

**ANKARA DECLARATION  
OF THE FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE  
BLACK SEA CAPITALS' ASSOCIATION**

We, the Heads of City Administrations of the Capitals of the Black Sea Nations and the participants in the First General Assembly of the Black Sea Capitals' Association held in Ankara on 5-6 September 2000 under the auspices of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation –PABSEC– and at the invitation of the Offices of the Governor and Mayor of Ankara,

*welcoming* the transformation of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation –BSEC– into a full fledged regional economic organization as a turning point and a land mark in the institutionalization of a solid framework of cooperation aimed at promoting the lofty goals of friendship, cooperation, prosperity, stability and peace in the Black Sea region,

*highly appreciating* the initiative of the PABSEC in bringing together the Governors and Mayors of the Black Sea Capitals, which highlights the particular attention attached by 70 parliamentarians of 11 member countries to the role of local authorities in developing mutually advantageous cooperation in the region and furthering the aims of the BSEC Organization,

*reiterating* their adherence to the principles and goals enshrined in the Statute of the Black Sea Capitals' Association adopted in Bucharest, on 15 May 1998, which opened tremendous perspectives for a more intensive cooperation among the participating cities within the framework of the Black Sea cooperation process,

*stressing* the leading role of the Capital cities in the overall development of our countries as well as the fact that the First General Assembly of the Black Sea Capitals' Association represents a remarkable development of the cooperation among the Capitals of our countries,

**Hereby agree on the present Declaration**

## **Contribution of the Black Sea Capitals to Fostering Cooperation in the Black Sea Region**

1. The first three Black Sea Capitals' Governors and Mayors Round Tables held in Istanbul on 6-8 September 1994, Kyiv on 13-14 September 1995 and in Bucharest on 14-15 May 1998, played a major role in preparing the ground for setting up a proper framework of cooperation among the Capitals of the countries of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation.

The important developments, which have taken place in the Black Sea region over the last years require a growing cooperation among the Capitals as a contribution to expanding and consolidating the process of multilateral cooperation in the Black Sea basin, given their unique place as the political, administrative, economic and cultural centres of their countries.

2. In this context it is of paramount importance that the Heads of State or Government of the BSEC Member States, gathered in Istanbul on 17 November 1999, confirmed their commitment to promote effective economic, social and democratic reforms in the BSEC area, the establishment of vigorous market economies and the development of civil societies as prerequisites of building up an articulated and efficient cooperation.

At the same time, the resolutions adopted by the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, recommendations of the PABSEC, activities carried out by the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank, BSEC Business Council, International Center for Black Sea Studies, have consolidated the multilateral process of cooperation in the region. All these activities have strengthened the role and the place of the Black Sea region within the new European Architecture.

3. The objectives of this cooperation shall also channel the actions of our Capitals towards elaborating and implementing projects of vital importance for our citizens, namely transportation, communications, infrastructure, trade, environment, housing, urban planning and rehabilitation, prevention of crimes and delinquency, education, health and cultural facilities, which will be beneficial for the well being and development of our countries as a whole.

Therefore, the First General Assembly of the Black Sea Capitals' Association expresses its full determination to deepen cooperation at the level of Capitals' Administrations as a real contribution to the implementation of the principles and goals of the Black Sea multilateral cooperation process.

Furthermore, the Black Sea Capitals' Association expresses its willingness and readiness to collaborate with the relevant European organizations dealing with local authorities, as an important factor facilitating cooperation between BSEC and the European Communities.

### *Urban Rehabilitation and Social Projects for a Better Living*

4. The problems of our Capitals are very much the same in nature, if not in scale.

The capitals as the attraction centre of population, are not so well off and reflect in a magnified way a wide range of societal difficulties and painful adjustments: inner city decay, engendering a descending spiral of deprivation for their populations; deterioration of historic centres; excessive traffic densities; noise, air and soil pollution; shortage of good quality, affordable housing; social and health problems; high unemployment, particularly among younger people; unfamiliar and alien surroundings; neighbourhoods which have become unsafe and insecure through high levels of crime and delinquency, mostly drug-related.

Therefore, we are aware that it is one of the main responsibilities of the Administrations of our Capitals to meet the requirements of a decent and civilized life, considering the social and human rights of our citizens: protection from aggression; from pollution; from a difficult and disturbing urban environment; the right to exercise democratic control of their local community; the right to housing, health, cultural opportunity and mobility. Ensuring law and order and safeguarding freedom and democratic values shall be at the core of our activities.

5. The solution to the new challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century need a new approach, a new vision, development of appropriate strategies by the Capitals' Administrations, being aware that the lifestyle model of the Capital exerts a major influence on the development of other cities in the country. On the other hand, we realize that the overall urban progress will depend to great extent on the Capitals' mutual cooperation and mutual assistance, on their ability to build up an intensified and efficient working together.

To this end, we agreed upon to provide full support to the endeavours undertaken by the Black Sea Capitals' Association promoting networks of cooperation and exchange of expertise and information, twinings, contracts, cooperation with similar European organizations and non-governmental organizations.

6. In conformity with the Statute, the Governors and Mayors decided to hold the Second General Assembly of the Black Sea Capitals' Association in Athens in the second semestre of 2001.
7. The participants expressed thanks to the Offices of the Governor and Mayor of Ankara City for the excellent conditions provided to the meeting and for their warm hospitality.

*Adopted by the First General Assembly of the Black Sea Capitals' Association in Ankara on 6 September 2000.*

Mr. Yahya GÜR  
Governor of ANKARA

Mr. Melih GÖKÇEK  
Mayor of Greater ANKARA

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Mrs. Ekaterina  
ADAMOPOULOU-KOUTSOGIANNI  
Deputy Prefect of ATHENS

.....

Mr. Rafael ALLAHVERDIYEV  
Mayor of BAKU

.....

Mr. Ion IORDAN  
Prefect of BUCHAREST

.....

Mr. Cristian IFTIMOAIIE  
on behalf of the  
General Mayor of BUCHAREST  
Municipality

.....

Mr. Vladimir SARBAN  
Deputy Mayor of CHISINAU

.....

Mr. Kamer DİRİBAŞ  
Deputy Governor of Istanbul

.....

Mr. Mehmet DUMAN  
on behalf of the  
Lord Mayor of ISTANBUL  
Metropolitan Municipality

.....

Mr. Vladimir JALOVOY  
Deputy Mayor of KYIV

