

*Istanbul, 16 December 2002*

## **FOREWORD**

### **OPENING CEREMONY**

The Twentieth Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation was held in Athens on 26-28 November 2002 upon the invitation of the Hellenic Parliament.

The General Assembly was opened by Mr. Apostolos Kaklamanis, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, President of the Hellenic Parliament. The message addressed to the General Assembly by Mr. Vartan Oskanyan, Chairman-in-Office of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, was presented by Mr. Vahram Kazhoyan, Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to the Hellenic Republic.

### **PARTICIPATION**

The General Assembly was attended by:

1. **Chairman** of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia and **Presidents** of the Hellenic Parliament and of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova.
2. **National delegations** of: Republic of Albania, Republic of Armenia, Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Bulgaria, Georgia, Hellenic Republic, Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Republic of Turkey and Ukraine.
3. **Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the Related Bodies**:
  - **BSEC**: the representative of the BSEC Chairman-in-Office and the Secretary General of the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat.
  - **Black Sea Trade and Development Bank**: the President and the Secretary General
  - **International Centre for Black Sea Studies**: the Director General and the Alternate Director General
4. **Observers**: Delegations of the German Bundestag, the People's Assembly of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Assembly of the West European Union
5. **Guests**: the National Assembly of the Republic of France, the Parliamentary Dimension of the Central European Initiative and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Belarus-Russia Union.

## **GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

### **1. *General debate.***

The General Debate was devoted to “On the eve of the PABSEC Tenth Anniversary: Reinforcing the Relations of Partnership between the Parliamentary Assembly and the European Parliament”.

The Heads of National Delegations, representatives of the BSEC family, the French Parliament, the European Parliament and the guests representing the Parliamentary Dimension of the Central European Initiative and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Belarus-Russia Union took part in the General Debate.

The speakers underlined that the Black Sea regional cooperation can be considered as an element of a wider European integration and strengthening the relations between PABSEC and the European Parliament is very important taking into consideration the future enlargement of the European Union towards countries from the Black Sea region.

In the light of the provisions of the Platform of Cooperation between the BSEC and EU as well as the potential of establishment of an EU Black Sea Dimension, special importance should be placed on the continuation of the dialogue started between the PABSEC and the European Parliament. Modes and patterns of EP-PABSEC interaction will largely depend upon the concept of the relationships established between the BSEC member states and the EU and their institutionalisation. Cooperation with the EP is important for the process of harmonisation of legislation of the BSEC member states with the European standards. Also, one of important fields of EP-PABSEC cooperation could be the regulation of conflicts, including preventive diplomacy, strengthening ties among the law-enforcement bodies of the member states.

The participants were informed that the ICBSS and the Directorate General for Research of the European Commission have already elaborated a list of subjects to be proposed for joint research by the BSEC and EU countries

The development of EP relations with organisations outside the narrow circle of European states will de facto be given a priority, from the moment that these activities are included into the more general policy of strengthening relationships between the EU and the adjacent regions. This can be the dominant feature of the general strategy of the PABSEC in the aim of developing relations with the EP. The cultural sector has been selected as the first aspect of cooperation and the first step will be a meeting between the relevant committees of the PABSEC and the EP.

### **2. *Declaration on the PABSEC Tenth Anniversary***

The Parliamentary Assembly, marking the Tenth Anniversary of its establishment in February 2003, continues to consolidate the Black Sea cooperation process as a forum of inter-parliamentary dialogue, laying down a solid foundation for multinational cooperation in the Black Sea region vis-à-vis the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Following the common vision on turning the Black Sea into a region of democracy, prosperity, stability and peace, bounding countries together by the shared values of tolerance, equality, solidarity and cultural diversity, the PABSEC plays important role in mobilising the efforts by the national parliaments to secure mutual understanding and collective responsibility on a wide range of issues.

The General Assembly adopted the *Declaration on the Tenth Anniversary of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation*. The participants stressed that the Declaration was a very important document evaluating the progress and outlining guidance for future inter-parliamentary cooperation in the Black Sea Region.

