

Istanbul, 19 December 2003

FOREWORD

I. PLENARY SESSION

OPENING CEREMONY

The Twenty Second General Assembly of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation was held in Bucharest on 8-10 December 2003 upon the invitation of the Parliament of Romania.

The Plenary Session was opened by Mr. Nicolae VACAROIU, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, President of the Senate of Romania. H.E. Mr. Ion ILIESCU, President of Romania, addressed the General Assembly. Mr. Valer DORNEANU, President of the Chamber of Deputies of Romania also delivered a welcoming speech. The message addressed to the General Assembly by Mr. Vilayet GULIYEV, Chairman-in-Office of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, was presented by his representative Mr. Altai EFENDIEV, Head of the Division for Cooperation and Economic Development of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Mr. Mircea GEOANA, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania, sent a message to the General Assembly presented by Mr. Cristian Diaconescu, Secretary of State in the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

PARTICIPATION

The General Assembly was attended by:

1. ***Deputy Chairman*** of the Council of Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation.
2. ***National delegations*** of the: Republic of Albania, Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Armenia, Republic of Bulgaria, Hellenic Republic, Republic of Moldova, Romania, 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.

- ***BSEC Business Council***: the Secretary General
 - ***Black Sea Trade and Development Bank***: the President, the Secretary General, and the External Relations Manager
 - ***International Centre for Black Sea Studies***: the Alternate Director General
4. ***Observers***: Delegations of the Senate of the French Republic, the German Bundestag, the Knesset of the State of Israel, the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Assembly of Western European Union - The Interparliamentary European Security and Defence Assembly, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, the Inter-parliamentary Assembly of the Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Inter-parliamentary Assembly of the Eurasian Economic Community, the Parliamentary Assembly of Belarus – Russia Union.
 5. ***Guests***: the United Nations Development Program, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the Parliamentary Dimension of the Central European Initiative, the Stability Pact and Southeast European Cooperative Initiative, the World Bank.

GENERAL DEBATE

The General Debate was devoted to "The Increased Involvement by Parliaments in Promoting Commercial and Business opportunities in the Black Sea Region".

The Heads of National Delegations, representatives of the observers from the Senate of the French Republic, the German Bundestag, the Knesset of State of Israel, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Assembly of the Western European Union – The Interparliamentary European Security and Defence Assembly, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, and the BSTDB took part in the General Debate.

The speakers underlined that the promotion of commercial and business opportunities depends on the success of the measures adopted at the national level in order to speed up the completion of the transition to market economy. Parliaments are the ones that build up an enabling legislative framework. At the same time they follow up the implementation of the relevant governmental policies and allocate the necessary budgetary resources.

They noted that the promotion of business opportunities in the region represents a priority goal for both domestic legislative action and parliamentary diplomacy exercised on bi- and multilateral levels. An increased involvement of Parliaments in promoting commercial and business opportunities throughout the region requires additional efforts to structure in a coherent and pragmatic way the cooperation between the Assembly on the one hand and the BSEC subsidiary organs and Related Bodies on the other.

The members of Parliamentary Assembly stressed that Parliaments have a crucial contribution to the development of economic cooperation in the Black Sea region by establishing the parameters of good governance.

DOCUMENTS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

- a) Bucharest Declaration on Combating International Terrorism
- b) Recommendation 72/2003 on “Shaping a European Economic Space”
(Doc. GA22/EC21/REC72/03)
- c) Recommendation 73/2003 on “Black Sea Region within the context of the EU Enlargement”
(Doc. GA22/LC22/REC73/03)
- d) Recommendation 74/2003 on "The Fight against Poverty in the BSEC Member-States"
(Doc. GA22/CC21/REC74/03)
- e) Opinion on the Communication from the European Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on “Wider Europe - Neighbourhood: A New Framework for Relations with our Eastern and Southern Neighbours”. Conclusions of the debates.
(Doc. GA22/PABSEC-EU/OP/03)

DOCUMENTS APPROVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

- a) Report on "Shaping a European Economic Space" (Doc. GA22/EC21/REP/03)
- b) Report on "Black Sea Region within the context of the EU Enlargement"
(Doc. GA22/LC22/REP/03)
- c) Report on “The Fight against Poverty in the BSEC Member-States”
(Doc. GA22/CC21/REP/03)
- d) Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly (Doc. GA22/PROG/03)
- e) The Minutes of the Twenty First Plenary Session of the General Assembly held in Chisinau, on 10-12 June 2003 (Doc. GA21/MIN/02)

NEW OBSERVERS:

The Assembly warmly welcomed the application and endorsed the decision of the Standing Committee to grant observer status to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Central European Initiative on the basis of:

- the application by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Central European Initiative for the observer status with the PABSEC
(Doc. INC/687/03)

Mr. Zygmunt Cybulski, Chairman in Office of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Central European Initiative, addressed the Plenary Session.

