

Istanbul, 20 June 2004

FOREWORD

OPENING CEREMONY

The Twenty Third Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation was held in Saint Petersburg on 1-3 June 2004 upon the invitation of the Council of Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation.

The General Assembly was opened by Mr. Sergey MIRONOV, Chairman of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, President of the Council of Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation. The message addressed to the General Assembly by H.E. Vladimir PUTIN, President of the Russian Federation, was presented by Mrs. Lyubov Sovershayeva, the President's Deputy Plenipotentiary Representative to the North-West Federal District. Mr. Michael Ukleba, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia delivered the message by Mrs. Salome ZURABISHVILI, Chairperson-in-Office of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia.

PARTICIPATION

The General Assembly was attended by:

1. The *Chairman* of the Council of Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation and the *President* of the Grand National Assembly of the Republic of Turkey.
2. *National delegations* of: the Republic of Albania, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Bulgaria, Georgia, the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, the 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.
 - *International Centre for Black Sea Studies*: the Alternate Director General
4. *Observers*: Delegations of the National Assembly of the French Republic, of the German Bundestag, the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of Belarus – Russia Union, the Parliamentary Dimension of the Central European Initiative, the Inter-parliamentary Assembly of the Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Inter-parliamentary Assembly of the Eurasian Economic Community.
5. *Guests*: the Parliamentary Assembly of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union, the European Commission.

1. *General debate:*

The General Debate was devoted to "The role of the PABSEC and National Parliaments in the development of interregional cooperation of the Black Sea countries".

The Heads of National Delegations, representatives of the Observers from the National Assembly of the French Republic, the European Parliament, the Inter-parliamentary Assembly of the Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Parliamentary Dimension of the Central-European Initiative and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Belarus-Russia Union as well as guests from Assembly of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and from the Assembly of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union took part in the General Debate.

The main topic of the General Debate comes as a consequence of the PABSEC's agenda aiming to create legislative basis for overall cooperation in the Black Sea region and assisting the national bodies of executive power in strengthening interaction among the BSEC member states. The speakers underlined the need for multilateral and bilateral cooperation and strengthening of friendly and good neighbourly relations between different states.

During the eleven years since the establishment of BSEC, the role of parliamentary diplomacy has tremendously increased and inter-parliamentary regional organizations have become important actors in the regional political scene. In the past years PABSEC and its eleven national parliaments constitute dynamic democratic instruments for free dialogue and cooperation.

Today, we are living in a constantly changing and interdependent world where integration process is playing a major role. No transport, communication, ecological and other vitally important problems can be resolved unless joint efforts are taken. Therefore, there is an urgent need to consolidate efforts of different countries with the aim to deal with all existing and repeatedly emerging issues through regional economic cooperation.

The parliaments of the PABSEC countries have placed as an objective the development of cooperation in political, economic, trade, social and cultural spheres through an atmosphere of dialogue and solidarity. Thus they contribute to the promotion of trust and good neighborly relations between the states and the establishment of peace and stability.

The participants noted that the tendency towards higher degree of integration within the framework of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation becomes more obvious. Integration is a product of mutually beneficial partnership based upon shared interests of the countries. In order to adequately meet the challenges of the 21st century the Parliaments have to work together in future in the name of sustainable regional prosperity and stability. Closer cooperation between countries will create an atmosphere of mutual understanding, trust and constructive dialogue on most vital problems.

The European Union enlargement to the East will gradually strengthen the EU involvement in the Black Sea area. The Black Sea region presents a particularly important nexus of cultures, religions and peoples. PABSEC and other regional organisation should carry, together with the National Parliaments of the countries involved, its part of burdens, tasks and plans for the attainment of better conditions in the region.

The National Parliaments through their activities continue to make necessary legislative changes with due regard to the implementation of the decisions adopted by the high level meetings of the Heads of State and Governments and the Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC member states. It is through their activities that the fulfillment of the goals of BSEC is secured.

2. Recommendations adopted by the General Assembly:

- Recommendation 75/2004 on “Sustainable Development of the Tourism Industry”
(Doc. GA23/EC22/REC75/04)
- Recommendation 76/2004 on “Framework of Cooperation between the PABSEC and the European Parliament”
(Doc. GA23/LC23/REC76/04)
- Recommendation 77/2004 on “Improving Social, Economical and Civil Rights of People with Disabilities”
(Doc. GA23/CC22/REC77/04)

3. Documents approved by the General Assembly:

- The Minutes of the Twenty Second Plenary Session of the General Assembly held in Bucharest 8-10 December 2003
(Doc. GA22/MIN/03)
- Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly
(Doc. GA23/PROG/04)
- Report on “Sustainable Development of the Tourism Industry”
(Doc. GA23/EC22/REP/04)
- Report on “Framework of Cooperation between the PABSEC and the European Parliament”
(Doc. GA23/LC23/REP/04)
- Report on “Improving Social, Economic and Civil Rights of People with Disabilities”
(Doc. GA23/CC22/REP/04)

4. Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation:

The Assembly reviewed the main activities carried out by the BSEC during the last six months and underlined the importance of the Tenth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member-States held on 30 April 2004 in Baky.

