FOREWORD

OPENING CEREMONY

The Fifteenth Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation was held in Tirana at the Parliament on 6-8 June 2000, upon the invitation of the Parliament of the Republic of Albania.

The Opening Ceremony was addressed by H.E. Mr. Rexhep Meidani, President of the Republic of Albania, Mr. Skender Gjinushi, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Albania, Ambassador Constantin Ene, special representative of the Chairman-in-Office of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, State-Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania, Mr. Petre Roman.

PARTICIPATION

The General Assembly was attended by:

1. *Speakers/Presidents* of the Parliaments of Albania and Armenia.

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 and Related Bodies*:
   - **BSEC**: Special representative of the BSEC Chairman-in-Office and the Deputy Secretary General of the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat
   - **Black Sea Trade and Development Bank**: President of the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank
   - **International Centre for Black Sea Studies**: General Director of the International Centre for Black Sea Studies.

4. *Observers*: Delegations of the People’s Assembly of Egypt, the European Parliament, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

5. *Guests*: The Parliamentary Assembly of the Belarus-Russia Union

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. General debate.

The General Debate was devoted to “The PABSEC Agenda for the New Millennium: new challenges, new approaches”.

Speakers/Presidents of the Parliaments of the PABSEC Member-Countries, heads of national delegations, representatives of the Organisation of the BSEC, Black Sea Trade and Development Bank, International Centre for the Black Sea Studies, observers from the People’s Assembly of Egypt, the European Parliament, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the representative of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Belarus-Russia Union as a guest took part in the General Debate.

The participants in the debate stressed that following the landmark event of the last year – the transformation of the BSEC into a full-fledged regional economic cooperation – the Parliamentary Assembly has intensified its efforts to bring substantial contribution to the attainment of the priority objectives of the regional cooperation in the Black Sea region. Increasing cooperation at bilateral and multilateral level in political, economic and cultural fields among the BSEC Member-States over the past six months clearly indicates their determination to make better use of the opportunities offered by the BSEC environment, paving the way towards enhancing stability and peace in the region and in Europe, as a whole. The Parliamentary Assembly welcomed the Summit Declaration of the Heads of State or Government of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation which gave a new impulse to the development of the multilateral economic cooperation as an effective tool of increasing confidence and security in the Black Sea region.

The participants emphasised the role of the Parliamentary Assembly as the parliamentary dimension of the BSEC, providing effective and close interaction among national parliaments and consistent support to the BSEC cooperation process with a view to stimulate economic development, strengthen the rule of law, ensure stability, prosperity and peace in the region.

PABSEC has joined the BSEC efforts and is shaping its agenda in accordance with the high level decisions and resolutions of the Council of Ministers.

To this end, in the first half of 2000 the Parliamentary Assembly has devoted its attention to the priority subjects: Promotion of Small and Medium Enterprises, Legislative Framework of Cooperation among Law-Enforcing, Customs and Immigration Authorities, Cooperation in the field of Public Health.

As for the second half 2000, the Parliamentary Assembly will focus on such topics as: Development of Communications, Legal framework for Combating Corruption and the Role of Mass Media in promoting cooperation in the Black Sea Region.

2. Recommendations adopted by the General Assembly:

a) Recommendation 42/2000 on “Promotion of Small and Medium Enterprises in the Black Sea Region” (Doc.GA15/EC14/REC42/00)

b) Recommendation 43/2000 on “Legislative Framework for Cooperation among Law-Enforcing, Customs and Immigration Authorities” (Doc.GA15/LC15/REC43/00)

c) Recommendation 44/2000 on “Cooperation in the field of public health among the BSEC Member-Countries” (Doc.GA15/CC14/REC44/00)

3. Reports approved by the General Assembly:
a) Report on “Promotion of Small and Medium Enterprises in the Black Sea Region”  
(Doc.GA15/EC14/REP/00)
(Doc.GA15/LC15/REP/00)
c) Report on “Cooperation in the field of public health among the BSEC Member-Countries”  
(Doc.GA15/CC14/REP/00)
d) Progress Report of the Bureau and the Standing Committee  
(Doc.GA15/PROG/00)

4. 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 underlined the significance of the results of the Second Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member-States, held on 27 April 2000 in Chisinau which contributed to furthering the BSEC’s aims and objectives and to increase its role in the international economic cooperation in interaction with other international organisations and sub-regional groupings.

The Second Meeting of the Council of Ministers pointed out the valuable contribution of the PABSEC to the BSEC process, appraised the emphasis of the PABSEC activities on the programs and projects of regional cooperation in the economic field, appreciated the involvement of the Parliamentary Assembly in the BSEC activities related to the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe.

