

Istanbul, 22 June 2007

FOREWORD

OPENING CEREMONY

The Twenty Ninth General Assembly of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation was held in Varna on 12-14 June 2007 upon the invitation of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria.

The Plenary Session was opened by Mr. Georgi Pirinski, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, Chairman of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria. The message of H.E. Mr. Georgi Pirvanov, President of the Republic of Bulgaria, was delivered to the participants of the Plenary Session by his representative Mr. Boyko Radoev. Mr. Ahmet Ulker, Consul General of the Republic of Turkey in Burgas, on behalf of the Turkish BSEC Chairman-in-Office presented the message addressed to the General Assembly by H.E. Mr. Abdullah Gül, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey.

PARTICIPATION

The General Assembly was attended by:

1. The Chairperson of the Parliament of Georgia and the President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria.
2. *National delegations* of the Parliaments of: Republic of Albania, Republic of Azerbaijan, 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 Secretary General of the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat.
 - *International Centre for Black Sea Studies*: the Director General.
4. *Observers*: Delegations/representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus, the Senate of the French Republic, the European Parliament (EP), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), Interparliamentary Assembly of the Eurasian Economic Community (IPA EurAsEC), and the Belarus-Russia Union Parliamentary Assembly (B-RUPA)
5. *Guests*: the European Commission, the Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy (IPAo) and the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Members States (PUIC).

THE PLENARY SESSION

1. *General debate.*

The topic of the General Debate was “The Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the European Union: New Euro-Black Sea partnership”.

The heads and members of the National PABSEC Delegations, Senate of the French Republic, representatives of the EP, the IPA EurAsEC, the European Commission, the IPAO and the PUIC took part in the General Debate.

The speakers in the debate welcomed the concrete actions undertaken by the BSEC in the recent period with a view to strengthening relations with the EU, as well as the efforts of the PABSEC to continue the development of relations with the European Parliament. The visit of the PABSEC delegation to the European Parliament in February 2007 represented an excellent opportunity to exchange views on issues of common interest for both the PABSEC and the EP.

The need was emphasized for establishing a new partnership between the Black Sea region and the EU, due to the strategic importance of our region, especially as a transit route for energy resources. The participants stressed that the Black Sea region could bring a great contribution to ensuring the energy security for the European continent. It was also mentioned that although there is a huge potential for developing a closer relation with the EU, a grave obstacle in advancing on the path of collaboration is represented by the frozen conflicts, which are also a threat to the stability and security of the Black Sea region.

The speakers greatly welcomed the elaboration of the Communication of the European Commission on strengthening the European Neighborhood Policy, as well as the “Black Sea Synergy - a new Regional Cooperation Initiative”, addressed to the Council and the European Parliament, as a new initiative meant to develop the deepen cooperation within the Black Sea region and the EU. At the same time, the participants welcomed the application of the European Commission for the Observer Status to the BSEC.

A hope was expressed that the future report of the European Parliament on the Black Sea Synergy will definitely be an important step towards developing a new approach to the Euro - Black Sea relations. It was stressed that the relations between the BSEC and the EU are considered a key instrument for promoting multifaceted regional cooperation in the Black Sea, while the relations established between our parliamentary bodies could serve as an example of useful contacts and enriching experience of working together.

The participants emphasized that the Black Sea countries must continue to work together and give a new impetus to the cooperation for sustaining regional stability and prosperity, and that the closer interaction with the European structures will consolidate trust, partnership and understanding. The members of PABSEC agreed on the importance of being more involved in the development of relations of cooperation with the European Parliament.

The speakers also extended their congratulations to the BSEC on its 15TH Anniversary, which represents an important landmark in the development of the wider Black Sea Region, meant to consolidate the relations among our countries and promote progress, security and prosperity for our people.

2. Documents adopted by the Plenary Session:

- a) Recommendation 94/2007 on “State and prospects of fisheries in the BSEC member states”
(Doc. GA29/EC28/REC94/07)
- b) Recommendation 95/2007 on “Cooperation in the field of high technologies among the BSEC member states”
(Doc. GA29/EC28/REC95/07)
- c) Recommendation 96/2007 on "Partnership and cooperation agreements with the BSEC member states in the context of the enlargement of the European Union"
(Doc. GA29/LC29/REC96/07)
- d) Recommendation 97/2007 on “The Bologna Process and the reforms of higher educational systems in the BSEC countries”
(Doc. GA29/CC28/REC97/07)
- e) Statement of the PABSEC on the BSEC Fifteenth Anniversary
(Doc. GA29/STAT/BSEC-15/07)
- f) Statement of the PABSEC on the Energy Problem in the South East European countries
(Doc. GA29/STAT/ENERG/07)
- g) Statement of the PABSEC in support of the Application of the Russian Federation to host the 2014 Winter Olympic Games in the City of Sochi
(Doc. GA29/STAT/WOG-2014/07)