The Assembly appreciated the information provided by the Secretary General, Mr. Valery Chechelashvili on the activities of the Organisation of the BSEC.

Mr. Sergiu Celac delivered a speech on the activities of the International Center for Black Sea Studies.

5. The General Assembly considered the following Reports on:

- The Tenth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member-States, 30 April 2004, Baky
(Doc. GA23/REP/BSEC/10MFA/04)
- Meeting of the Ministers of Education of the BSEC Member-States, 16 April 2004, Baky
(Doc. GA23/REP/BSEC-ED/04)

6. Financial matters:

The Assembly **adopted** the Auditing Report for the Financial Year 2003
(Doc. GA23/AUDIT03/04)

7. *New Credentials:*

The Assembly ratified the credentials of the new members of the delegations of Albania, Greece, Russia and Turkey
(Doc. GA23/CRED/04)

8. *Elections:*

• Election of a Vice-President of the Assembly

The Assembly elected Mr. Konstantine MARKELOV (Russia) as Vice-President of the Assembly to complete the two-year term of Mr. Vladimir AVERCHENKO (Russia), until June 2005.

9. *Rotation of the Presidency:*

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure, starting with the end of the Twenty Third Plenary Session in Saint Petersburg, on 3 June 2004, Mr. Bulent ARINC, the President of the Grand National Assembly of the Republic of Turkey, assumed the six-month term Presidency of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation of Black Sea Economic Cooperation.

10. *The 2004 Autumn Plenary Session of the General Assembly:*

The Assembly decided to hold the 2004 Autumn Plenary Session of the General Assembly in Antalya (Turkey), on 24 – 25 November 2004.

As for the General Debate the assembly took note of the suggestion by the Turkish PABSEC Delegation that the main item will be proposed later on.

11. *The General Assembly:*

- took note of the Conclusions of the Seminar on “Political aspects of the sustainable development in the 21st century” held on 11-12 may 2004, in Jerusalem, jointly organised by PABSEC and the Knesset of the State of Israel.

- decided to organise a Meeting of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on the Revision of the PABSEC Rules of Procedure on September 2004, in Istanbul.

STANDING COMMITTEE

1. *The Twenty Third Meeting of the Standing Committee* adopted the proposals of the Committees concerning the subjects to be taken up in the second half of 2004 and to be placed on the Draft Agenda of the 2004 Autumn General Assembly.

The main subjects for the Autumn Meetings:

a) Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs:

- “Facilitating the movement of goods and people across borders”

b) Legal Affairs and Political Affairs:

- “Regional dimension of the stability and security – perspective of the BSEC region”
- “Revision of the PABSEC Rules of Procedure”

c) Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs:

- “Preservation and Enhancement of Cultural Heritage of the BSEC Member States”

2. The Twenty Third Meeting of the Standing Committee:

- **approved** the Minutes of Twenty Second Meeting of the Standing Committee held on 8 December 2003 in Bucharest (Doc. SC22/MIN/03)
- **endorsed** the following documents:
 - a) Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly (Doc. GA23/PROG/04)
 - b) Draft Agenda (Doc.GA23/AG/04) and Draft Order of Business (Doc.GA23/OB/04) of the Twenty third Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly
- **took note** of the:
 - a) Receipt of Contributions to the 2004 Budget (Doc. SC20/CONT/04)
 - b) the reports concerning the participation by PABSEC representatives in international gatherings between 13 December 2003 – 1 June 2004:

A – International Meetings

- a) Mr. Oleg Salmin, PABSEC Treasurer, in the Fifth Annual Conference of the Parliamentary Network of the World Bank, 14-16 February 2004, Paris.
(Doc.SC23/REP/PNoWB/04)
- b) Mr. Konstantin Markelov, Deputy Head of the PABSEC Russian Delegation, in the Third Winter Meeting of the OSCE PA, 19-20 February 2004, Vienna.
(Doc.SC23/REP/OSCE-1/04)
- c) Mr. Igor Bolboceanu, PABSEC Deputy Secretary General, in the International Conference “Council of Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation: 10 years of experience, goals and prospects”, 19 February 2004, Moscow.
(Doc.SC23/BP/CONF-10/04)
- d) Mr. Evgeny Chachev, PABSEC Vice-President, and Mr. Igor Bolboceanu, PABSEC Deputy Secretary General, in the Second Saint-Petersburg International Conference on Pan-European Cooperation and in the 23rd Plenary Session of the IPACIS, 16 - 17 April 2004, Saint-Petersburg.
(Doc.SC23/REP/2- CONF-IPACIS/04)
- e) Mr. Salih Kapusuz, PABSEC Vice-President, in the 110th Assembly of the Inter-parliamentary Union and in the 174th Session of the Governing Council of IPU, 18-23 April 2004, Mexico.
- f) Mr. Sergey Mironov, PABSEC President, in the Conference of Speakers and Presidents of the European Parliamentary Assemblies, 17-19 May 2004, Strasbourg.

