



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION
PABSEC

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

Istanbul, 5 December 2017

SUMMARY

FIFTIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OPENING CEREMONY

The Fiftieth General Assembly of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) was held in Kyiv, on 28-30 November 2017, upon the invitation of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.

H.E. Mr. Andriy PARUBIY, PABSEC President, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, addressed the gathering at the Opening Ceremony.

PARTICIPATION

The General Assembly was attended by:

1. ***The National Delegations*** of the parliaments of: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine.
2. ***Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)***: The Deputy Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS.
3. ***BSEC Related Bodies***: The President and the Secretary General of the Black Sea Trade & Development Bank (BSTDB) and the President of the BSEC Business Council.
4. ***BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partners***: The Honorary President of the Union of Road Transport Associations in the BSEC Region (BSEC-URTA) and the Secretary General of the Black Sea Universities Network (BSUN).
5. ***Observers***: Representatives of the Parliament of the French Republic, National Council of the Slovak Republic, National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus – House of Representatives, Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC), Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC), Parliamentary Assembly of the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECPPA).
6. ***Guests***: Representatives of the Baltic Assembly (BA) and the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (the Turkic Council).
7. ***PABSEC Special Representatives***: the PABSEC Special Representative to the European Parliament and European Institutions and the PABSEC Special Representative to the GOPAC.

THE 50th PLENARY SESSION

1. General Debate

The topic of the General Debate was "*Development of Economic Cooperation in the Context of Security Crisis in the Black Sea Region*".

The heads of delegations stressed the topicality of the subject under discussion and noted the necessity to intensify efforts to strengthen stability and democracy in the region, since the overall global security developments hinder the enhancement of economic cooperation in the region. Therefore, the PABSEC Member States have to unite their efforts to achieve common security goals.

It was stressed that social and economic development and prosperity cannot be achieved without proper security, peace and stability since all those are interrelated. It was noted that the PABSEC has always been strengthening partnership between the Member States with due regard to complexities and serious security challenges in the region. To this end the need to strengthen regional dialogue for resolving existing conflicts on the basis of international law was stressed.

The heads of delegations noted that the Black Sea region is a strategic corridor connecting Asia with Europe and that it is necessary to pay attention not only to the economic development of countries but also to strengthening economic cooperation in the region as a whole. The view was expressed that peace and stability must be consolidated in order to fully unlock the potential of the region in economic, democratic, social and political aspects.

It was stressed that security in the BSEC region is a strategic goal for the Member States and that there are common challenges in the region, including terrorism, extremism, organized crime, migration and human trafficking. Interrelated problems can be effectively resolved only through common efforts, coordination, dialogue and cooperation. Therefore, it is necessary to support initiatives aimed at strengthening economic cooperation and enhancing relations with various interregional and regional structures.

The heads of delegations noted with concern that security challenges and existing conflicts in the Black Sea region prevent the full utilization of all the advantages of the regional cooperation. They stressed that the main goal of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation is to ensure peace and stability in the region and noted the special role of parliaments, parliamentarians and the PABSEC in this matter.

It was stressed that the PABSEC should strive to eradicate problems preventing strengthening of economic cooperation by means of joint efforts, and in this regard, the desire was expressed to do everything possible to make the Black Sea region safe and economically successful and stable.

2. Documents adopted by the Plenary Session:

- a) Recommendation 158/2017 on "Development of National Innovation System in the BSEC Member States" GA50/EC49/REC158/17
- b) Recommendation 159/2017 on "The 25 Years of the PABSEC: Enhancement of the Inter- parliamentary Cooperation in the Region" GA50/LC50/REC159/17
- c) Recommendation 160/2017 on "Social Protection and Benefits for the Young Families in the BSEC Member States" GA50/CC49/REC160/17
- d) Declaration of the PABSEC on the 25th Anniversary of the Assembly
- e) Decision of the Assembly on the Strengthening of the Status of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation

3. Documents approved by the Plenary Session:

- a) Report on “Development of National Innovation System in the BSEC Member States”
GA50/EC49/REP/17
- b) Report on “The 25 Years of the PABSEC: Enhancement of the Interparliamentary Cooperation in the Region”
GA50/LC50/REP/17
- c) Report on “Social Protection and Benefits for the Young Families in the BSEC Member States”
GA50/CC49/REP/17
- d) Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly
GA50/PROG REP/17
- e) Minutes of the Forty-Ninth Plenary Session of the General Assembly held in Istanbul on 5-6 July 2017
GA49/MIN/17

4. The Plenary Session took note of:

- a) The information, presented by the PERMIS of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation – BSEC PERMIS
- b) The information, presented by the BSTDB
- c) The information, presented by the BSEC BC
- d) The information, presented by the BSEC – URTA
- e) The information, presented by the BSUN

5. Financial Matters

The Assembly:

- a) Adopted the Budget for the Financial Year 2018
GA50/BUDG18/17
- b) Set up a Draft Budget and Auditing Commission composed of Azerbaijan, Bulgaria and Georgia.