3. Documents approved by the Plenary Session:

- a) Report on " State and prospects of fisheries in the BSEC member states"
(Doc. GA29/EC28/REP-1/07)
- b) Report on “Cooperation in the field of high technologies among the BSEC member states”
(Doc. GA29/EC28/REP-2/07)
- c) Report on “Partnership and cooperation agreements with the BSEC member states in the context of the enlargement of the European Union”
(Doc. GA29/LC29/REP/07)
- d) Report on “The Bologna Process and the reforms of higher educational systems in the BSEC countries”
(Doc. GA29/CC28/REP/07)
- e) Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly
(Doc. GA29/PROG/07)
- f) The Minutes of the Twenty Eighth Plenary Session of the General Assembly held in Baky, on 22-23 November 2006
(Doc. GA27/MIN/07)

4. The General Assembly took note of following documents:

- a) Report on “Follow up of the Recommendations elaborated by the Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee (Greece)”
(Doc. GA29/CC28/PR-REP/GR/07)
- b) Information on the Draft Declaration of the Fifteenth Anniversary Summit of the BSEC
(Doc. GA29/BP/15thBSEC-DECL/07)
- c) The Sixteenth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member-States, 19 April 2007, Belgrade.
(Doc. GA29/REP/BSEC/16CMFA/07)

- ◆ *The Belgrade Declaration by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Organisation of BSEC, 19 April 2007*
- ◆ *Joint Declaration of the Ministers for Public Administration (Athens, 3 April 2007)*
- ◆ *Memorandum of Understanding for the Coordinated Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway*
- ◆ *Memorandum of Understanding on the Development of Motorways of the Sea at the Black Sea Region*
- ◆ *Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation among Diplomatic Academies and Institutes of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Organisation of BSEC*

5. Financial matters:

The Assembly approved the Auditing Report for the Financial Year 2006

(Doc.GA29/AUDIT06/07)

6. New Credentials:

The Assembly ratified the credentials of the new members of the delegations of Georgia and Russia.

(Doc.GA29/CRED/07)

7. Elections of four Vice-Presidents of the Assembly:

- The Assembly elected Mr. Petar Dimitrov (Bulgaria), Mr. Alexander Dzasohov (Russia) and Mr. Kemalettin Göktaş (Turkey) as Vice-Presidents of the Assembly, and Mr. Mikheil Machavariani (Georgia) as Vice-President of the Assembly on Financial Matters for a two-year term of office, until June 2009.

8. Rotation of the Presidency:

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure, starting with the end of the Twenty Ninth Plenary Session in Varna, on 14 June 2007, Mrs. Nino Burjanadze, the Chairperson of the Parliament of Georgia, assumed the six-months' term Presidency of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of Black Sea Economic Cooperation.

9. The 2007 Autumn Plenary Session of the General Assembly:

The Assembly decided to hold its 2007 Autumn Plenary Session of the General Assembly in Tbilisi on 19-21 November 2007.

STANDING COMMITTEE

- 1. The Twenty Ninth Meeting of the Standing Committee** adopted the proposals of the Committees concerning the subjects to be taken up in the second half of 2007 and to be placed on the Draft Agenda of the Plenary Session of the 2007 Autumn General Assembly.

The main subjects for the Autumn Meetings are:

a) Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs:

- “The priorities of cooperation between the BSEC Member States in the field of energy: oil and gas sector”

b) Legal and Political Affairs:

- “Global Climate Change: consequences for the BSEC states”
- “Role of the national parliaments of the BSEC member states in the EU process”

c) Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs:

- “Improvement of the quality of life in the BSEC Member States”