**3. Recommendations adopted by the General Assembly:**

- a) Recommendation 65/2002 on “The Black Sea Trade and Development Bank: Financial Pillar of the Cooperation in the Black Sea Region” (Doc. GA20/EC19/REC65/02)
- b) Recommendation 66/2002 on “Information Society: the Role of New Technologies” (Doc. GA20/EC19/REC66/02)
- c) Recommendation 67/2002 on “Social Reintegration of Jobless People” (Doc. GA20/CC19/REC67/02)

**4. Documents approved by the General Assembly:**

- a) Report on “The Black Sea Trade and Development Bank: Financial Pillar of the Cooperation in the Black Sea Region” (Doc. GA20/EC19/REP/02)
- b) Report on “Social Reintegration of Jobless People” (Doc. GA20/CC19/REP/02)
- c) Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly (Doc. GA20/PROG/02)
- d) The Minutes of the Nineteenth Plenary Session of the General Assembly held in Tbilisi, on 11-13 June 2002 (Doc. GA19/MIN/02)

**5. New Observers:**

The Assembly warmly welcomed the applications and endorsed the decision of the Standing Committee to grant observer status to the French Parliament and to the Inter-parliamentary Assembly of the Eurasian Economic Community on the basis of:

- Application by the French Parliament for the observer status with the PABSEC (Doc: INC/591/02)
- Application by the Inter-parliamentary Assembly of the Eurasian Economic Community for the observer status with the PABSEC (Doc: INC/458/02)

Mr. Richard Cazenave, the representative of the National Assembly of the Republic of France, addressed the Plenary Session.

**6. Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation:**

Mrs. Makbule Ceco, Deputy Speaker of the Albanian Parliament, Vice-Chairperson of the PABSEC Legal and Political Affairs Committee, presented the Report on the Seventh Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member-States, held in Tirana, on 25 October 2002, underlining the special emphasis put by the BSEC Organization through its multi profile working groups on cooperation in prevention and elimination of consequences of emergency situations, combating organised crime and terrorism, as well as in the spheres of energy, tourism, transport, trade and economic development, agriculture and agro-industry, communications and small and medium enterprises, institutional renewal and good governance. At the same time, the adoption by the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the “Rules and Regulations of the Project Development Fund” and the documents on the “Role of BSEC Organs in the Project Development” and “BSEC Project Selection Criteria” was assessed as being of great importance for the implementation of the BSEC Economic Agenda.

At the Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Tirana significant progress has been achieved for the finalisation of the process of approval of the important international legal instrument - the Protocol Concerning the Privileges and Immunities of the PABSEC. The document is expected to be signed at the next ministerial meeting in Yerevan in 2003.

Mr. Dan Nicolae Rahau, Member of the Romanian Senate and Chairman of the PABSEC Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee, presented the Report on the Meeting of the Ministers of Tourism of the BSEC Member-States, held on 27 September 2002 in Tirana, stressing the importance of the Declaration and the Tourism Action Plan, adopted by the ministers, for the development of cooperation in this field, and the role of the Assembly in enacting the necessary legal framework for the implementation of the respective documents.

***The General Assembly considered the following Reports:***

- The Seventh Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member-States, 25 October 2002, Tirana (Doc. GA20/REP/7BSEC/MFA/02)
- The Meeting of the Ministers of Tourism of the BSEC Member-States, 27 September 2002, Tirana (Doc. GA20/BP/BSEC/TOUR/02)

**7. *Financial matters:***

The Assembly:

- adopted the Budget of the Assembly for the Financial Year 2003 (Doc. GA20/BUDG03/02)
- set up the Draft Budget and Auditing Committee consisting of the representatives of Georgia, Greece and Moldova

**8. *New Credentials:***

The Assembly ratified the credentials of the new members of the delegations of Albania, Azerbaijan, Turkey and Ukraine. (Doc. GA19/CRED/02)

**9. *Elections:***

• **Election of a Vice-President of the Assembly**

The Assembly elected Mr. Blagovest Sendov, Vice-Chairman of the National Assembly of Bulgaria, member the Bulgarian PABSEC Delegation, as PABSEC Vice-President for two-year term of office.

• **Election of the Deputy Secretary General on Organisational Matters and of the Deputy Secretary General on Administrative and Financial Matters of the PABSEC International Secretariat**

The Assembly re-elected Mr. Igor Bolboceanu (Republic of Moldova) as Deputy Secretary General on Organisational Matters and elected Mr. Alexander Furman (Ukraine) as Deputy Secretary General on Administrative and Financial Matters for three-years' term of office, starting with 1 January 2003.

**10. *Rotation of the Presidency:***

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure, starting with the end of the Twentieth Plenary Session in Athens, on 28 November 2002, Mrs. Eugenia Ostapciuc, the President of the Parliament of Republic of Moldova, assumed the six-months' term Presidency of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation of Black Sea Economic Cooperation.

**11. *The 2003 Spring Plenary Session of the General Assembly:***

The Assembly decided to hold 2003 Spring Plenary Session of the General Assembly in Chisinau, on 10-12 June 2003

The main subjects:

- a) **General Debate:** “The Role of Parliaments in the economic development and the consolidation of stability in the PABSEC member countries”
- b) **Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs:**
  - “Cooperation in the field of Energy”
- c) **Legal Affairs and Political Affairs:**
  - “Cooperation among the PABSEC Member Countries in Strengthening Good Governance”
  - “Revision of the PABSEC Rules of Procedure”
- d) **Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs:**
  - “The Role of Culture in the Development of the BSEC Region”

## 12. Calendar 2003 (*Doc. SC20/CAL/02*)

The General Assembly endorsed the PABSEC Calendar 2003 as adopted by the Standing Committee.

