

Istanbul, 16 June 2008

## **FOREWORD**

### **I. PABSEC SUMMIT**

Within the framework of the 31<sup>st</sup> General Assembly, the Hellenic PABSEC Presidency organized the Meeting of the Presidents of Parliaments of the PABSEC Member Countries – the Parliamentary Summit “Achievements and Prospects of Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation in the Wider Black Sea Area”, held on 9 June 2008 in Athens.

The meeting was hosted by Mr. Dimitrios Sioufas, PABSEC President, President of the Hellenic Parliament, and attended by Mr. Ogtay Asadov, Chairman of the Milli Mejlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan; Mr. Marian Lupu, Chairman of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova; Mr. Koksal Toptan, President of the Grand National Assembly of the Republic of Turkey; Mr. Arseniy Yatsenyuk, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine; Mr. Corneliu Vadim Tudor, Vice-President of the Senate of Romania; Mr. Valeriy Yasev, Vice-Chairman of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, as well as Mr. Gagik Minasyan, Representative of the Chairman of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia and Mr. Petar Kanev, Representative of the Chairman of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria. The Albanian and the Serbian PABSEC Delegations were present at the meeting. Mr. Bernard Fournier, representing the President of the Senate of France, Lord Russell Johnston, representing the President of the WEUA, Mr. Marek Siwiec, Vice President of the European Parliament, as well as other representatives of international parliamentary assemblies participated in the meeting.

The participants in the Summit adopted a **Declaration on the Occasion of the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of the PABSEC.**

### **II. THIRTY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

#### **OPENING CEREMONY**

The Thirty-First General Assembly of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation was held in Athens on 9-11 June 2008 upon the invitation of the Hellenic Parliament. The Plenary Session was opened by Mr. Dimitrios Sioufas, PABSEC President, President of the Hellenic Parliament, who delivered a message by H.E. Mr. Karolos Papoulias, President of the Hellenic Republic. The participants were addressed by Mr. Ioannis Valinakis, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic.

## **PARTICIPATION**

The plenary session was attended by:

1. The President of the Hellenic Parliament, the Chairman of the Parliament of Moldova, the Vice-President of the Senate of Romania, the Vice-Chairman of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, the Vice-President of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, the Vice-President of the European Parliament, the Vice-President of the Assembly of Western European Union, the President of the Standing Committee of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference.
2. *The National delegations* of the Parliaments of: Republic of Albania, Republic of Armenia, Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Bulgaria, Hellenic Republic, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Republic of Serbia, Republic of Turkey and Ukraine.
3. *The Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the Related Bodies:*
  - *BSEC:* the Secretary General of the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat.
  - *ICBSS:* the Director General
4. *Observers:* Delegations/representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus, the Senate and the National Assembly of the French Republic, the National Council of the Slovak Republic, the Assembly of the Western European Union (AWEU), the European Parliament (EP), the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Community of Independent States (IPACIS), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), Interparliamentary Assembly of the Eurasian Economic Community (IPA EurAsEC), and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus-Russia (PAUBR).
5. *Guests:* the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC), the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC), the Marmara Group Strategic and Social Research Foundation and the Black Sea Universities Network (BSUN).

## **THE 31st PLENARY SESSION**

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

The topic of the General Debate was “The EU and Black Sea Synergy”.

The heads and members of the National PABSEC Delegations, the representatives of the Senate of the French Republic, the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Assembly of the Western European Union, the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, the IPA EurAsEC, and the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States took part in the General Debate.

The participants commended the Communication of the European Commission on the “Black Sea Synergy - a new Regional Cooperation Initiative”, addressed to the Council and the European Parliament, as a new initiative meant to develop and deepen cooperation between the Black Sea region and the EU. It was emphasized that the Commission’s new proposal complies with the principles of interparliamentary regional cooperation and objectives of developing and strengthening interaction in the Black Sea region.

The speakers presented their vision concerning further enhancing the relations with the European Parliament and the steps undertaken at national level following the adoption of the document on the Black Sea Synergy. The significance of this document for the region was also stressed, as well as the fact that the Black Sea Synergy fully corresponds to the interests of the BSEC Member States and the objective to turn the Black Sea region into an area of stability, democracy and prosperity.

The need was emphasized to review the issue of the institutionalization of the relations between the PABSEC and the European Parliament. The speakers supported in general the PABSEC initiative to set up a Permanent Delegation for cooperation with the European Parliament, which could ensure coordination in the process of cooperation between the PABSEC and the European Parliament within the general framework of relations between the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the European Union. The Hellenic Delegation launched a proposal to consider establishing a new structure, along the lines of the Euro-Mediterranean Assembly, for cooperation with the European Parliament.