2. The Twenty Ninth Meeting of the Standing Committee:

- **approved** the following documents:
 - a) Minutes of the Twenty Eighth Meeting of the Standing Committee
(Doc. SC29/MIN/07)
 - b) PABSEC Calendar 2007
(Doc. SC29/CAL/07)
 - c) Information on the examination of new credentials
(Doc. GA29/CRED/07)
 - d) The Auditing Report for the Financial Year 2006
(Doc. GA29/AUDIT06/07)
 - e) The PABSEC Budget for the Financial Year 2008
(Doc. GA30/BUDG08/07)
- **adopted** the following documents:
 - a) Protocol on Cooperation between the PABSEC and the Marmara Group Strategic and the Social Research Foundation and instructed the PABSEC Secretary General to sign it.
 - b) Statute of the Certificate of Merit of the PABSEC
(Doc. SC29/DEC/CERT-MERIT/07)
 - c) Plan of Action on the PABSEC 15th Anniversary (Doc. SC29/BP/15TH PABSEC/07)
- **endorsed** the following documents:
 - a) Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly
(Doc. GA29/PROG/07)
 - b) Draft Agenda of the Twenty Ninth Plenary Session
(Doc. GA29/AG/07)
 - c) Statement of the PABSEC on the BSEC Fifteenth Anniversary
(Doc. GA29/STAT/BSEC-15/07)
 - d) Statement of the PABSEC on the Energy Problem in the South East European Countries
(Doc. GA29/STAT/ENERG/07)
 - e) Proposal by the PABSEC Romanian delegation on granting scholarships for BSEC Member States students (INC.353/16.05.2007) and **instructed** the International Secretariat to prepare till the next meeting of the PABSEC Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee a Regulation on granting a PABSEC scholarship.
- **took note of:**
 - i) The receipt of Contributions to the 2007 Budget
(Doc. SC29/CONT/07)
 - ii) Statement by Mr. Gagik Minasyan, Head of the PABSEC Armenian Delegation
(INC.214/20.03.2007)
 - iii) The reports concerning the participation by PABSEC representatives in international gatherings between June 2006– November 2007:

A – International Meetings

- a) Mr. Igor Bolboceanu, PABSEC Deputy Secretary General, in the Parliamentary Conference 2006 of the Community of Democratic Choice, 30 November - 1 December 2006, Tbilisi.
(Doc. SC29/BP/CDCPC/07)
- b) Mr. Mustafa Baş, PABSEC Vice-President, and Mr. Alexey Kudriavtsev, PABSEC Secretary General, in the 52nd Plenary Session of the Assembly of the Western European Union – Interparliamentary European Security and Defence Assembly, 18-20 December 2006, Paris.
(Doc. SC29/BP/AWEU-52/07)
- c) Mr. Petar Dimitrov, Head of the PABSEC Bulgarian Delegation, in the Winter Session of the OSCE PA, 22-24 February 2007, Vienna.
(Doc. SC.29/REP/OSCEPA-1/07)
- d) Mr. Ivan Bokyi, PABSEC Vice-President, in the second part 2007 Ordinary Session

- of the PACE, 16-20 April 2007, Strasbourg.
- e) Mrs. Natia Gaprindashvili, Secretary of the PABSEC Legal and Political Affairs Committee, in the European Parliament Expert Meeting on the Black Sea, 10 May 2007, Brussels. *(Doc. SC29/BP/EP/07)*
 - f) Mr. Alexander Furman, PABSEC Deputy Secretary General, in the 8th Session of the IPA EurAsEC, 30 May 2007, Saint-Petersburg
 - g) Mr. Georgi Pirinski, PABSEC President, Chairman of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria, in the 28th Plenary Session of the IPACIS and in the International Parliamentary Conference on Pan-European Cooperation, 31 May-1 June 2007, Saint-Petersburg.