## 13. The General Assembly took note of:

- the Information on the work of the ad-hoc Working Group on the Revision of the PABSEC Rules of Procedure (*Doc. GA20/LC-WG/REP/02*)
- the Information on the Children and Youth Festival of the BSEC Member-States “Golden Ferry 2002” (23-30 August 2002, Sochi).
- the Information on the Initiatives by the Hellenic PABSEC Presidency:
  - the Colloquy on ‘Parliamentary Perspective of a Wider Europe’, held in Athens on November 25, 2002
  - cooperation of PABSEC with the European Parliament at the level of their cultural committees

## STANDING COMMITTEE

1. *The Twentieth Meeting of the Standing Committee* adopted the proposals of the Committees concerning the subjects to be taken up in the first half of 2003 and to be placed on the Draft Agenda of the 2003 Spring General Assembly.

### 2. *The Twentieth Meeting of the Standing Committee:*

- **approved** the following documents:
  - a) Minutes of the of the Nineteenth Meeting of the Standing Committee  
(*Doc. SC19/MIN/02*)
  - b) PABSEC Calendar 2003  
(*Doc. SC20/CAL/02*)
  - c) Application by the French Parliament for the observer status with the PABSEC  
(*Doc: INC/591/02*)
  - d) Application by the Inter-parliamentary Assembly of the Eurasian Economic Community for the observer status with the PABSEC  
(*Doc: INC/458/02*)
- **decided** on modification of Section II, Article 6, of the Financial Regulations of the PABSEC International Secretariat  
(*Doc. SC20/DEC8/02*)

- **took note** of the:
  - a) Receipt of Contributions to the 2002 Budget (Doc. SC20/CONT/02)
  - b) Information on the work of the ad-hoc Working Group on the Revision of the PABSEC Rules of Procedure (Doc. GA20/LC-WG/REP/02)
- **endorsed** the following documents:
  - a) Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly (Doc. GA20/PROG/02)
  - b) Draft Agenda (Doc. GA20/AG/02) and Draft Order of Business (Doc. GA20/OB/02) of the Twentieth Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly

### 3. **The Standing Committee took note of:**

- **the reports** concerning the participation by PABSEC representatives in international gatherings between 14 June 2002 – 26 November 2002:

#### **A – International Meetings**

- a) Mr. Necati Cetinkaya, PABSEC Vice-President, in the Sixth Economic Forum, 18-22 June 2002, St. Petersburg
- b) Mr. Dumitru Braghis, Head of the Moldovan PABSEC Delegation in the 11<sup>th</sup> OSCE PA Annual Session, 6-10 July 2002, Berlin (Doc. SC20/BP/OSC/02)
- c) Mr. Kaha Chitaia, Head of the Georgian PABSEC Delegation, in the 53<sup>rd</sup> Rose-Roth Seminar of the NATO PA, 27-29 September 2002, Tbilisi (Doc. SC20/REP/53RR-NATO/02)
- d) Mrs. Makbule Ceco, Head of the Albanian PABSEC Delegation and Ms. Panagiota Manoli, Secretary of the PABSEC Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee, in the Parliamentary Conference on “ Enhancing Security and Political Stability through Economic Cooperation : Progress on the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, 14-16 October 2002, Tirana. (Doc. SC 20/BP/SP/02)
- e) Mrs. Lilia Grigorovyth, PABSEC Vice-President, in the Parliamentary Assembly of the CEI, 7-9 November 2002, Skopje
- f) Mr. Victor Dallakyan, PABSEC Vice-President, in the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the NATO PA, 15-19 November 2002, Istanbul

#### **B – BSEC Meetings**

- a) Mr. George Petricu, PABSEC Secretary General, in the BSEC Summit, 25 June 2002, Istanbul
- b) Mr. Dan Nicolae Rahau, Chairman of the PABSEC Committee on Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs, in the Meeting of the Ministers of Tourism of the BSEC Member States, 27 September 2002, Tirana (Doc. GA20/REP/BSEC/TOUR/02)
- c) Mrs. Makbule Ceco, Head of the Albanian PABSEC Delegation and Mr. Alexey Kudriavtsev, Acting PABSEC Secretary General in the Seventh Meeting of the Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member-States, 25 October 2002, Tirana (Doc. GA20/REP/7BSEC/MFA/02)
- d) Staff of the International Secretariat in the BSEC Working Groups and other Meetings:

