

Istanbul, 16 January 2014

SUMMARY

FORTY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OPENING CEREMONY

The Forty-Second General Assembly of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation was held in Tbilisi on 17 – 19 December 2013 upon the invitation of the Parliament of Georgia. The Plenary Session was opened by the PABSEC President, Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia Mr. David Usupashvili. H.E. Mr. Irakli Garibashvili, Prime Minister of Georgia addressed the participants. Mr. Igor Corman, Chairman of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova also addressed the participants at the Opening Ceremony. Mr. Gagik Minasyan, Head of the Armenian PABSEC Delegation voiced the message on behalf of the BSEC Chairman-in-Office, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, Mr. Edward Nalbandyan.

PARTICIPATION

The General Assembly was attended by:

1. The Chairman of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova
2. *The National delegations* of the Parliaments of: the Republic of Armenia, 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*: Legal Adviser.
 - *BSTDB*: The Secretary General.
4. *Observers*: Delegations/representatives of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States, the Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Turkic-Speaking Countries.
5. *Guests*: Prime Minister of Georgia, representatives of Parliament and Government of Georgia, the Marmara Foundation and Diplomatic Corps.

THE 42nd PLENARY SESSION

1. *General debate.*

The topic of the General Debate was “*Prospects for Agricultural and Rural Development in the BSEC Region*”.

The speakers stressed that agriculture sector represents at global level a major pillar for growth, offering broad perspectives and possibilities for developing cooperation with mutual benefits. Several issues were raised during the debate, such as: the increase of competitiveness of the agricultural sector, food quality and safety, sustainable management of the environment and the forestry land, the fight against climate change, the development of scientific research and innovation, investments in rural infrastructure and economy, an enhanced partnership among the trade and commercial partners from the regional grain market, restructuring and modernization of the agricultural facilities.

The participants raised also the issue of migration of the rural population to the urban areas, which increased in the past years in all the countries of the region. They proposed several measures to keep the young population in the rural areas. These measures include: improvement of local conditions, building transport infrastructure in order to connect the rural and urban areas, providing internet and phone services, providing economic opportunities. It was stressed that farmers from all the BSEC Member States should be stimulated to meet and share experience and exchange ideas and best practices, in order to improve their farming skills and to raise the efficiency of the agricultural sector.

It was noted that the Member States should advance cooperation in the region through pragmatic projects in the area of agricultural and rural development. It was stated that the countries should coordinate their agricultural and environmental policies to the benefit of the green economy growth in the whole region.

It was underlined that the economic potential of the region is significant and the rural economy will continue to form a significant part of BSEC’s economic and social structure. Therefore, strengthening the cooperation for agricultural development in the Black Sea region will be particularly beneficial for the effective agricultural and rural development.

2. *Documents adopted by the Plenary Session:*

- a) Recommendation 134/2013 on “Global Climate Change: Causes, Effects and Possible Consequences for the BSEC Member States” *(Doc.GA42/EC41/REC134/13)*
- b) Recommendation 135/2013 on “Role of the PABSEC in Enhancement of Cooperation in the Black Sea Region: Challenges and Prospects” *(Doc.GA42/LC42/REC135/13)*
- c) Recommendation 136/2013 on “Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage - Challenge of Linking Cultural and Tourist Routes in the Countries of the Black Sea Region”

(Doc.GA42/CC41/REC136/13)

3. Documents approved by the Plenary Session:

- a) Report on “Global Climate Change: Causes, Effects and Possible Consequences for the BSEC Member States”
(Doc.GA42/EC41/REP/13)
- b) Report on “Role of the PABSEC in Enhancement of Cooperation in the Black Sea Region: Challenges and Prospects”
(Doc.GA42/LC42/REP/13)
- c) Report on “Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage - Challenge of Linking Cultural and Tourist Routes in the Countries of the Black Sea Region”
(Doc.GA42/CC41/REP/13)
- d) Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly
(Doc.GA42/PROG REP/13)
- e) Budget for the Financial Year 2014
(Doc.GA42/BUDG14/13)
- f) Minutes of the Forty-First Plenary Session of the General Assembly held in Sofia on
10 -11 July 2013
(Doc.GA41/MIN/13)

4. New Credentials:

The Assembly **ratified** the credentials of the new members and proxies of the delegations of Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Serbia and Turkey
(Doc.GA42/CRED/13)

5. The Assembly **set up** the Draft Budget and Auditing Commission formed from the representatives of Azerbaijan, Bulgaria and Georgia.