The observers and guests, and, in particular, the representatives of the European Parliament, stressed that Black Sea Synergy would be a useful means to strengthen democracy and the respect for human rights and to foster civil society.

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

- a) Recommendation 101/2008 on “Foreign Investments and Economic Growth of the BSEC Member States”  
(Doc. GA31/EC30/REC101/08)
- b) Recommendation 102/2008 on “Role of the Parliaments of the BSEC Member States in Fighting International Terrorism”  
(Doc. GA31/LC31/REC102/08)
- c) Recommendation 103/2008 on "Social Cohesion within the BSEC Member States: contribution to political stability"  
(Doc. GA31/CC30/REC103/08)

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

- a) Report on " Foreign Investments and Economic Growth of the BSEC Member States"  
(Doc. GA31/EC30/REP/08)
- b) Report on “Role of the Parliaments of the BSEC Member States in Fighting International Terrorism”  
(Doc. GA31/LC31/REP/08)
- c) Report on “Social Cohesion within the BSEC Member States: contribution to political stability”  
(Doc. GA31/CC30/REP/08)
- d) Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly  
(Doc. GA31/PROG/08)
- e) The Minutes of the Thirtieth Plenary Session of the General Assembly held in Tbilisi, on 10-12 December 2007  
(Doc. GA30/MIN/08)

## **4. The Plenary Session took note of:**

The Eighteenth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member-States, 17 April 2008, Kyiv  
(Doc. GA31/REP/BSEC/18CMFA/08)

- ◆ *The Kyiv Declaration of the MFA of the Member States of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (Kyiv, 17 April 2008)*
- ◆ *Declaration of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation on a BSEC-EU Enhanced Relationship (Kyiv, 14 February 2008)*
- ◆ *Joint Statement of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Countries of the European Union and of the wider Black Sea area (Kyiv, 14 February 2008)*
- ◆ *Declaration on BSEC- EU Cooperation in Energy (Kyiv, 9 April 2008)*
- ◆ *Joint Declaration on Cooperation in the sphere of Transport in the BSEC Region (Odessa, 10 April 2008)*

#### **5. Financial matters:**

The Assembly:

- ◆ approved the Auditing Report for the Financial Year 2007 (*Doc.GA31/AUDIT07/08*)

#### **6. New Credentials:**

The Assembly ratified the credentials of the new members of the delegations of Russia and Ukraine. (*Doc.GA31/CRED/08*)

#### **7. Election of the PABSEC Secretary General:**

- The Assembly elected Mr. Alexey Kudriavtsev, as PABSEC Secretary General for a term of office of three years, until November 2011.

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

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure, starting with the end of the Thirty First Plenary Session in Athens, on 11 June 2008, Mr. Marian LUPU, the Chairman of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, assumed the six-month' term Presidency of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of Black Sea Economic Cooperation.

#### **9. The 2008 Autumn Plenary Session of the General Assembly:**

The Assembly decided to hold its 2008 Autumn Plenary Session of the General Assembly in Chisinau on 3-5 November 2008.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE**

### **The Thirty First Meeting of the Standing Committee:**

1. **Adopted** the proposals of the Committees concerning the subjects to be taken up in the second half of 2008 and to be placed on the Draft Agenda of the Plenary Session of the 2008 Autumn General Assembly.

The main subjects for the Autumn Meetings are:

#### **a) Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs:**

- “The WTO and the economic development of the BSEC Member States”

#### **b) Legal and Political Affairs:**

- “15 years of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation: the political aspects of deepening economic cooperation”

c) **Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs:**

- “Impact of Globalization upon Social Policies in the BSEC Member States”

2. **Approved** the following documents:

- a) Minutes of the Thirtieth Meeting of the Standing Committee (Doc.SC30/MIN/08)
- b) PABSEC Calendar 2008 (Doc. SC31/CAL/08)
- c) Information on the examination of new credentials (Doc.GA31/CRED/08)
- d) Proposal by the Romanian PABSEC Delegation on granting scholarships at the PABSEC International Secretariat

3. **Endorsed** the following:

- a) Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly (Doc. GA31/PROG/08)
- b) Draft Agenda of the Thirty First Plenary Session (Doc.GA31/AG/08)

4. **Considered** the Terms of Reference on Permanent Delegation for Cooperation between the PABSEC and the European Parliament and **decided** to discuss the issue during the next meeting of the PABSEC Legal and Political Affairs Committee and to forward it to the next General Assembly.