- Ms. Panagiota Manoli, Secretary of the PABSEC Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee, in the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Energy, 5-6 September 2002, Istanbul  
(Doc. SC20/BP/BSEC/WG/ENER/02)
- Mrs. Naira Khnkoyan, Secretary of the PABSEC Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee, in the BSEC Working Group on Transport, 12-13 September 2002, Istanbul  
(Doc. SC20/BP/BSEC/WG/TR/02)
- Mr. Igor Bolboceanu, Deputy Secretary General in charge of Organisational Matters, in the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials, 19-20 September 2002, Istanbul  
(Doc. SC20/BP/BSEC/MSO-1/02)
- Ms. Panagiota Manoli, Secretary of the PABSEC Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee, in the Working Group on Cooperation in Trade and Economic Development, 23-24 September 2002, Istanbul  
(Doc. SC20/BP/BSEC/WG/TED/02)
- Mr. Victor Dediu, PABSEC Researcher-Archivist, in the BSEC Working Group on Tourism, 26 September 2002, Tirana
- Ms. Panagiota Manoli, Secretary of the PABSEC Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee, in the Working Group on Cooperation in Agriculture, 26-27 September 2002, Istanbul  
(Doc. SC20/BP/BSEC/WG/AGR/02)
- Ms. Panagiota Manoli, Secretary of the PABSEC Economic, Commercial, technological and Environmental Affairs Committee, in the Working Group on Communications, 1-2 October 2002, Istanbul (Doc. SC20/BP/BSEC/WG/COM/02)
- Mrs. Natia Gaprindashvili, Secretary of the PABSEC Legal and Political Affairs Committee, in the Meeting of the BSEC Committee of the Senior Officials, 23-24 October 2002, Tirana  
(Doc. SC20/BP/BSEC/MSO-2/02)

#### **C – Other Meetings**

- a) Mrs. Natia Gaprindashvili, Secretary of the PABSEC Legal and Political Affairs Committee in the First International METU Conference on International Relations, 3-5 July 2002, Ankara  
(Doc. SC20/BP/METU/02)
- b) Mrs. Naira Khnkoyan, Secretary of the PABSEC Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee, in the Children and Youth Festival “Golden Ferry 2002” 24-30 August 2002, Sochi (Russia)
- c) Mr. Ali Ustundag, Administrative Officer of the PABSEC International Secretariat, in the First Black Sea Capitals’ Festival, 24-31 August 2002, Ankara  
(Doc. SC20/REP/BSCA/FEST/02)
- d) Mr. Yashar Aliyev, PABSEC Vice-President, and Mr. Victor Dediu, PABSEC Researcher-Archivist, in the 2002 BSUN Congress, 11-13 September 2002, Baku  
(Doc. SC20/REP/BSUN/02)
- e) Mrs. Panagiota Manoli, Secretary of the PABSEC Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee, in the ICBSS Conference “Energy Challenges in the Black Sea, the Caspian and the Central Asia: Promoting Regional Cooperation”, 11-16 September 2002, Chalki (Greece)  
(Doc. SC20/BP/ICBSS/02)

#### **4. The Standing Committee decided to hold the Twenty First Meeting on 10 June 2003, in**

Chisinau.

**BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY:**

**The Twenty Sixth Meeting of the Bureau:**

*a) Approved the following documents:*

- Report by the Treasurer on the execution of the Assembly's budget (Doc.BA26/EXE/02)
- Matters of Procedure of the Twentieth Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly (Doc.BA26/MP/02)
- Participation by the PABSEC Representatives in the International Gatherings between 29 November 2002 – 12 June 2003 (Doc. BA26/GATH/02)

The new PABSEC President was authorised to take decision on the participation by the PABSEC representatives in the international gatherings during this period

- Minutes of the Twenty Fifth Meeting of the Bureau (Doc.BA25/MIN/02)
- The Act of Handing over the PABSEC financial and tangible assets to the Acting Secretary General (Doc: BA20/BP/HAND/02)

*b) Endorsed the following documents:*

- Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly (Doc.GA20/PROG/02)
- Examination of New Credentials (Doc.GA20/CRED/02)
- Draft Agenda of the Twentieth Meeting of the Standing Committee (Doc.SC20/AG/02)

*c) The Bureau decided:*

- That the interests from the deposit accounts of the PABSEC and funds saved as a result of economy in expenditures for 2002 shall be transferred to the PABSEC Reserve Fund;
- to submit to the General Assembly the proposals by the delegations of Moldova, Turkey and Ukraine for the positions of Deputy Secretaries-General;
- to renew the term of office of the three Committee Secretaries for another three-years' term;
- to hold the Twenty Seventh Meeting on 10 June 2003 in Chisinau.



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