B – BSEC Meetings

- a) Mr. Zurab Shkhvatsabaia, substitute Member of the Georgian Delegation, in the BSEC Business Council Innovation Forum, 22-23 March 2007, Belgrade.
- b) Staff of the International Secretariat in the following Meetings:
 - ◆ Mr. Ali Üstündağ, PABSEC Administrative Officer, in the Meeting of the WG on Transport, 23-24 November, and in the BSEC URTA General Assembly, 24 November 2006, Antalya. *(Doc. SC29/BP/BSEC-WG-TRANS-1/07)*
(Doc. SC29/BP/BSEC/URTA-GA/07)
 - ◆ Mr. Alexander Furman, PABSEC Deputy Secretary General, in the Joint Coordination Meeting of the BSEC Chairman-in Office, BSEC PERMIS, BSEC Related Bodies, 29 November 2006, Istanbul, in the Meeting of the CSO, 17-18 April 2007 and in the 16th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member-States, 19 April 2007, Belgrade.
(Doc. GA29/REP/BSEC/CSO-16CMFA/07)
 - ◆ Mr. Anar Rahimov, Secretary of PABSEC Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee, in the Meetings of the BSEC WGs on SMEs, 14-15 December 2006, on Energy, 12-13 February 2007, on Customer Services, 1 March 2007, on Emergency, 28-29 March 2007, Istanbul, on Science and Technology, 26-27 April 2007, Sinaia (Romania) and on Trade and Economic Development, 30 May 2007, Istanbul.
(Doc. SC29/BP/BSEC-WSH-SME/07)
(Doc. SC29/BP/BSEC-WG-ENERG/07)
(Doc. SC29/BP/BSEC-AHEGCCS/07)
(Doc. SC29/BP/BSEC-WG-EMERG/07)
(Doc. SC29/BP/BSEC-WG-SCI-TECH/07)
 - ◆ Ms. Cosmina Moldovan, PABSEC Researcher-Archivist, in the BSEC and GHF Cultural Heritage Across Border Workshop, 9-10 February 2007, Istanbul and in the BSEC WG on Transport, 13 March 2007, Belgrade.
(Doc. SC29/BP/BSEC-WSH/07)
(Doc. SC29/BP/BSEC-WG-TRANS/07)
 - ◆ Mrs. Natia Gaprindashvili, Secretary of the PABSEC Legal and Political Affairs Committee, in the Meeting of the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials, 27-28 February 2007, Istanbul.
 - ◆ Ms. Sanya Konstantakopoulou, Secretary of the PABSEC Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee, in the Meeting of the BSEC WG on Tourism, 26-27 April 2007, Belgrade. *(Doc. SC29/BP/BSEC/TUR/07)*
 - ◆ Mr. Alexey Kudriavtsev, PABSEC Secretary General, in the Joint Coordination

Meeting of the BSEC Chairman-in-Office, BSEC PERMIS, BSEC Related Bodies, 4 May 2007, Istanbul.

C – Other Meeting

- a) Mr. Mircea Ciopraga, Head of the PABSEC Romanian Delegation, in the Conference “Synergies between the Black Sea and the Northern Europe Cooperation. Exchange-Enhance-Elaborate”, 27 April 2007, Bucharest
(Doc.SC29/REP/BS-NORTH/07)
- b) Mr. Asaf Hajiyev, PABSEC Vice-President, in the 10th Eurasian Economic Summit, 3-4 May 2007, Istanbul
(Doc.SC29/REP/10-EURAS/07)

D -Working Visits

- c) Mr. Asaf Hajiyev and Mr. Konstantinos Agorastos, PABSEC Vice-Presidents and Mr. Alexander Furman, PABSEC Deputy Secretary General, to the European Parliament, 26-28 February 2007, Brussels
(Doc.SC29/REP/EP/07)
- d) Mr. Alexey Kudriavtsev, PABSEC Secretary General, and Mr. Igor Bolboceanu, PABSEC Deputy Secretary General, to the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus, 27 February 2007, Minsk (preparation of conference) and to the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria, 6 March 2007, Sofia and 18 May 2007, Varna (preparation to the 29th General Assembly).
(Doc.SC29/REP/BEL/07)
- 3. *The Standing Committee decided to hold its Thirtieth Meeting on 19 November 2007 in Tbilisi.***

BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY

The Thirty Sixth Meeting of the Bureau:

Approved the following documents:

- Minutes of the Thirty Fifth Meeting of the Bureau (Doc.BA35/MIN/07)
- Draft Order of Business of the Twenty Ninth Plenary Session Assembly
(Doc.GA29/OB/07)
- Report by the Vice-President on Financial Matters on the execution of the Assembly’s budget
(Doc.BA36/EXE/07)
- Matters of Procedure of the Twenty Ninth Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly
(Doc.BA36/MP/07)

Endorsed:

- Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly (Doc.GA29/PROG/07)
- Draft Agenda of the Twenty Ninth Meeting of the Standing Committee (Doc.SC29/AG/07) and the Draft Agenda of the Twenty Ninth Plenary Session (Doc.GA29/AG/07)
- The candidatures for the elections of the four Vice-Presidents of the Assembly.

Decided to authorize the new PABSEC President to take decisions on the participation of the PABSEC representatives in international gatherings between June-November 2007. The decision on the participation by the staff of the International Secretariat will be taken by the Secretary General.

The Bureau decided to hold its Thirty Seventh Meeting on 19 November 2007 in Tbilisi.