *(Doc.GA43/AG/14)*
 - c) PABSEC Draft Budget for the Financial Year 2015 *(Doc.GA43/BUDG15/14)*
 5. ***Took note of:***
 - i) The receipt of Contributions to the 2014 Budget *(Doc.SC43/CONT/14)*
 - ii) The participation by PABSEC representatives in international gatherings between December 2013 – May 2014.
 6. ***Decided*** to extend the Hellenic PABSEC Presidency until December 2014 upon the request of the Chairman of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova since the forthcoming parliamentary elections in this country made the holding of the Autumn General Assembly in October 2014 impossible.
 7. ***The Forty-Fourth Meeting of the PABSEC Standing Committee is to be held in Athens on 7 December 2014.***

BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY

The Fiftieth Meeting of the Bureau:

1. Approved the following documents:

- Minutes of the Forty-Ninth Meeting of the Bureau held in Tbilisi on 17 December 2013 *(Doc.BA49/MIN/13)*
- Draft Programme of the Forty-Third Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly *(Doc.BA50/PROG/14)*
- Matters of Procedure of the Forty-Third Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly *(Doc.BA50/MP/14)*

2. Considered the following items:

- Report by the Vice-President on the execution of the Assembly's budget *(Doc.BA50/EXE/14)*
- Participation of the PABSEC representatives in the international gatherings in the second half of 2014 *(Doc.BA50/GATH/14)*

The new PABSEC President was authorized to take decisions on the participation of the PABSEC representatives in international gatherings in the second half of 2014. 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.GA43/PROG REP/14)*
- Draft Agenda of the Forty-Third Meeting of the Standing Committee *(Doc.SC43/AG/14)* and the Draft Agenda of the Forty-Third Plenary Session *(Doc.GA43/AG/14)*.

- 3. Endorsed*** the candidacies for the position of the PABSEC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Organisational Matters.
- 4. Decided*** to reappoint Mrs. Natia Gaprindashvili, Secretary of the PABSEC Legal and Affairs Committee for the term of office of three years starting with 1 February 2015.
- 5. Took note*** of the vacancy, which is opened on the position of the PABSEC Researcher-Archivist as of 1 September 2014.
- 6. The Fifty-First Meeting of the Bureau of the Assembly is to be held on 7 December 2014 in Athens.***