6. Rotation of the Presidency:

In accordance with the PABSEC Rules of Procedure on 19 December 2013 the Hellenic Parliament assumed the six-month term Presidency of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation.

7. The Forty-Third Plenary Session of the General Assembly is to be held in Athens on 13-14 May 2014.

STANDING COMMITTEE

The Forty-Second Meeting of the Standing Committee:

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

The main subjects for the Autumn Committees Meetings are:

- “*The Introduction of New Technologies in Modern Construction and Architecture in the BSEC Member States*”
- “*Role of Local Authorities in Strengthening Regional Cooperation between the BSEC Member States*”.

- “*Youth Unemployment and Employment Policies in the BSEC Region: the Need to Empower the Young Generation*”.
2. **Approved** the following documents:
 - a) Minutes of the Forty-First Meeting of the Standing Committee held in Sofia on 9 July 2013 *(Doc.SC41/MIN/13)*
 - b) PABSEC Calendar for 2014 *(Doc.SC42/CAL2014/13)*
 - c) Regulations on the Elections in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) *(Doc. SC42/LC42/REP/13)*
 3. **Verified** the credentials of new members of the Assembly.
 4. **Endorsed**:
 - a) Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly *(Doc.GA42/PROG REP/13)*
 - b) Draft Agenda of the Forty-Second Plenary Session *(Doc.GA42/AG/13)*
 - c) Results of the Joint Meeting of the PABSEC Standing Committee and the BSEC Committee of the Senior Officials stressing that the Standing Committee unanimously supports the effort to raise the status of the PABSEC and its International Secretariat.
 5. **Took note of**:
 - i) The receipt of Contributions to the 2013 Budget *(Doc.SC42/CONT/13)*
 - ii) The participation by PABSEC representatives in international gatherings between July– December 2013.
 6. **The Forty-Third Meeting of the PABSEC Standing Committee is to be held in Athens on 12 May 2014.**

BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY

The Forty-Ninth Meeting of the Bureau:

1. Approved the following documents:

- Minutes of the Forty-Eighth Meeting of the Bureau held in Sofia on 9 July 2013 *(Doc.BA48/MIN/13)*
- Draft Programme of the Forty-Second Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly *(Doc.BA49/PROG/13)*
- Matters of Procedure of the Forty-Second Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly *(Doc.BA49/MP/13)*

2. Considered the following items:

- Report by the Vice-President on the execution of the Assembly's budget
(Doc.BA49/EXE/13)
- Participation of the PABSEC representatives in the international gatherings between December 2013- May 2014
(Doc.BA49/GATH/13)

The new PABSEC President was authorized to take decisions on the participation of the PABSEC representatives in international gatherings between December 2013 – May 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.GA42/PROG REP/13)
- Draft Agenda of the Forty-Second Meeting of the Standing Committee (Doc.SC42/AG/13) and the Draft Agenda of the Forty-Second Plenary Session (Doc.GA42/AG/13)
- Results of the Joint Meeting of the PABSEC Standing Committee and the BSEC Committee of the Senior Officials stressing that the Bureau unanimously supports the effort to raise the status of the PABSEC and its International Secretariat.

3. The Bureau endorsed the only candidacy of the present Secretary General Mr. Kyrilo Tretiak for the forthcoming elections of the PABSEC Secretary General in Athens in May 2014.

4. The Fiftieth Meeting of the Bureau of the Assembly is to be held on 12 May 2014 in Athens.