

*Istanbul, 1 December 2005*

## **FOREWORD**

### **OPENING CEREMONY**

The Twenty Sixth Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation was held in Tirana on 22-24 November 2005 upon the invitation of the Parliament of the Republic of Albania.

The Plenary Session was opened by Mrs. Jozefina Topalli, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Albania. H.E. Mr. Sali Berisha, Prime-Minister of the Republic of Albania, delivered a speech before the participants to the General Assembly. The message addressed to the General Assembly by H.E. Mr. Mihai-Răzvan Ungureanu, Chairman-in-Office of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania was presented by Mr. Constantin Eremia, the Ambassador of Romania in the Republic of Albania.

### **PARTICIPATION**

The General Assembly was attended by:

1. *Chairpersons* of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia and of the Parliament of the Republic of Albania.
2. *National delegations* of the Parliaments of: Republic of Albania, Republic of Armenia, Republic of Bulgaria, Georgia, Hellenic Republic, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Republic of Turkey and Ukraine.
3. *Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the Related Bodies*:
  - *BSEC*: the representative of the BSEC Chairman-in-Office, the Deputy Secretary General of the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat.
  - *International Centre for Black Sea Studies*: the Director of Studies and Research.
4. *Observers*: Delegations/representatives of the National Assembly and the Senate of the French Republic, the European Parliament (EP), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Belarus-Russia Union (PABRU), the Parliamentary Dimension of the Central European Initiative (PD CEI).

- 5. *Guests:*** the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus, the Nordic Council, the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUOICM), the Stability Pact on Parliamentary Cooperation, the Black Sea University Network (BSUN), the Union of Road Transport Associations in the Black Sea Economic Region (BSEC-URTA), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the World Bank.

## **THE PLENARY SESSION**

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

The General Debate was devoted to “The role of the BSEC and other regional organizations in resolving the issue of migration”.

The Chairman of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, the heads and members of the National Delegations, the Vice-President of the European Parliament, the President of the Nordic Council, the representatives of the PACE, PABRU, as well as of the PUOICM took part in the General Debate.

The speakers in the debate noted that the problem of migration represents a new global challenge including for the Black Sea countries and PABSEC is one of the regional organizations that supports and assists both the national and international institutions in relation with the management of the problem of migration.

It was stated that the common cause for the migration phenomenon originated in many BSEC member states was the lack of economic opportunities for the people of these countries, and consequently the reluctance to live or to return home. The rising labor force demand in the receiving Western countries was also decisive for the increasing migration from the countries of the Black Sea region.

It was noted that migration should be addressed from several perspectives: as a constant evolution process, as a source of enrichment for the societies and as a contribution to the development. At the same time attention should be focused on inequalities, discrimination and exploitation associated with migration. Migration has an important potential to foster development, but the extent to which diasporas can contribute to this process depends largely on the policies, institutional frameworks, economic environments and social stability in their home and host countries.

It was underlined that globalization is a constant promoter of migration and demographic change. Globalization raises the problem of managing immigration and Governments are obliged to look for suitable instruments and strategies in order to protect the interests and the human rights of the immigrants, while at the same time looking after the interests and the rights of the hosting society. In this respect the close cooperation between the countries of origin and the countries of destination is indispensable.

The participants stressed that a Black Sea regional policy for managing and stabilizing population movements and finding sustainable solutions for the remaining displaced population movements should not comprise only intensification of border crossing control or restrictions on visa requirements and procedures. A complex migration reducing policy must have as goal to

improve the economic and social conditions in the areas of high migration pressure, which are the roots of economically induced population movement.

Given the current and prospective demographic, social and economic trends in the region and in Europe, it is obvious that the migration is a long term phenomenon which both host and home governments have to assume. In this respect it was noted that BSEC and other regional organizations, due to their missions and areas of cooperation, can greatly develop sustainable plans and policies for migration management. At regional level there are already developed cooperation in order to prepare and implement action plans on managing migration, which would finally contribute to the development, stabilization and improvement of the situation in the region and in Europe as a whole.