The members of the Assembly underlined the importance of the activities undertaken by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs in order to speed up cooperation in the field of communications, science and technology, environment, small and medium enterprises, developing of the transportation network in the Black Sea PETrA.

The Parliamentary Assembly welcomed the high-level consultations between the BSEC and the European Commission, the BSEC’s determination to enhance cooperation with the European Union and the decision by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs regarding participation by the BSEC and the BSEC Related Bodies in the implementation of the Stability Pact.

The parliamentarians appreciated the Joint Statement adopted by the Fourth Meeting of the Ministers of Internal Affairs of the BSEC Member-States, on 28 April 2000 in Poiana Brasov – Romania, and the participation by the PABSEC representative in this meeting.  

The General Assembly considered the following documents:
- The Second Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member-States  
(Doc.GA15/REP/BSEC/MFA/00)
- The Fourth Meeting of the Ministers of Interior of the BSEC Member-States, 27-28 April 2000, Poiana Brasov – Romania  
(Doc.GA15/REP/BSEC/INT/00)

5. Financial matters:

The Assembly:

a) approved the Auditing Report for the Financial Year 1999  
(Doc.GA15/AUDR/00)

6. New Credentials:
The Assembly ratified the credentials of the new PABSEC delegations of Georgia, Greece and the Russian Federation (following the State Duma parliamentary elections), of the new Head of the Albanian PABSEC delegation and of a new member of the Russian delegation (Federation Council).

7. Rotation of the Presidency:

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure, starting with the end of the Fifteenth Plenary Session in Tirana, on 8 June 2000, Mr. Armen Khachatryan, Chairman of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, assumed the rotating six-month Presidency of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation.

8. The 2000 Autumn Plenary Session of the General Assembly:

The Assembly decided that the 2000 Autumn Plenary Session of the General Assembly will be held on 28-30 November 2000, in Yerevan.

The main subjects:

- **General Debate**: Consolidation of Democracy and the Rule of Law in the PABSEC Member Countries

- **Economic Affairs, Legal Affairs and Cultural Affairs**: Topics selected by the Committees and endorsed by the Standing Committee in Tirana

### STANDING COMMITTEE

1. **The Fifteenth Meeting of the Standing Committee** positively assessed the inclusion on the agenda of the three Committees, in the second half of 2000, of the following subjects:

   - Economic, Commercial, Technological, Environmental Affairs Committee:
     - “Development of Communications in the Black Sea Region”

   - Legal and Political Affairs Committee:
     - «Legal Framework for Combating Corruption»
     - «Headquarters Agreement between the PABSEC and the Turkish Authorities»
     - «Legal Status of the PABSEC and its relations with the BSEC»

   - Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee:
     - “The Role of Mass Media in Promoting Cooperation in the Black Sea Region”

2. **The Standing Committee**:

   The Fifteenth meeting of the Standing Committee:
   - included the changes in the Annex 1 of the Staff Regulations of the International Secretariat;
   - approved the following documents:
     - Training for the Secretaries of the PABSEC National Delegations
     - Receipt of contributions to the 2000 Budget
     - PABSEC Calendar 2000
   - endorsed the following documents
     - Auditing Report for the Financial Year 1999
     - Draft Budget for the Financial Year 2001
c) Progress Report of the Bureau and Standing Committee  (Doc.GA15/PROG/00)

d) Draft Agenda (Doc. GA15/AG/00) and Draft Order of Business  
(Doc. GA15/OBS/00) of the Fifteenth Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly

- took note of the Background paper on Lawsuit against the PABSEC International Secretariat by Mr. Faik Kaytanci  (Doc. BA21/FM2/00)

3. **The Standing Committee took note of the reports concerning the participation by the PABSEC representatives in** international gatherings in the first half of 2000:

   **A - International Meetings**

   a) Mr. Theodori Bej, member of the PABSEC Economic Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee, in the Working Table I on Democratisation and Human Rights within the framework of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, 21-22 February 2000, Budapest  (Doc. SC15/REP/STAB/00)

   b) Mrs. Julia Yaneva, member of the PABSEC Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee, in the Forum on Decentralisation, Democracy and Stability, 23-24 February 2000, Bucharest  (Doc. SC15/REP/CE/00)

   c) Mr. George Petricu, PABSEC Secretary General, in the Symposium on Cooperation in the Black Sea Area, 28-29 February 2000, Paris  (Doc. SC15/REP/IDA/00)

   d) Mr. Alexandru Popovici, PABSEC Vice-President, in the Third Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean, 30 March-3 April 2000, Marseille  (Doc. SC15/REP/CSCM/00)

