

Istanbul, 8 January 2015

SUMMARY

FORTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OPENING CEREMONY

The Forty-Fourth General Assembly of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation was held in Athens on 8 - 9 December 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. Evangelos Venizelos, Chairman-in-Office of the BSEC, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic and Mr. Igor Corman, Chairman of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova also addressed the participants.

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. *The Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation:*
 - **BSEC PERMIS:** Ambassador Mr. Victor Tvircun, the Secretary General.
 - **BSTDB:** Uğur İhsan Delikanlı, the President.

THE 44th PLENARY SESSION

1. *General Debate.*

The topic of the General Debate was “*BSEC Region as an Integral Part of the Global Cooperation*”.

Heads of the PABSEC National Delegations took part in the General Debate.

It was acknowledged that the global economic crisis in 2008 showed that global challenges cannot be coped with alone and they have to be addressed through global cooperation. This understanding underlines the importance of PABSEC having a key role in the BSEC region in finding solutions to the global problems.

It was stated that PABSEC can provide an answer to the challenges of globalisation and that PABSEC has its significance through its activities enabling fruitful cooperation and effective communication between the parliamentarians of the Member States.

It was also underlined that regional cooperation was enhanced through the PABSEC activities and that continuous cooperation was achieved among parliaments of BSEC countries, steps have been made in exchanging of legislative experiences. Special attention has been drawn to the principles, rules and procedures of the international and national laws in specific areas. The Assembly has adopted recommendations on important issues in various areas of life. The Parliamentary Assembly is providing a framework for the regional cooperation and direct contacts between the parliamentarians from the twelve countries of the wider Black Sea region, which is undoubtedly significant in getting people closer.

It was emphasized that one of the important achievements in the BSEC-PABSEC relations during the second half of 2014 was the synchronization of the BSEC Chairmanships and the PABSEC Presidencies with the aim to more closely coordinate the priorities and activities.

It was also acknowledged that the elaboration of the draft “*Joint Action Plan*” at the second Joint Meeting of BSEC Committee of Senior Officials and the PABSEC Standing Committee is significant step for enhancing cooperation. It was endorsed by the PABSEC Standing Committee in Athens on 8 December together with the amendments of Armenia and Turkey to this document and is expected to be endorsed at the BSEC Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

It was highlighted that the main achievements of the previous PABSEC presidencies as well the strategic directions of the *BSEC Economic Agenda* will guide the forthcoming PABSEC Moldovan Presidency, which will be focused on trade facilitation, enhancement of transport infrastructure, technologies, healthcare, culture and tourism.

During the General Debate the Heads of the Ukrainian and the Russian delegations gave their evaluation to the current situation in the region.

2. Documents adopted by the Plenary Session:

- a) Recommendation 140/2014 on “*The Role of Parliaments of the BSEC Member States in Enhancement and Regulation of International Passenger and Cargo Transportation in the BSEC Region*”
(Doc.GA44/EC43/REC140/14)
- b) Recommendation 141/2014 on “*Role of Parliaments in Providing Legislative Support to the Development of Small Entrepreneurship in the BSEC Member States*”
(Doc.GA44/LC44/REC141/14)
- c) Recommendation 142/2014 on “*Gender equality in the BSEC region: achievements and challenges*”
(Doc.GA44/CC43/REC142/14)

3. Documents approved by the Plenary Session:

- a) Report on “*The Role of Parliaments of the BSEC Member States in Enhancement and Regulation of International Passenger and Cargo Transportation in the BSEC Region*”
(Doc.GA44/EC43/REP/14)
- b) Report on “*Role of Parliaments in Providing Legislative Support to the Development of Small Entrepreneurship in the BSEC Member States*”
(Doc.GA44/LC44/REP/14)
- c) Report on “*Gender equality in the BSEC region: achievements and challenges*”
(Doc.GA44/CC43/REP/14)
- d) Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly
(Doc.GA44/PROG REP/14)
- e) Minutes of the Forty-Third Plenary Session of the General Assembly held in Athens on 13-14 May 2014
(Doc.GA43/MIN/14)

4. *The Plenary Session took note of:*

The Report on the 30th Meeting of the Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States in Varna on 19 June 2014; the Report of the Meeting of the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials in Istanbul on 22 October 2014; the Declaration of the Ministers in charge of Healthcare of the BSEC Member States adopted in Athens on 29 September 2014; the Declaration of the Ministers in charge of Tourism of the Member States of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation adopted in Athens on 23 October 2014; the Joint Declaration of the Ministers of Transport on the Development of Cooperation in the Field of Transport in the BSEC Region “Integrated Intermodal and Logistics Solutions in the BSEC Region” adopted in Thessaloniki on 25 November 2014; the Declaration of the Ministers in charge of Science and Technology of the BSEC Member States adopted in Baku on 3 December 2014.