6. New Credentials

The Assembly **ratified** the credentials of the new members and proxies of the delegations of Albania, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine.
GA50/CRED/17

7. Election of the PABSEC Vice-Presidents

The Assembly **elected** Mr. Otar DANELIA, Head of the PABSEC Georgian Delegation, for the position of PABSEC Vice-President, for a two-year term and Mr. Andrea MARTO, Head of the PABSEC Albanian Delegation, to complete the term of office of Mr. Namik DOKLE, former PABSEC Vice-President, until July 2019.

8. Rotation of the Presidency

In accordance with the PABSEC Rules of Procedure, on 1 December 2017, the Parliament of the Republic of Albania **assumed** the Presidency of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, for the next six months.

9. The Fifty-First PABSEC General Assembly will be held in Tirana, on 19-21 June 2018.

STANDING COMMITTEE

The Fiftieth Meeting of the Standing Committee:

1. **Adopted** the proposals of the Committees concerning the subjects to be taken up in the first half of 2018 and to be placed on the Draft Agenda of the Plenary Session of the 2018 Spring General Assembly.

The main subjects of the Spring Committees Meetings are:

- “*The prospects of the Development of Digital Economy in the BSEC Member States*”
- “*Strengthening Cooperation in Cybersecurity in the BSEC Member States*”
- “*Enhancing Cultural Cooperation and Multiculturalism in the BSEC Member States*”

2. **Approved** the following documents:

- a) Minutes of the Forty-Ninth Meeting of the Standing Committee held in Istanbul, on 4 July 2017 SC49/MIN/17
- b) PABSEC Calendar 2018 SC50/CAL 2018/17

3. **Endorsed:**

- a) Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly GA50/PROG REP/17
- b) Draft Agenda of the Fiftieth Plenary Session GA50/AG/17

4. **Took note of:**

- a) The receipt of Contributions to the 2017 Budget SC49/CONT/17
- b) Activities of the Committees in the first half of 2018 SC50/BP/ACT-18/17
- c) The information on the participation of the PABSEC representatives in international gatherings, between July 2017 - November 2017
- d) The information on the Draft Plan of Action on the Occasion of the PABSEC 25th Anniversary

5. **The Fifty-First Meeting of the PABSEC Standing Committee will be held in Tirana, on 19 June 2018.**

BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY

The Fifty-Seventh Meeting of the Bureau:

1. **Approved** the following documents:

- Minutes of the 56th Meeting of the Bureau, held in Istanbul, on 4 July 2017 BA56/MIN/17
- Draft Programme of the Fiftieth Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly BA57/PROG/17
- Matters of Procedure of the Fiftieth Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly BA57/MP/17

2. Considered the following items:

- Report by the Vice-President in charge of Financial Matters, on the execution of the Assembly's Budget BA57/EXE/17
- Participation of the PABSEC representatives in international gatherings, between December 2017 - June 2018 BA57/GATH/17

The new PABSEC President was authorized to take decisions on the participation of the PABSEC representatives in international gatherings, between December 2017 - June 2018. The decision on the participation of the staff of the International Secretariat will be taken by the Secretary General.

- Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly GA50/PROG REP/17
- Draft Agenda of the Fiftieth Meeting of the Standing Committee SC50/AG/17
- Draft Agenda of the Fiftieth Plenary Session GA50/AG/17

3. Endorsed the candidatures for the election of the PABSEC Vice-Presidents.

4. Decided to appoint Mr. Namik Dokle, former PABSEC Vice-President and Head of the PABSEC Albanian Delegation, as the PABSEC Special Representative to the Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption (GOPAC) and Mr. Blagovest SENDOV, former PABSEC Vice-President and member of the PABSEC Bulgarian Delegation, as the PABSEC Special Representative in the International Organizations on Science and Education.

5. The Fifty-Eighth Meeting of the Bureau of the Assembly will be held in Tirana, on 19 June 2018.