5. **Took note of:**

- i) The document on the “Enhancement of interaction between the PABSEC and the BSEC” (Doc.SC31/BP/PABSEC-BSEC/08)
- ii) The receipt of Contributions to the 2008 Budget (Doc. SC31/CONT/08)
- iii) The reports concerning the participation by PABSEC representatives in international gatherings between November 2007 - June 2008:

**A – International Meetings**

- a) Mr. Elias Kallioras, Head of the PABSEC Hellenic Delegation, in the 1<sup>st</sup> part of the 2008 Ordinary Session of the PACE, 21-25 January 2008, Strasbourg.
- b) Mr. Alexander Dzasohov, PABSEC Vice-President, Head of the PABSEC Russian Delegation and Mr. Alexander Furman, PABSEC Deputy Secretary General, in the 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States, 30-31 January 2008, Cairo. (Doc. SC31/REP/PUIC/08)
- c) Mr. Asaf Hajiyev, PABSEC Vice-President, Head of the PABSEC Azeri Delegation, in the 68<sup>th</sup> Rose-Roth Seminar of the NATO PA “Security in the Caspian Region”, 6-8 March 2008, Baky.
- d) Mr. Mykola Yankovsky, Head of the PABSEC Ukrainian Delegation, in the Forum on Higher Education, 2-5 April 2008, Kyiv.
- e) Mr. Elias Kallioras, Head of the PABSEC Hellenic Delegation and Mr. Alexander Furman, PABSEC Deputy Secretary General, in the 30<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session of the IPACIS and the International Parliamentary Conference “Globalisation of Migration Processes: Problems of Legal Regulation” (Doc.SC31/REP/30<sup>th</sup> IPACIS/08)

- f) Mr. Kemallettin Göktaş, PABSEC Vice-President and Mr. Ali Üstündağ, PABSEC Administrator, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the 2008 ordinary Session of the PACE, 14-18 April 2008, Strasbourg. *(Doc.SC31/REP/PACE-2/08)*
- g) Mr. Asaf Hajiyevev, PABSEC Vice-President, Head of the PABSEC Azeri Delegation, Mr. Petar Kanev, PABSEC Vice-President, Head of the PABSEC Bulgarian Delegation, Mr. Elias Kallioras, Head of the PABSEC Hellenic Delegation, Mr. Nicolae Bondarciuc, Head of the PABSEC Moldovan Delegation, in the 11<sup>th</sup> Eurasian Economic Summit, 1-3 May 2008, Istanbul.
- h) Mr. Dimitrios Sioufas, PABSEC President, in the 4<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly, 27-28 March 2008, Athens, in the 7<sup>th</sup> Conference of Speakers of Parliament of the SEECP Participating States, 14 April 2008, Sofia and in the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament, 22-23 May 2008, Strasbourg.
- i) Mr. Alexandros Dermentzopoulos, Chairman of the PABSEC Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee, in the FAO High Level Conference on World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy, 3-5 June, Rome.

#### ***B – BSEC Meetings***

- a) Mrs. Elisa Papademetriou, representative of the PABSEC President, Vice-President of the Hellenic Parliament, Mr. Elias Kallioras, Head of the PABSEC Hellenic Delegation, and Mr. Alexander Furman, PABSEC Deputy Secretary General, in the Special Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member-States and in the Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the EU Member States and of the States of the Black Sea Region, 14 February 2008, Kyiv. *(Doc.SC31/REP/BSEC-BSSYN/08)*
- b) PABSEC Delegation in the Joint Meeting of the PABSEC Enlarged Bureau Members and the BSEC CSO, 27 February 2008, Istanbul. *(Doc.SC31/REP/PABSEC-BSEC/08)*
- c) Mr. Mykola Yankovsky, Head of the PABSEC Ukrainian Delegation and Mrs. Natia Gaprindashvili, Secretary of the Legal and Political Affairs Committee, in the Meeting of the Heads of Customs Administrations of the BSEC Member States, on 17-18 March 2008, Kyiv. *(Doc.SC31/BP/BSEC-CUSTOMS/08)*
- d) Mr. Ruslan Zozulia, Member of the PABSEC Ukrainian Delegation, in the Meeting of Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member-States, 10 April 2008, Odessa, Ukraine.
- e) Mr. Bülent Arınç, Head of the PABSEC Turkish Delegation, and Mr. Alexander Furman, PABSEC Deputy Secretary General, in the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member-States, 17 April 2008, Kyiv. *(Doc.GA31/REP/BSEC-18CMFA/08)*
- f) Staff of the International Secretariat in the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials, Working Groups and other meetings:
  - ♦ Mr. Igor Bolboceanu, PABSEC Deputy Secretary General, in the Joint Coordination Meeting of the BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office, BSEC Related