## **2. Recommendations adopted by the Plenary Session:**

- a) Recommendation 84/2005 on “Development of transport infrastructure in the Black Sea Region” *(Doc. GA26/EC25/REC84/05)*
- b) Recommendation 85/2005 on “Role of local governments in strengthening cooperation in the Black Sea region ” *(Doc. GA26/LC26/REC85/05)*
- c) Recommendation 86/2005 on "Cultural, educational and social aspects of the EU enlargement: consequences for the Black Sea region” *(Doc. GA26/CC25/REC86/05)*

## **3. Documents approved by the Plenary Session:**

- a) Report on " Development of transport infrastructure in the Black Sea Region " *(Doc. GA26/EC25/REP/05)*
- b) Report on “Role of local governments in strengthening cooperation in the Black Sea region” *(Doc. GA26/LC26/REP/05)*
- c) Report on “Cultural, educational and social aspects of the EU enlargement: consequences for the Black Sea region” *(Doc. GA26/CC25/REP/05)*
- d) Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly *(Doc. GA26/PROG/05)*
- e) The Minutes of the Twenty Fifth Plenary Session of the General Assembly held in Kyiv, on 8-9 June 2005 *(Doc. GA25/MIN/05)*

## **4. New Observers:**

The Assembly unanimously endorsed the approval by the Standing Committee on granting the observer status with the PABSEC to the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus on the basis of:

- Application by the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus for the observer status with the PABSEC *(Doc: INC/617/05)*

## **5. The General Assembly took note of:**

- ♦ Joint Declaration of the Heads of Competent Authorities for Preventing and Combating Economic Frauds from BSEC Member States - a Premise of Regional Security

- ◆ Declaration of the Ministers Responsible for Science and Technology of the BSEC Member-States
- ◆ Action Plan in Science and Technology for the BSEC Region
- ◆ Declaration of Ministers of Education of the BSEC Member-States on Education and Cooperation in Higher Education and University Research
- ◆ Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the Governors of the BSEC Participating States on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance and Emergency Response to Natural and Man-made Disasters
- ◆ Declaration of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation on the Enhancement of Cooperation with the European Union
- ◆ The Report on the Thirteenth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member-States, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2005, Chisinau (*Doc.GA26/REP/BSEC/13MFA/O5*)
- ◆ Report on the Seminar on Energy and Environment, 12-13 October 2005, Paris (*Doc.GA26/REP/ENERG-ENV/FRA/05*)

#### **6. *Financial matters:***

The Assembly:

- approved the Budget of the Assembly for the Financial Year 2006  
(*Doc. GA26/BUDG06/05*)
- set up the Draft Budget and Auditing Committee consisting of the representatives of Azerbaijan, Bulgaria and Georgia

#### **7. *New Credentials:***

The Assembly ratified the credentials of the new members of the delegations of Albania, Bulgaria, Romania and Russia. (*Doc.GA26/CRED/05*)

#### **8. *Election of a Vice-President of the Assembly:***

- The Assembly elected Mr. Edmond SPAHO, Head of the PABSEC Albanian Delegation as Vice-President of the Assembly to complete the two-year term of office of Mrs. Makbule CECO (Albania), until November 2006.

#### **9. *Rotation of the Presidency:***

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure, starting with the end of the Twenty Sixth Plenary Session in Tirana, on 24 November 2005, Mr. Arthur BAGDASARYAN, the Chairman of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, assumed the six-months' term Presidency of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of Black Sea Economic Cooperation.

#### **10. *The 2006 Spring Plenary Session of the General Assembly:***

The Assembly decided to hold its 2006 Spring Plenary Session of the General Assembly in Yerevan on 7-8 June 2006.

As for the General Debate, the Assembly took note of the suggestion of the PABSEC Armenian Delegation that the main title of the item will be communicated later on.