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 Ninth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member-States held on 31 October 2003, in Baky.

According to the provision of art.4, para.2, of the “Host Country Agreement between the Organization of the BSEC and the Government of the Republic of Turkey for the International Secretariat of the PABSEC”, the Secretaries General of the BSEC and the PABSEC signed in the presence of the members of the Assembly the Protocol on Implementation of the Host Country Agreement.

The Assembly also welcomed the signing by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Baky of the 'Protocol Concerning the Privileges and Immunities of the PABSEC', and their appreciation given to the Assembly's contribution in the relationship between the BSEC and the EU.

The participants appreciated the information provided by Mr. Valery Chechelashvili, Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS on the activities of the BSEC Organisation, by Mr. Costas Masmanidis, Secretary General of the BSEC Business Council, by Mr. Mustafa Gurtin, President of the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank, and by Mr. Sergiu Celac, Alternate Director General of the International Centre for Black Sea Studies.

The members of the national delegations took part in the debate, underlining the importance of the BSEC activities in order to speed up economic cooperation process in the Black Sea Region.

The General Assembly considered the Reports on:

- The Ninth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member-States, 31 October 2003, Baky
(Doc. GA22/REP/BSEC/9MFA/03)
- The Meeting of the Ministers of Energy of the BSEC Member-States, 18-19 September 2003, Baky
(Doc. GA22/BP/BSEC-ENERG/03)
- The Meeting of the Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member-States, 1-3 October 2003, Baky
(Doc. GA22/BP/BSEC-TRANS/03)

FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The Assembly adopted its Budget for the Financial Year 2004 (Doc. GA 22/BUDG04/03), and set up the PABSEC Draft Budget and Auditing Committee, consisting of the representatives of Romania, Russian Federation and Turkey.

NEW CREDENTIALS:

The Assembly ratified the credentials of the new members of the delegations of Armenia, Bulgaria and Romania
(Doc. GA22/CRED/03)

ELECTIONS:

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

The Assembly elected Mr. Evgeny CHACHEV (Bulgaria), as Vice-President of the Assembly to complete the two-year term of Mr. Blagovest SENDOV (Bulgaria), until November 2004.

ROTATION OF THE PRESIDENCY:

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure, starting with the end of the Twenty Second Plenary Session in Bucharest, on 10 December 2003, Mr. Sergey MIRONOV, the Chairman of the Council Federation, Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, assumed the six-month term Presidency of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation of Black Sea Economic Cooperation.

THE 2004 SPRING PLENARY SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

The Assembly decided to hold the 2004 Spring Plenary Session of the General Assembly in Saint Petersburg, on 1-3 June 2004.

The General Assembly took note of:

- The information on the work of the Ad-hoc Working Group on the PABSEC Rules of Procedure
- The information presented by the Romanian PABSEC Delegation on the implementation of initiatives of the Romanian PABSEC Presidency
- The Report on the Third Conference of the Public Broadcasters of the BSEC Member-States, 4-6 September 2003, Varna *(Doc.GA22/3-RTV/REP/03)*
- The Report on the Fourth General Assembly of the Black Sea Capitals' Association, 29-30 September 2003, Chisinau *(Doc.GA22/4-BSCA/REP/03)*

II. STANDING COMMITTEE

1. ***The Twenty-Second Meeting of the Standing Committee*** positively assessed the proposals of the Committees concerning the subjects to be taken up in the first half of 2004 and to be placed on the Draft Agenda of the 2004 Spring General Assembly.

The main subjects for the Spring Meetings:

a) Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs:

- “Sustainable Development of the Tourism Industry”

b) Legal Affairs and Political Affairs:

- “Framework of Cooperation between the PABSEC and the European Parliament”
- “Revision of the PABSEC Rules of Procedure”

c) Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs:

- “People of Disabilities: Improving Social, Economic and Civil Rights”

As for the General Debate the Assembly took note of the suggestion by the Russian PABSEC delegation that the main item will be proposed later on.

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

- ***approved*** the following documents:

- a) Minutes of the of the Twenty First Meeting of the Standing Committee *(Doc. SC21/MIN/03)*
- b) Application by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Central European Initiative for the observer Status with the PABSEC *(Doc. INC/687/03)*
- c) The PABSEC's Activities in the first half of 2004 *(Doc.SC22/BP/ACT/03)*

- ***took note*** of the following documents:

- a) Receipt of Contributions to the 2003 Budget *(Doc. SC22/CONT/03)*
- b) Information on the work of the Third Ad-hoc Working Group on the PABSEC Rules of Procedure *(Doc. LC22/LC-WGIII/REP/03)*