Bodies and BSEC PERMIS, 12 May 2008, Istanbul

- ♦ Mr. Alexander Furman, PABSEC Deputy Secretary General, in the Meetings of the BSEC CSO, on 27-28 February 2008, Istanbul and on 15-16 April 2008, Kyiv.
- ♦ Mr. Anar Rahimov, Secretary of Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee, in the Meetings of the WG on Organizational Matters, 23 January 2008; of the WG on Transport, 14-15 February 2008; of the WG on Trade and Economic Development, 21-22 February 2008; of the WG on Environmental Protection, 18-19 March 2008, and of the Ad Hoc WG on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea, 6-7 May 2008, Istanbul.
  - (Doc.SC31/BP/BSEC-WG-TRANS/08)
  - (Doc.SC31/BP/BSEC-WG-TED/08)
  - (Doc.SC31/BP/BSEC-WG-ENV/08)
  - (Doc.SC31/BP/BSEC-AHWG-DMS/08)
- ♦ Ms. Evgenia Strati, Secretary of the Cultural, Social and Educational Affairs Committee, in the Meeting of the BSEC WG on Cooperation in Tourism, 10-11 March 2008, Istanbul. (Doc.SC31/BP/BSEC-WG-TOUR/08)
- ♦ Ms. Cosmina Moldovan, Researcher-Archivist, in the Meeting of the BSEC WG on Education, 13-14 December 2007; of the BSEC WG on Culture, 17-18 January 2008, Istanbul; and in the International Symposium “Integration of Science Systems of the BSEC Countries into European Research Area: Experience and Prospects”, 25 April 2008, Kyiv.
  - (Doc.SC31/BP/BSEC-WG-EDU/08)
  - (Doc.SC31/BP/BSEC-WG-CULT/08)
  - (Doc.SC31/BP/BSEC-EPA/SYMP/08)

### ***C- Elections Monitoring***

- a) Mr. Vidadi Mamedov, Member of the Melli Mejlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in Monitoring of the Presidential elections in Georgia 5 January 2008, Tbilisi.

### ***D -Working Visits***

- a) Mr. Dimitrios Sioufas, PABSEC President, Headquarters of the PABSEC International Secretariat, 26 February 2008, Istanbul.
- b) Mr. Alexey Kudriavtsev, PABSEC Secretary General and Mr. Igor Bolboceanu, Deputy Secretary General, the Hellenic Parliament, 20 May 2008.

6. ***Extended*** the Proposals on granting the PABSEC Certificate of Merit on the occasion of the Fifteenth Anniversary of the Assembly to Mr. Imamverdi Ismaylov, Member of the Azeri PABSEC Delegation, Mr. Konstantinos Agorastos, Member of the Hellenic Parliament and Mr. Miltiadis Makryiannis, Head of the European Organizations Department of the Hellenic Parliament.

7. ***The Standing Committee decided to hold its next Ordinary Meeting on 3 November 2008 in Chisinau.***

## **BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY**

### **The Thirty-Eighth Meeting of the Bureau:**

#### ***Approved the following documents:***

- Minutes of the Special Enlarged Meeting of the Bureau held in Istanbul on 26 February 2008  
(*Doc.BA-ENL/MIN/08*)
- Draft Order of Business of the Thirty-First Plenary Session Assembly  
(*Doc.GA31/OB/08*)
- Matters of Procedure of the Thirty First Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly (*Doc.BA38/MP/08*)

#### ***Considered the following items:***

- Report by the Vice-President on Financial Matters on the execution of the Assembly's budget  
(*Doc.BA38/EXE/08*)
- Participation of the PABSEC representatives in the international gatherings between November 2007 – June 2008  
(*Doc.BA38/GATH/08*)
- The new PABSEC President was authorized to take decisions on the participation of the PABSEC representatives in international gatherings between June – November 2008. The decision on the participation by the staff of the International Secretariat will be taken by the Secretary General.
- Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly  
(*Doc.GA31/PROG/08*)
- Draft Agenda of the Thirty First Meeting of the Standing Committee (*Doc.SC31/AG/08*) and the Draft Agenda of the Thirty First Plenary Session (*Doc.GA31/AG/08*)
- Election of the PABSEC Secretary General

#### ***Decided:***

- To renew the term of office of Ms. Cosmina Moldovan as Researcher-Archivist for a term of office of three years starting with 1 September 2008.
- To hold its next Ordinary Meeting on 3 November 2008 in Chisinau