## STANDING COMMITTEE

1. *The Twenty Sixth Meeting of the Standing Committee* adopted the proposals of the Committees concerning the subjects to be taken up in the first half of 2006 and to be placed on the Draft Agenda of the Plenary Session of the 2006 Spring General Assembly.

The main subjects for the Spring Meetings are:

- a) **Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs:**
  - “Cooperation in the fight against economic crime in the Black Sea region”
- b) **Legal and Political Affairs:**
  - “Role of the civil society in the Black Sea economic cooperation process ”
  - “Environmental and climatic influence upon formation of competitive capacity of states”
- c) **Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs:**
  - “The dialogue among culture as mean to build trust among the nations”

2. **The Twenty Sixth Meeting of the Standing Committee:**

- *approved* the following documents:
  - a) Minutes of the Twenty Fifth Meeting of the Standing Committee  
(Doc. SC26/MIN/05)
  - b) PABSEC Calendar 2006  
(Doc. SC26/CAL/06)
  - c) Information on the examination of new credentials  
(Doc. GA26/CRED/05)
  - d) Application by the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus for the observer status with the PABSEC  
(Doc. INC. 617/05)
  - e) Meeting of Ombudsmen of the BSEC Member-States  
(Doc. SC26/BP/OMB/05)
  - f) Agreement on Cooperation between the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of the Back Sea Economic Cooperation and the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Eurasian Economic Community.  
(Doc. GA26/AGR-IPAEURASEC/05)
- *endorsed* the following documents:
  - a) Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly  
(Doc. GA26/PROG/05)
  - b) Draft Agenda of the Twenty Sixth Plenary Session  
(Doc. GA26/AG/05)
- *took note of:*
  - i) The receipt of Contributions to the 2005 Budget  
(Doc. SC26/CONT/05)
  - ii) Information on ratification by the National Parliaments of the PABSEC Member-Countries of the “Protocol Concerning the Privileges and Immunities of the PABSEC”  
(Doc. SC26/BP/PROTOCOL/05)
  - iii) The reports concerning the participation by PABSEC representatives in international gatherings between June 2005– November 2005:

### A – International Meetings

- a) Mr. Oleg Salmin, PABSEC Vice-President, in the 14<sup>th</sup> OSCE PA Annual Session, 1-5 July 2005, Washington D.C.  
(Doc. SC26/BP/OSCEPA/05)

- b) Mr. Adam Tleuzh, Member of the PABSEC Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee, in the 8<sup>th</sup> Eurasian Economic Forum, 5-7 July 2005, Istanbul.  
(*Doc.SC26/BP/8-EURAS/05*)
- c) Mr. Igor Bolboceanu, PABSEC Deputy Secretary General, in the 14<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, 29-30 August 2005, Vilnius. (*Doc. SC26/BP/14-BSPC/05*)
- d) Mr. Iurie Bolboceanu (Moldova) and Mr. Andrian-Sirojea Mihei (Romania), Members of the PABSEC Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee, in the Meeting of the Ad-Hoc Committee for Environment, Landscape Protection and Tourism of the CEI Parliamentary Dimension, 8-11 September 2005, Bucharest/Tulcea (Romania).
- e) Mrs. Natia Gaprindashvili, Secretary of the PABSEC Legal and Political Affairs Committee, in the 61st Rose-Roth Seminar of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, 6-8 October 2005, Yerevan.  
(*Doc.SC26/REP/61RRS/05*)
- f) Mr. Ali Temur, Chairman of PABSEC Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee, and Mr. Anar Rahimov, Secretary of the Committee, in the PACE Conference on “Water Management: A Shared Responsibility”, 20-21 October 2005, Strasbourg.  
(*Doc.SC26/BP/PACE-2/05*)
- g) Mr. Mircea Ciopraga, Head of the Romanian PABSEC Delegation, in the Meeting of the Parliamentary Assembly of CEI, 3-5 November 2005, Bratislava.  
(*Doc.SC26/BP/CEIPA/05*)