B – BSEC Meetings

- a) Mr. Shaitdin Aliyev, Chairman of the PABSEC Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee, and Mr. Victor Dediu, PABSEC Researcher-Archivist, in the Meeting of the Ministers of Education of the BSEC Member-States, 16 April 2004, Baky.
(Doc.GA23/REP/BSEC-ED/04)
- b) Mr. Asaf Hajiyev, Head of the PABSEC Azerbaijani Delegation, and Mr. Alexey Kudriavtsev, PABSEC Secretary General, in the Tenth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member-States, 30 April 2004, Baky.
(Doc.GA23/REP/BSEC/10 MFA/04)

- c) 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 Ad-Hoc Expert Group on Visa Facilitation, 22-23 January 2004, in the BSEC Working Group on Communications, 29-30 January 2004 and in the BSEC Working Group on Energy, 9-10 February 2004 Istanbul. *(Doc.SC23/BP/BSEC-EC-MET/04)*
 - Mr. Alexander Furman, PABSEC Deputy Secretary General, in the Working Group on Organisational Matters, 26-27 January 2004, Istanbul. *(Doc.SC23/BP/BSEC-WG-ORG/04)*
 - Mr. Victor Dediu, PABSEC Researcher-Archivist, in the BSEC Working Group on Trade Development, 16-17 February 2004, and in the BSEC Working Group on Transport, 19-20 February, 2004, Istanbul. *(Doc.SC23/BP/BSEC-TRADE-TRANSP/04)*
 - Mr. Alexander Furman, PABSEC Deputy Secretary General, in the Meeting of the Committee of the BSEC Senior Officials, 18-19 March 2004, Istanbul. *(Doc.SC23/BP/BSEC/MSO-1/04)*

C- Working Visits

- a) Mr. Alexey Kudriavtsev, PABSEC Secretary General, 8 January 2004, Meeting with Mr. Bulent Arinc, President of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, Ankara.
- b) Ms. Panagiota Manoli, Secretary of the PABSEC Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee, 24 February 2004, State Institute of Statistics, Ankara. *(Doc.SC23/BP/BSEC CC/04)*
- c) Mr. Alexey Kudriavtsev, PABSEC Secretary General, 3-5 March 2004, Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, Moscow.
- d) Mr. Konstantin Markelov, Deputy Head of the PABSEC Russian Delegation, Special Representative of the PABSEC President and Mr. Alexander Furman, PABSEC Deputy Secretary General, visit to the European Parliament, 17 May 2004, Brussels. *(Doc.SC23/REP/EP/04)*

3. Calendar 2004 *(Doc. SC23/CAL/04)*

- The updated Calendar 2004 including the proposal by the Turkish delegation to organise an Ad-hoc Meeting of the Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee on “Tourism Cooperation in the BSEC Region” on Wednesday, 20 – Thursday, 21 October 2004, in Kaiseri/Cappadocia, was adopted.

4. The Twenty Third Standing Committee Meeting decided:

- to hold a meeting of the Working Group on the Revision of the PABSEC Rules of Procedure in Baku, a day before the 24th Legal and Political Affairs Committee.
- to hold the Twenty Fourth Meeting on 23 November 2004, in Antalya (Turkey).

BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY:

The Thirtieth Meeting of the Bureau:

a) Approved the following documents:

- Report by the Treasurer on the execution of the Assembly’s budget *(Doc.BA30/EXE/04)*

- Matters of Procedure of the Twenty Third Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly (Doc.BA30/MP/04)
- Participation by the PABSEC Representatives in the International Gatherings between 4 June 2004 – 22 November 2004 (Doc. BA30/GATH/04)

The new PABSEC President was authorised to take decision on the participation by the PABSEC representatives in the international gatherings during this period. The decisions on the participation by the Staff of the International Secretariat will be taken by the Secretary General.

- Minutes of the Twenty Ninth Meeting of the Bureau (Doc.BA29/MIN/03)

b) *Endorsed the following documents:*

- Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly (Doc.GA23/PROG/04)
- Examination of New Credentials (Doc.GA23/CRED/04)
- Draft Agenda of the Twenty Third Meeting of the Standing Committee (Doc.SC23/AG/04)

c) *The Bureau decided :*

- Freezing the position till the Autumn General Assembly , no one is being appointed for the post of Researcher/Archivist in the International Secretariat. To return to the issue on the abolishment in November, after investigating by the International Secretariat if the position is needed at the Secretariat.
- The next Bureau meeting, will appoint a new Secretary of the Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee upon the proposal of the Secretary General.
- To hold the Thirty First Meeting on 23 November 2004 in Antalya (Turkey).