- c) Background Paper on the Seminar on “Political aspects of sustainable development in the 21st century” to be jointly organised by the PABSEC and the Knesset of the State of Israel (Doc. SC22/BP/SEM-ISR/03)
- **decided** to organize the Fourth Meeting of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on the PABSEC Rules of Procedure in February 2004 in Istanbul.
- **endorsed** the following documents:
 - a) Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly (Doc. GA22/PROG/03)
 - b) Draft Agenda (Doc.GA22/AG/03) and Draft Order of Business (Doc.GA22/OB/03) of the Twenty Second Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly
- **adopted** the Calendar 2004 (Doc. SC22/CAL/03)

3. The Twenty Second Meeting of the Standing Committee took note of the participation between 13 June - 8 December 2003 by PABSEC representatives in:

A – International Meetings

- a) Mr. Nicolae Bondarciuc, PABSEC Vice-President, and Mr. Dan Nicolae Rahau, Chairman of the PABSEC Committee on Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs, in the 21st Plenary Session of the IPACIS, in the Saint-Petersburg International Parliamentary Conference on Pan-European Cooperation and in the 7th Saint-Petersburg International Economic Forum, 16-20 June 2003, Saint-Petersburg.
(Doc. SC22/REP/21IPACIS-CONF/03)
- b) Mr. Salih Kapusuz, PABSEC Vice-President, in the 12th OSCE PA Annual Session, 5-9 July 2003, Rotterdam. (Doc. SC22/REP/OSCEPA/03)
- c) Mr. Oleg Salmin, PABSEC Treasurer, in the 12th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC), 8-9 September 2003, Oulu (Finland).
- d) Mr. Dorel Constantine Onaca, Head of the PABSEC Romanian Delegation, in the 13th Session of the European Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional Planning, 15-17 September 2003, Ljubljana.
(Doc.SC22/BP/EUR-REG/03)
- e) Mr. Nicolae Vacaroiu, PABSEC President, President of the Senate of Romania, in the Second Black Sea Energy Summit, 22-23 September 2003, Bucharest.
(Doc.SC22/REP/ENERGSUM-2/03)
- f) Mr. Nicolae Bondarciuc, PABSEC Vice-President, in the 109th Assembly of the Interparliamentary Union, 30 September - 2 October 2003, Geneva.
(Doc.SC22/BP/109-IPU/03)
- g) Mr. Nicolae Vacaroiu, PABSEC President, President of the Senate of Romania, in the Annual Meeting of the CEI Parliamentary Assembly, 2-4 October 2003, Warsaw.
(Doc.SC22/REP/CEIPA/03)
- h) Mr. Mustafa Baş, Head of the PABSEC Turkish Delegation, in the International Black Sea Day, organized by the Union of Black Sea Region NGO’s, 30-31 October 2003, Istanbul.
- i) Mr. Alexey Kudriavtsev, PABSEC Secretary General, in the 22nd Plenary Session of the IPACIS, 15 November 2003, Saint-Petersburg.
(Doc.SC22/BP/22IPACIS/03)

- j) Mrs. Makbule Ceco, Vice-Chairman of the PABSEC Legal and Political Affairs Committee, Head of the PABSEC Albanian Delegation, in the CEI Economic Forum, 19-21 November 2003, Warsaw.
- k) Mr. Volodymyr Anischuk, Member of the PABSEC Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee, in the International Conference on “Illegal Migration as a Threat to International Stability and Security of States, 27-28 November 2003, Minsk.

B – BSEC Meetings

- a) Mr. Nicolae Vacaroiu, PABSEC President, President of the Senate of Romania and Mr. Alexander Furman, PABSEC Deputy Secretary General, in the Meeting of the BSEC Committee of the Senior Officials, 15-16 September 2003, Istanbul. *(Doc. SC22/BP/BSEC-MSO-2/03)*
- b) Mr. Asaf Hajiyev, Head of the PABSEC Azerbaijani Delegation, in the Meeting of Ministers of Energy from the BSEC Member-States, 18-19 September 2003, Baku. *(Doc. GA22/BP/BSEC-ENERG/03)*
- c) Mr. Asaf Hajiyev, Head of the PABSEC Azerbaijani Delegation, Mr. Shaitdin Aliyev, Chairman of the PABSEC Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee and Mr. Alexey Kudriavtsev, PABSEC Secretary General, in the Ninth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member-States, 31 October 2003, Baku. *(Doc. GA22/REP/BSEC/9MFA/03)*
- d) Mr. Alexey Kudriavtsev, PABSEC Secretary General, and Mrs. Natia Gaprindashvili, Secretary of the PABSEC Legal and Political Affairs Committee, in the Meeting of the BSEC Senior Officials, 29-30 October 2003, Baku. *(Doc. SC22/BP/BSEC-MSO-3/03)*
- e) Staff of the International Secretariat in the BSEC Working Groups and other meetings:
 - Mr. Victor Dediu, PABSEC Researcher-Archivist, in the BSEC Working Group Meeting on Cooperation in Combating Crime, 9-10 June 2003, Istanbul. *(Doc. SC22/BP/BSEC- WG-CRIME/03)*
 - Mr. Victor Dediu, PABSEC Researcher-Archivist, in the BSEC Working Group Meeting on Visa Facilitation for Lorry Drivers, 12-13 June 2003, Istanbul. *(Doc. SC22/BP/BSEC- SVBLD/03)*
 - Ms. Panagiota Manoli, Secretary of the PABSEC Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee, in the BSEC Working Group Meeting on Trade and Economic Development, 16-17 June 2003, Istanbul.
 - Ms. Panagiota Manoli, Secretary of the PABSEC Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee, in the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance, 27-28 August 2003, Istanbul.
 - Mr. Alexander Furman, PABSEC Deputy Secretary General, in the ICBSS Conference “The New European Architecture in the 21st Century: Promoting Regional Cooperation in the Wider Black Sea Area: the BSEC Case”, 3-7 September 2003, Milos (Greece). *(Doc. SC22/REP/ICBSS-1/03)*