#### **B – BSEC Meetings**

- a) Mr. Mircea Ciopraga, Head of the Romanian PABSEC Delegation, and Mr. Alexander Furman, PABSEC Deputy Secretary General, in the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member-States, 28 October 2005, Chisinau.  
(*Doc.GA26/REP/BSEC/13MFA/05*)
- b) Mr. Theodoros Kassimis, Head of the PABSEC Hellenic Delegation, Member of the PABSEC Legal and Political Affairs Committee, in the Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Science and Technologies of the BSEC Member-States, 28 September 2005, Athens.  
(*Doc.SC26/BP/BSEC/MIN/05*)
- c) Staff of the International Secretariat in the BSEC Working Groups and other meetings:
  - ♦ Mr. Anar Rahimov, Secretary of Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee, in the WG on Communications, 2-3 June 2005, Istanbul (*Doc. SC26/BP/BSEC-WG-COM/05*), in the WG on Environmental Protection, 16-17 June 2005, Istanbul (*Doc. SC26/BP/BSEC-WG-EP/05*), in the Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials, 13-14 September 2005, Istanbul. (*Doc. SC26/BP/BSEC/CSO-2/05*), in the WG on Trade and Economic Development, 4-5 October 2005, Istanbul (*Doc. SC26/BP/BSEC-WG-TRADE/05*) and in the Meeting of the WG on Transport, 8-9 November 2005, Istanbul (*Doc. SC26/BP/BSEC-WG-TRANSP/05*).

#### **C- Other Gatherings**

- a) Mr. Adam Tleuzh, Member of the PABSEC Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee, in the Ceremonies of the Chess Tournament of Youth of the Black Sea

Countries, organized by the Union of Black Sea Region NGOs (KASTOB), 1-4 July 2005, Istanbul.

- b) Mr. Mikheil Machavariani, Head of the PABSEC Georgian Delegation, in the events dedicated to the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia.

#### **D – Working Visits**

- a) Mr. Alexey Kudriavtsev, PABSEC Secretary General, and Mr. Igor Bolboceanu, PABSEC Deputy Secretary General, Parliament of the Republic of Albania (preparation to the 26<sup>th</sup> General Assembly), 14-15 September 2005, Tirana.
3. *The Standing Committee decided to hold its Twenty Seventh Meeting on 6 June 2006, in Yerevan.*

### **BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY**

#### **The Thirty Third Meeting of the Bureau**

*a) Considered the following items:*

- Minutes of the Thirty Second Meeting of the Bureau (Doc.BA32/MIN/05)
- Draft Order of Business of the Twenty Sixth Plenary Session Assembly (Doc.GA26/OB/05)
- Report by the Vice-President on Financial Matters on the execution of the Assembly's budget (Doc.BA33/EXE/05)
- Matters of Procedure of the Twenty Sixth Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly (Doc.BA33/MP/05)
- Candidacy of Mr. Edmund SPAHO (Albania) to the post of the PABSEC Vice-President of the Assembly to complete the two-year term of office of Mrs. Makbule Ceco, until November 2006.
- Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly (Doc.GA26/PROG/05)
- Draft Agenda of the Twenty Sixth Meeting of the Standing Committee (Doc.SC26/AG/05) and the Draft Agenda of the Twenty Sixth Plenary Session (Doc.GA26/AG/05)
- Participation by the PABSEC Representatives in the International Gatherings between November 2005 – June 2006 (Doc. BA33/GATH/05)

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

*The Thirty Fourth Meeting of the Bureau will take place on 6 June 2006 in Yerevan.*

#### **The Ad-Hoc Meeting of the Bureau**

**a) *Prolonged*** the term of office of Mrs. Natia Gaprindashvili as Secretary of the Legal and Political Affairs Committee for three years starting with 1 February 2006.

**b) *Approved the*** documents considered by the Thirty Third Meeting of the Bureau.