FOREWORD

OPENING CEREMONY

The Thirteenth Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation was held in Ankara, at the Turkish Grand National Assembly on 22-24 June 1999, upon the invitation of the Turkish Grand National Assembly.

The Opening Ceremony was addressed by Mr. Yıldırım Akbulut, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, President of the Turkish Grand National Assembly and by Mr. Grigoris Niotis, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic, representing the Chairman-in-Office of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation.

PARTICIPATION

The General Assembly was attended by:

1. *Speakers/Presidents* of the Parliaments of Albania, Bulgaria and Turkey.
2. *National delegations* of all the Member Countries: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine.
3. *Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation*: the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic, the representative of the BSEC Chairman-in-Office and the BSEC Secretary General.
5. *Observers*: Delegations of the People’s Assembly of Egypt and the Knesset of Israel.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. *Agenda*

   The General Assembly decided to include into the agenda of the 13th Plenary Session the additional item “Election of the Secretary General” as item 9.c of the agenda.

2. *General debate*.

   The General Debate was devoted to the parliamentary actions in support of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation process.
The Speakers/Presidents of the Parliaments of the BSEC Participating States, heads of national delegations, observers from the People’s Assembly of Egypt and the Knesset of Israel as well as the BSEC Secretary General and the BSTDB President took part in the general debate.

The participants in the debate stressed the role of the national parliaments as well as of the Parliamentary Assembly in the ratification process of the Charter of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, which has become a turning point in the consolidation of the cooperation among the Participating States.

The transformation of the BSEC into a full-fledged regional economic organisation has opened new prospects, highlighting new objectives and challenges for the Black sea region on the eve of the 21st century.

This new status requires also new approaches by the BSEC Parliamentary Assembly called upon to bring its substantial contribution to the multilateral economic cooperation process in the region, to the efforts undertaken by the Member Countries with a view to stimulate economic growth, strengthen the rule of law, ensure stability, prosperity and peace in the region. To this end, the Parliamentary Assembly has to elaborate strategies for its long-term development, to better define its place among other BSEC components. In this framework the members of the Parliamentary Assembly appreciated the Work Plan of the Committees, endorsed by the Standing Committee, which will provide better perspective of the PABSEC activities.

3. **Recommendations adopted by the General Assembly:**

   b) Recommendation 33/1999 on “The Black Sea Trade and Development Bank” (Doc. GA 6122/99)
   c) Recommendation 34/1999 on ”The Role of the PABSEC following the Yalta Summit” (Doc.GA 6143/99)
   d) Recommendation 35/1999 on “The Legal Framework for Combating Trafficking in People” (Doc. GA 6145/99)
   e) Recommendation 36/1999 on “The Legal Framework for the Social Protection of Pensioners in the BSEC Member Countries ” (Doc. GA 6133/99)

4. **Reports approved by the General Assembly:**

   a) Report on “Development of Tourism in the Black Sea Region” (Doc.GA 6119/99)
   b) Report on “The Black Sea Trade and Development Bank” (Doc.EC 6121/99)
   c) Report on the ”The Role of the PABSEC following the Yalta Summit” (Doc. GA 6142/99)
   d) Report on “The Legal Framework for Combating Trafficking in People” (Doc. GA 6144/99)
   f) Progress Report of the Bureau and the Standing Committee (Doc.GA 6256/99)
5. **Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation:**

The Assembly reviewed the main activities carried out by the BSEC during the last six months.

The participants assessed the results of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Participating States held on 30 April 1999 in Tbilisi. The 13th MMFA marked a significant step forward in terms of the institutionalisation of the BSEC. On this occasion the Inauguration Ceremony of the BSEC Charter took place. Furthermore, the Ministers signed the Additional Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation.

The members of the Parliamentary Assembly underlined the importance of the activities undertaken by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs in order to speed up economic cooperation process in the field of trade, transport and energy.

**The General Assembly considered the relevant documents concerning:**

a) The results of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, held on 30 April 1999 in Tbilisi (Doc.GA 6257/99);

b) The results of the BSEC Senior Officials Meeting, 28-29 April 1999, Tbilisi (Doc. SC 6282/99)

6. **Financial matters:**

The Assembly adopted the Auditing Report for the Financial Year 1998 (Doc. GA 6260/99)

7. **New Credentials:**

The Assembly ratified the credentials of the new PABSEC delegations of Armenia and Turkey as well as of a new member of the delegation of Moldova (Doc.GA 6254/98).

8. **Elections**

- **Vice-Presidents**

  The Assembly elected Mr. Alexandru Popovici (Romania), Mr. Yevgueny Salov (Russian Federation) and Mr. Salih Kapusuz (Turkey) as Vice-Presidents of the Assembly for a two years’ term.

- **Treasurer**

  The Assembly elected Mr. Ion Dediu (Moldova) as the Treasurer for a two years’ term.

- **Secretary General**

  The Assembly elected Mr. George Petricu as Secretary General. He will take over his functions starting with the 1st September 1999.

Election of the Deputy Secretary General on Organisational Matters and Deputy Secretary General on Administrative and Financial Matters will take place at the Fourteenth Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly in Kyiv on 7-9 December 1999.
9. Rotation of the Presidency:
In accordance with the Rules of Procedure, starting with the end of the Thirteenth Plenary Session in Ankara, on 24 June 1998, Mr. Olexander Tkachenko, Chairman of the Supreme Rada of Ukraine, assumed the rotating six-month Presidency of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation.

10. The 1999 Autumn Plenary Session of the General Assembly:
The Assembly decided that the 1999 Autumn Plenary Session of the General Assembly will be held on 8-9 December 1999, in Kyiv.