- Mrs. Natia Gaprindashvili, Secretary of the PABSEC Legal and Political Affairs Committee, in the Conference of the Council of Europe on “Frozen Conflicts in Europe - the Approach of Democratic Security: the Case of Transnistria”, 11-12 September 2003, Chisinau.
(Doc.SC22/REP/ICONFRC/03)
- Mr. Victor Dediu, PABSEC Researcher-Archivist, in the BSEC Working Group Meeting on Transport, 1-2 October 2003, Baku.
(Doc. SC22/BP/BSEC-WG-TRANS/03)
- Mr. Alexander Furman, PABSEC Deputy Secretary General, in the Coordination Meeting of the BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office, BSEC PERMIS, BSEC Related Bodies and Affiliated Centers, 8 October 2003, Istanbul.
(Doc. SC22/BP/BSEC/COORD2/03)

C – Other Gatherings

- a) Mr. Salih Kapusuz, PABSEC Vice-President, visit to the Republic of Belarus, 2-5 September, Minsk
(Doc. SC22/REP/BELARUS/03)
- b) Mr. Blagovest Sendov, PABSEC Vice-President, Mr. Borislav Ralchev, Chairman of the PABSEC Legal and Political Affairs Committee and Mr. Igor Bolboceanu, PABSEC Deputy Secretary General, in the 3rd Conference of the Public Broadcasters from the BSEC Member-States, 4-6 September 2003, Varna (Bulgaria).
(Doc.GA22/REP/3-RTV/03)
- c) Mr. Nicolae Bondarciuc, PABSEC Vice-President, Head of the PABSEC Moldovan Delegation, and Mr. Alexander Furman, PABSEC Deputy Secretary General, in the Fourth General Assembly of the Black Sea Capitals’ Association, 29-30 September 2003, Chisinau. (Doc.GA22/REP/4-BSCA /03)

D – Elections Monitoring

- a) Mr. Salih Kapusuz, PABSEC Vice-President, in monitoring the presidential elections in the Republic of Azerbaijan, 15 October 2003, Baku.
- b) Mr. Mekhak Mkhitarian, Member of the PABSEC Armenian Delegation, in monitoring the parliamentary elections in Georgia, 2 November 2003, Tbilisi.

E- Working Visits

- a) Mr. Nicolae Vacaroiu, PABSEC President, President of the Senate of Romania, on 15-16 September 2003, PABSEC Headquarters, Istanbul.

4. *The Standing Committee decided to hold the Twenty Third Meeting on 1 June 2004, in Saint Petersburg.*

III. BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY:

The Twenty Ninth Meeting of the Bureau:

a) Approved the following documents:

- Report by the Treasurer on the execution of the Assembly’s budget
(Doc.BA29/EXE/03)
- Matters of Procedure of the Twenty Second Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly
(Doc.BA29/MP/03)
- Participation by the PABSEC Representatives in the International Gatherings between 13 December 2003 - 14 June 2004
(Doc. BA29/GATH/03)

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 Eighth Meeting of the Bureau (Doc.BA29/MIN/03)

b) Endorsed the following documents:

- Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly (Doc.GA22/PROG/03)
- Examination of New Credentials (Doc.GA22/CRED/03)
- Draft Agenda of the Twenty Second Meeting of the Standing Committee (Doc.SC22/AG/03)

c) The Bureau decided to hold its Thirtieth Meeting on 1 June 2004 in Saint Petersburg

THE AD-HOC MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL, TECHNOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

An Ad-Hoc Meeting of the Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee was held on 9 December 2003 in Bucharest. It elected Mr. Ali TEMUR (Turkey) as the Committee Chairman for the period of two years, until December 2005.