FOREWORD

OPENING CEREMONY

The Tenth Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation was held in the Palace of the Republic, in Chisinau, on 9-11 December 1997, upon the invitation of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova.

The Opening Ceremony was addressed by H.E. Mr. Petru Lucinschi, the President of the Republic of Moldova, Mr. Dumitru Motpan, PABSEC President, President of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, while the message by Mr. Alexandr Arzoumanian, the BSEC Chairman-in-Office, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, was presented by Mr. Sergey Manassarian, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia.

PARTICIPATION

The General Assembly was attended by:

1. Speakers/Presidents of the Parliaments of Moldova and Romania (the Senate).

   Deputy Speakers of the Parliaments of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria and the Russian Federation (State Duma and Federation Council).

2. National delegations of the following Member Countries: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Greece, Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine.


5. Observers: Delegations of the People’s Assembly of Egypt and the Knesset of Israel.


7. PABSEC International Secretariat.
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. General debate:

The Speakers/Presidents of the Parliaments of the BSEC Participating States, heads of national delegations as well as the representative of the Knesset, as observer, and the representative of the Federal Assembly of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, as official guest, took part in the general debate.

2. Recommendations adopted by the General Assembly:

a) Recommendation 22/1997 on “The BSEC Free Trade Area: Part of the New European Architecture” (Doc GA 3456/97)

b) Recommendation 23/1997 on the” Harmonisation of Foreign Trade Regimes of the BSEC Participating States” (Doc GA 3466/97)

c) Recommendation 24/1997 on “Youth Cooperation in the Black Sea Region” (Doc GA 3471/97)

3. Reports approved by the General Assembly:


b) Report on the” Harmonisation of Foreign Trade Regimes of the BSEC Participating States” (Doc GA 3465/97)

c) Report on “Youth Cooperation in the Black Sea Region “ (Doc GA 3470/97)

d) Progress Report of the Bureau and the Standing Committee (Doc. BA 3565/97)

4. Decisions adopted by the General Assembly:


b) Decision 8/1997 on the setting up of the Budget Drafting and Auditing Committee (Doc.GA 3598/97)

c) Decision 9/1997 on the amendments to the Rules of Procedure (Doc.3742/97)

d) Decision 10/1997 on diversification of sources of revenue of the PABSEC budget (Doc.GA 3923/97)
5. Financial matters:

The Assembly adopted:

a) The Budget of the Assembly for the Financial Year 1998 (Doc.GA 3053/97)

b) Provisional Financial Regulations for the PABSEC Interntaional
   Secretariat (Doc.BA 3605/97) and instructed the PABSEC Legal anf Political
   Affairs Committee to prepare permanent Financial Regulations on the basis of
   the Provisional Financial Regulations with due regard to determining the status
   of the free financial resources.

The Assembly took note of the information presented by Mr. Dumitru Motpan,
PABSEC President, and Mr. Falk Kaytanci, Secretary General, on the Decision
and the results of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Standing Committee
(Doc.SC 3734/97), held in Istanbul, on 6 October 1997.

6. The Tenth Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC
   Participating States, Kyiv, 22 October 1997:

The Assembly considered the Background Paper prepared by the International
Secretariat (Doc.GA 3597/97).

During the debates on this issue, the participants welcomed the results of the Tenth
Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Participating States and
stressed the importance of the endorsement by the Ministers of the text of the Draft
Charter of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation to be signed
at the beginning of 1998 at the highest possible level.

The Assembly assessed that the Draft Charter sets a legal basis for the future
cooperation between the PABSEC and the BSEC. At the same time some
participants expressed dissatisfaction with the content of Article 20 of the Draft
Charter concerning the PABSEC, underlining the importance of the future BSEC-
PABSEC cooperation mechanism with a view to uniting the efforts of the
Parliaments and Governments in implementing the goals of the Black Sea
Cooperation process.

The Assembly adopted Decision 7/1997 on the ratification of the Charter of the
Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (Doc.GA 3785/97).


The Assembly took note of the Background paper prepared by the International
Secretariat (Doc.EC 3576/97).

8. The Ministerial Conference on European Union - Black Sea Region:
   Extending cooperation between two Key-Players in the World Energy
   Market, Bucharest, 28 November 1997 (GA 3909/97)

The General Assembly took note of the information presented by Mr. Theodoros
Kassimis, Chairman of the Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee, as well as of the Memorandum of the Conference and decided to include into the agenda of the forthcoming Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee the subject concerning the oil transportation from Central Asia to Europe via Black Sea.