5. *New Credentials*

The Assembly **ratified** the credentials of the new members and proxies of the delegations of Albania, Azerbaijan, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Ukraine
(Doc.GA44/CRED/14)

6. *Election of the PABSEC Vice-Presidents*

According to decision adopted by the Standing Committee on 8 December 2014 the elections of the five PABSEC Vice-Presidents will be held during the 45th General Assembly in Chisinau on 16-17 June 2015, thus postponing the elections of the PABSEC Vice-President and the Vice-President in charge of Financial Matters until the Chisinau General Assembly.

7. *Elections of the PABSEC Secretary General*

Mr. Asaf Hajiyev, the Head of Azerbaijani PABSEC Delegation was elected as the PABSEC Secretary General for the term of office of 3 years starting on 30 December 2014.

8. *Financial Matters:*

The Assembly:

- Adopted the Budget for the Financial Year 2015 (Doc.GA44/BUDG15/14)
- *Set up the* Draft Budget and Auditing Commission composed of the representatives of Greece, Moldova and Romania.

9. *Rotation of the Presidency:*

In accordance with the PABSEC Rules of Procedure on 9 December 2014 the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova assumed the six-month term Presidency of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation.

10. *The Forty-Fifth Plenary Session of the General Assembly will be held in Chisinau on 16-17 June 2015.*

STANDING COMMITTEE

The Forty-Fourth Meeting of the Standing Committee:

1. *Adopted* the proposals of the Committees concerning the subjects to be taken up in the first half of 2015 and to be placed on the Draft Agenda of the Plenary Session of the 2015 Spring General Assembly.

The main subjects for the Spring Committees Meetings are:

- *“The Role of New Technologies in the Development and Strengthening of Information Society in the BSEC Member States”*
 - *“Basic Principles of Election Legislation in the BSEC Member States: Similarities and Differences”*
 - *“The Role of Sports in Promoting Growth, Employment and Social Cohesion in the BSEC Region”.*
- 2. *Approved*** the following documents:
- a) Minutes of the Forty-Third Meeting of the Standing Committee held in Athens on 12 May 2014 *(Doc.SC43/MIN/14)*
- b) PABSEC Calendar for 2015 *(Doc.SC44/CAL2015/14)*
- 3. *Verified*** the credentials of new members of the Assembly.
- 4. *Endorsed*:**
- a) Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly *(Doc.GA44/PROG REP/14)*
- b) Draft Agenda of the Forty-Fourth Plenary Session *(Doc.GA44/AG/14)*
- c) The Results of the Meeting of the PABSEC Working Group on the Rules of Procedure
- 5. *Took note of*:**
- i) The receipt of Contributions to the 2014 Budget *(Doc.SC44/CONT/14)*
- ii) The reports on the participation by the PABSEC representatives in international gatherings between May - December 2014.
- 6. *Took the decision*:**
- On respective changes to the PABSEC Rules of Procedure and the Staff Regulations for the PABSEC International Secretariat as recommended by the PABSEC Legal and Political Affairs Committee;
 - On Hand-Over/Take-Over Procedure of the Office of the PABSEC Secretary General
- 7. *The Forty-Fourth Meeting of the PABSEC Standing Committee will be held in Chisinau on 15 June 2015.***

BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY

The Fifty-First Meeting of the Bureau:

1. Approved the following documents:

- Minutes of the Fiftieth Meeting of the Bureau held in Athens on 12 May 2014 *(Doc.BA50/MIN/14)*
- Draft Programme of the Forty-Fourth Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly *(Doc.BA51/PROG/14)*
- Matters of Procedure of the Forty-Fourth Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly *(Doc.BA51/MP/14)*

2. Considered the following items:

- Report by the Vice-President in Charge of Financial matters on the execution of the Assembly's Budget (Doc.BA51/EXE/14)
- Participation of the PABSEC representatives in the international gatherings between December 2014 – June 2015 (Doc.BA51/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.GA44/PROGREP/14)
- Draft Agenda of the Forty-Fourth Meeting of the Standing Committee (Doc.SC44/AG/14) and the Draft Agenda of the Forty-Fourth Plenary Session (Doc.GA44/AG/14).

3. Endorsed

- The candidacies for the position of the PABSEC Vice-President and the PABSEC Vice-President in charge of Financial Matters.
- The candidacies for the position of the PABSEC Secretary General.

4. Decided

- To postpone the appointment of the secretary of the PABSEC Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee until the next Meeting of the Bureau of the Assembly in 2015;
- To postpone the appointment of the Researcher-Archivist of the PABSEC International Secretariat until the next Meeting of the Bureau of the Assembly in 2015.

5. The Fifty-Second Meeting of the Bureau of the Assembly will be held in Chisinau on 15 June 2015.