   e) Mr. Mehmet Gül, Head of the Turkish PABSEC delegation, in the Meeting of the Extended Bureau of the OSCE PA and Mrs. Natia Gaprindashvili, Secretary of the PABSEC Legal and Political Affairs Committee, in the Seminar on New Risks and Challenges: Minorities in the 21st Century, 12-13 April 2000, Antalya  (Doc.SC15/REP/OSCEPA/00)

   f) Mr. Viorel Pana, member of the PABSEC Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee, in the First Interregional Meeting on Cooperation in the Black Sea Basins, 14-15 April 2000 Constantza – Romania  (Doc. SC15/REP/CRPM/00)

   g) Mr. Skender Gjinushi, PABSEC President, in the 103rd Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, 30 April-4 May 2000, Amman  (Doc.SC15/REP/PACE/00)

   h) Mr. Skender Gjinushi, PABSEC President, in the Conference of Speakers and Presidents of the European Parliamentary Assemblies, 5-6 May 2000, Strasbourg  (Doc. SC15/REP/IPU/00)

   **B - BSEC Meetings**

   a) Mrs. Natia Gaprindashvili, Secretary of the PABSEC Legal and Political Affairs Committee, in the BSEC Working Group on Organisational Matters, 23-24 February 2000, Istanbul  (Doc. SC15/REP/BSEC/WGORG/00)

   b) Ms. Panagiota Manoli, Secretary of the PABSEC Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee, in the BSEC Working Group on Communications, 29 February-1 March 2000, Chisinau
C – Other Meetings

a) Mr. Alexandru Popovici, PABSEC Vice-President, in the meeting with Mr. Soren Christensen, Secretary General of the Nordic Council of Ministers, Bucharest, 27 March 2000

b) Ms. Panagiota Manoli, Secretary of the Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee, in the 5th Meeting of the Black Sea Commission, 27-28 April 2000, Istanbul

c) Mr. George Petricu, the PABSEC Secretary General and Ms. Panagiota Manoli, Secretary of the Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee, in the 3rd Annual Conference A Tale of Three Seas, Istanbul, 9-11 May 2000, Istanbul

D – Elections Monitoring

a) Mr. Olexander Charodeyev, PABSEC Vice-President, in monitoring the Parliamentary Elections, Russian Federation, 12-24 December 1999

b) Mr. Ion Dediu, member of the Bureau, Head of the Moldovan PABSEC Delegation, monitoring the Presidential Elections in the Russian Federation, 23-27 March 2000, Moscow

E – Working Visits

a) Mr. George Petricu, Secretary General, to Tirana, on 7-9 March 2000, for the preparation of the 15th Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly
4. The Standing Committee decided to hold the Sixteenth Meeting on 28 November 2000, in Yerevan.

BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY:

The Twenty First Meeting of the Bureau:

a) Approved the following documents:

- Matters of Procedure of the Fifteenth Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly  
  (Doc.BA21/MP/00)

- Report by the Treasurer on the execution of the Assembly’s budget  
  (Doc.BA21/EXE/00)

- Decisions of the Bureau  
  (Doc. BA21/DEC/00)

- Participation by the PABSEC Representatives in the International Gatherings between 9 June – 28 November 2000  
  (Doc. BA21/GATH/00)

Requested the PABSEC President to designate the PABSEC representatives attending the international gatherings scheduled between 9 June – 28 November 2000  
  (Doc.BA 21/GATH/00)

b) Took note of the following documents:

- Income taxes for the Turkish personnel  
  (Doc.BA21/FM1/00)

- Decision of the Members of the Bureau of November 1995 concerning the net salary of the Secretary General  
  (Doc. BA21/FM4/00)

- Determination of the Researcher-Archivist’s salary  
  (Doc. BA21/RA/00)

- Lawsuit against the PABSEC International Secretariat by Mr. Faik Kaytanci  
  (Doc.BA21/FM2/00)

- The payment of retirement premiums of the Personnel and relevant changes in the staff Regulations  
  (Doc. BA21/STAF/00)

Requested the Legal and Political Affairs Committee to place on the agenda of its 16th meeting the following subjects:

- Payment of the income taxes for the Turkish personnel
- Retirement premiums of the staff of the International Secretariat

c) Endorsed the following documents:

- Draft Agenda of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Standing Committee  
  (Doc. SC15/AG/00)

- Examination of New Credentials  
  (Doc.GA15/CRED/00)

d) The Bureau decided to hold the Twenty Second Meeting on 28 November 2000, in Yerevan.
Istanbul, 15 June 2000

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