9. New Credentials:

The Assembly ratified the credentials of the new PABSEC delegation of Albania as well as of the new members of the Turkish delegation (Doc.GA 3596 /97).

10. Revision of the PABSEC Rules of Procedure

The Assembly decided to place on the agenda of the forthcoming Legal and Political Affairs Committee Meeting the Revision of the PABSEC Rules of Procedure.

11. Rotation of the Presidency:

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure, starting with the end of the Tenth Plenary Session in Chisinau, on 11 December 1997, Mr. Petre Roman, President of the Senate of Romania, assumed the rotating six-month Presidency of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation.

12. The 1998 Spring Plenary Session of the General Assembly:

The Assembly decided that the 1998 Spring Plenary Session of the General Assembly will be held on 23-25 June 1998, in Bucharest.

STANDING COMMITTEE

The Tenth Meeting of the Standing Committee considered the following matters:

a) Activities of the Committees in the first half of 1998 (Doc. SC 3601/97)

The Standing Committee positively assessed the inclusion on the agenda of the three Committees in the first half of 1998 of the following subjects:

- Economic, Commercial, Technological, Environmental Affairs Committee: Creation of the Stock and Commodities Exchanges in the BSEC region

- Legal and Political Affairs Committee: Plan of Action for the Implementation of the BSEC Free Trade Area

- Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee: Cooperation of the Academic Communities of the BSEC member-countries and its Legal Framework.
b) The Parliamentary Conference on Sub-Regional Economic Cooperation Processes: A Contribution to the New European Architecture, Monaco, 8-10 October 1997 (Doc.SC 3603/97)

The Standing Committee took note of the Report of Mr. Theodoros Kassimisis, Chairman of the Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee on the “Parliamentary Conference on Sub-Regional Economic Processes: A Contribution to the new European Architecture”, held in Monaco on 8-10 October 1997, and organised by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the National Council of Monaco. The Standing Committee was informed on the participation of the PABSEC Delegation, headed by President Dumitru Motpan who chaired a session of the Conference, the report of Mr. Kassimisis, and the “Monaco Declaration: the Europe of Subregional Cooperation Processes” adopted by the participants of the Conference.

c) The Standing Committee took note of the information by Mr. Dumitru Motpan, PABSEC President, on the results of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Standing Committee.
Decision of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Standing Committee (Doc.SC 3734/97)

d) The Standing Committee took note of the relevant document (Doc. BA 3602/97) on the situation concerning the premises of the International Secretariat.

e) Receipt of Contributions to the 1997 Budget

The Standing Committee took note of the Background paper prepared by the International Secretariat (Doc.SC 3606/97).

f) The Background paper prepared by the International Secretariat on the PABSEC Fifth Anniversary (Doc.SC 3648/97) was approved.
At the same time, the Standing Committee recommended that the Bureau and the Committees submit proposals on the matter.

g) PABSEC Calendar 1998 (Doc. SC 3563/97) was adopted.

BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY:

a) Considered the reports concerning the participation by the PABSEC representatives in international gatherings in the second half of 1997;

b) Decided that the PABSEC President shall take decision on the participation by the PABSEC representatives in international gatherings scheduled between 1 January-31 July 1998 (Doc. BA 3616/97)
c) Assessed the confidential report by the Secretary General on the Staff Performance as not necessary and decided on the future pattern of the report (Doc.BA 3617/97)

d) Approved the following documents:
   - Proposal by the Treasurer on the Income Taxes of the Turkish Personnel (Doc.BA 3619/97)
   - Proposal by the Hellenic delegation that the position of Archivist be changed for the Research Officer (No. 2423, 04.12.97)
   - Matters of Procedure of the Tenth Plenary Session of the General Assembly (Doc.BA 3612/97)

e) - Decided on the expenses for the PABSEC representatives at International gatherings to be covered by the PABSEC.

f) - Gave instructions to the International Secretariat to study the issue of creation of the PABSEC-BSEC Internet home page together with the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat.

LEGAL AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:

Elections: Mr. Oleksandre Tkachenko, Head of the Ukrainian national delegation, was elected Chairman and Mr. Mubariz Gurbanov (Azerbaijan) was elected Vice-Chairman for two-year terms.