STANDING COMMITTEE

1. The Thirteenth Meeting of the Standing Committee positively assessed the inclusion on the agenda of the three Committees in the second half of 1999 of the following subjects:

   • Economic, Commercial, Technological, Environmental Affairs Committee:
     - "Trade development in the Black Sea region"
     - "Promotion and protection of investments in the Black Sea region"
   • Legal and Political Affairs Committee:
     - "Legal and political aspects of the transport systems integration process in the Black Sea region"
   • Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee:
     - "The Legal framework of child protection in the BSEC Countries"

The Standing Committee included an additional item on the agenda of the forthcoming meeting of the Economic, Commercial, Technological, Environmental Affairs Committee:

   • "Public utilities in the BSEC region"

2. The Standing Committee:
The Thirteenth meeting of the Standing Committee:

   • approved the following documents:
     a) Activities of the Committees in the second half of 1999 (Doc. SC 6284/99)
     b) Work Plan of the Committees (Doc.SC 6126/99)
     c) Auditing Report for the Financial Year of 1998 (Doc. GA 6260/99)
     d) Draft Budget for the Financial Year 2000 (Doc. GA 6285/99)
     e) Progress Report of the Bureau and Standing Committee (Doc.GA 6256/99)

   • endorsed the following documents:
     f) Draft Agenda (Doc.GA 6252/99) and Draft Order of Business (Doc. GA 6251/99) of the Thirteenth Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly
     g) Receipt of Contributions to the 1999 Budget (Doc.SC 6286/99)
     h) PABSEC Calendar 1999 (Doc.SC 5013/99)
3. *Took note of the reports concerning the participation by PABSEC representatives in international gatherings in the first half of 1999:*

a) Mr. Faik Kaytanci, Secretary General, in the first part of the 1999 Ordinary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, 25-29 January 1999, Strasbourg  (Doc. SC 6275/99)

b) Mr. Faik Kaytanci, Secretary General, in the Symposium on “The Black Sea Cooperation Zone”, organised by the International Diplomatic Academy, 12 February 1999, Paris (Doc. SC 6276/99)

c) PABSEC members in the Fifth Conference of the Mediterranean and the Black Sea regions, 25-27 February 1999, Marmaris - Turkey (Doc. SC 6278/99)

d) Mr. Michael Yemelianov, Chairman of the PABSEC Legal and Political Affairs Committee, in the Third Thematic Preparatory Meeting of the III-rd Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean (CSMC), 12-13 March 1999, Ljubljana (Doc. SC 6376/99)

e) Mr. Faik Kaytanci, Secretary General, in the 101st Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, 10-16 April 1999, Brussels (Doc. SC 6280/99)

f) Mr. Faik Kaytanci, Secretary General, in the First Part of the 45th Plenary Session of the Western European Union, 14-17 June 1999, Paris  (Doc. SC 6600/99)

g) Mr. Aslan Abbasov, Vice-Chairman of the Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee, in the 6th Plenary Session of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, 15-17 June 1999, Strasbourg  (Doc. SC6604/99)

**BSEC Meetings**


b) Ms. Natia Gaprindashvili, Secretary of the Legal and Political Affairs Committee, in the BSEC Working Group on Organisational Matters, 16-17 February 1999, Istanbul (Doc. LC 6277/99)

c) PABSEC members in the International-Round Table “Black Sea Economic Cooperation at the Turn of the 21st Century”, 9-10 March 1999, Tbilisi  (Doc. SC 6279/99)

d) Mr. Alexander Furman, Secretary of the Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee, in the BSEC Meeting for the preparation of the 13th MMFA, 23-24 March, Istanbul (Doc. SC 6377/99)

e) Mr. Alexey Kudriavtsev, Deputy Secretary General on Administrative and Financial Matters, in the BSEC Senior Officials Meeting, 28-29 April 1999, Tbilisi (Doc. SC 6282/99)

f) Mr. Karapet Rubian, PABSEC Vice-President, in the Thirteenth Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Participating States, 30 April 1999, Tbilisi  (Doc. SC 6281/99)
g) Mr. Blagovest Sendov, Chairman of the PABSEC Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee and Mr. Alexander Furman, Secretary of the Committee, in the Black Sea Universities Network Executive Board Meeting, 21-23 May 1999, Varna (Doc. SC 6563/99)

4. The Standing Committee decided to hold the Fourteenth Meeting on 7 December 1999, in Kyiv.

BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY:

The Nineteenth Meeting of the Bureau:

a) Approved the following documents:
   - Report on the execution of the Assembly’s budget (Doc.BA 6299/99)
   - Matters of Procedure of the Thirteenth Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly (Doc.BA 6289/99).

b) Endorsed the following documents:
   - Draft Agenda of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Standing Committee (Doc. SC 6274/98)
   - Examination of New Credentials (Doc.GA 6254/98).

c) Requested the PABSEC President to designate the PABSEC representatives attending the international gatherings scheduled between 1 July – 31 December 1999 (Doc. BA 6291/99).

d) The Bureau decided to hold the Twentieth Meeting on 7 December 1999, in Kyiv.

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At its meeting on 24 June 1999 in Ankara, the Bureau of the Assembly, in its new composition, decided:

a) To prolong the term of office of the Secretary of the Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee, Mr. Alexander Furman, until 31 December 1999.

b) To prolong the term of office of the Secretary of the Legal and Political Affairs Committee, Ms. Natia Gaprindashvili, for three years until 2 February 2003.

c) To instruct the International Secretariat to organise an examination for the vacant positions of the Secretary of the Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee and the Secretary of the Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee in November 1999.