PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

PABSEC

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

Istanbul, 20 December 2000

FOREWORD

OPENING CEREMONY

The Sixteenth Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation was held in Yerevan on 28-30 November 2000 upon the invitation of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia.

The General Assembly was opened by Mr. Armen Khachatryan, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, Chairman of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia. The message to the Sixteenth General Assembly by H.E. Mr. Robert Kocharyan, President of the Republic of Armenia, was presented by Mr. Khachatryan. The message to the participants in the Plenary Session by Mr. Igor Ivanov, Chairman-in-Office of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, was presented by the Ambassador of the Russian Federation in Armenia.

PARTICIPATION

The General Assembly was attended by:

1. The Chairman of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, the Vice-Chairman of the National Assembly of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and the Vice-Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia.


3. Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and Related Bodies:
   - BSEC: the representative of the BSEC Chairman-in-Office and the Deputy Secretary General of the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat.
   - International Centre for Black Sea Studies: Alternate Director General of the ICBSS

4. Observers: Delegations of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Assembly of Western European Union, Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Member-Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States

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

6. PABSEC International Secretariat.
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. General debate.

The General Debate was devoted to the “Consolidation of Democracy and the Rule of Law in the PABSEC Member-Countries”.

Vice-Presidents of the National Parliaments attending the meeting, heads of national delegations, representatives of the Organisation of the BSEC and International Centre for the Black Sea Studies, observers from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Assembly of Western European Union, Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Member-Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States, took part in the General Debate.

The participants in the debate stressed the progress made by the newly emerging democracies along the road of parliamentarianism and expressed full support to the measures undertaken by the PABSEC Member-Countries in order to ensure a genuine democracy and the rule of law, which represents a vital need for a wide, solid and mutually advantageous cooperation in the Black Sea area. It was stressed that truly democratic principles could have been established only within a society with decentralized economy, using effective mechanisms against monopolistic tendencies in every sphere of life. Decentralisation of control over the main institutions of the state had a positive impact on the process of strengthening democratic principles.

Within this framework, the Parliamentary Assembly expressed its concern that corruption is increasingly undermining the rule of law and strikes at the comprehensive development of the countries in the region. Given the paramount responsibility of the parliamentarians in fighting corruption, the participants supported the actions undertaken by the PABSEC in working out and adopting recommendations, calling upon national parliaments and governments to elaborate and improve national law-enforcement and anti-corruption legislative framework, with due regard to the globally recognised standards and norms.

The participants also emphasised the role of the Parliamentary Assembly and its members in safeguarding and promoting the basic principles of democracy, pluralism, rule of law and human rights, boosting their efforts to build a modern and prosperous society – a society open to the universal values – thus giving a strong impetus to the cooperation process in the Black Sea area.

In this context, the participants underlined the importance of the close cooperation with other similar international organizations, particularly with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe to which all the PABSEC Member-Countries are now full-fledged members.

The delegates warmly welcomed the very first participation by the PABSEC Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan in a meeting held in Yerevan as a significant trend towards strengthening friendship and cooperation in the region and increasing the role of the Parliamentary Assembly within the framework of the BSEC Organisation.

2. Recommendations adopted by the General Assembly:

a) Recommendation 45/2000 on “Development of Communications in the Black Sea Region” (Doc. GA16/EC15/REC45/00)

b) Recommendation 46/2000 on ”Legislative Framework for Combating Corruption” (Doc. GA16/LC16/REC46/00)
c) Recommendation 47/2000 on “The Role of Mass Media in Promoting Cooperation in the Black Sea Region” (Doc.GA16/CC15/REC47/00)

d) Recommendation 48/2000 on organisation of “The Children and Youth Festival of the BSEC Member-States” (Doc. GA16/REC48/ICYF-BSEC/00)

3. Reports approved by the General Assembly:

a) Report on “Development of Communications in the Black Sea Region” (Doc.GA16/EC15/REP/00)

b) Report on “Legislative Framework for Combating Corruption” (Doc.GA16/LC16/REP/00)

c) Legal Status of the PABSEC and its Relationship with the BSEC (Doc. GA16/BP/BSEC/00)

d) Report on “The Role of Mass Media in Promoting Cooperation in the Black Sea Region” (Doc.GA16/CC15/REP/00)

e) Report of the Sub-committee of “The Black Sea Cultural Alliance” on “The Children and Youth Festival of the BSEC Member-Countries” (Doc.GA16/REP/CYF/00)

f) Progress Report of the Bureau and the Standing Committee (Doc.GA16/PROG/00)

4. Other documents approved by the General Assembly:

a) Application by the National Council of the Slovak Republic for an observer status with the PABSEC (Doc. GA16/BP/SLK/00)

b) Draft Additional Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation

c) Draft Headquarters Agreement between the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the Turkish authorities.

d) Declaration on “The First General Assembly of the Black Sea Capitals Association” (Doc. GA16/BSCA/00)

e) Decision 13/2000 on the languages of the Assembly (Doc. GA16/DEC13/00)

f) Decision 14/2000 on organisation of the Children and Youth Festival of the BSEC Member-States (Doc. GA16/DEC14/CYF/00)

g) Address of the 16th PABSEC General Assembly to the Organisation of the BSEC (Doc. GA16/ADD/CA/00)

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 underlined the significance of the results of the Third Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member-States, held on 20 October 2000 in Bucharest, 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 Third Meeting of the Council of Ministers underscored the creative potential of the BSEC parliamentary dimension and instructed the PERMIS to make the appropriate arrangements with the PABSEC International Secretariat aimed at attaining coherency of actions in the matters of mutual concern and promoting the increasing involvement of the national parliaments and the Parliamentary Assembly in the overall development of the multilateral cooperation in the Black Sea region, mainly through: enacting legislation supporting implementation of the BSEC projects; harmonizing of legislation aimed at
speeding up economic integration in the region; monitoring ratification of multilateral documents adopted by the Council of Ministers.

The Council also welcomed the establishment of the Black Sea Capitals' Association as a contribution of the local authorities of the Member States to the BSEC endeavors, as well as the adoption of the Ankara Declaration by the first General Assembly of the Association, held on 5-6 September 2000 in Ankara, under the PABSEC auspices.

The members of the Parliamentary Assembly stressed the importance of the activities undertaken by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs in order to speed up economic cooperation process. They also welcomed the Decision of the Council of Ministers on the BSEC Agenda for the Future. The particular importance attached by the Parliamentary Assembly to this issue was clearly illustrated by the fact that all three Committees debated this subject during their Autumn 2000 meetings. The proposals by the Parliamentary Assembly are mainly focusing on the PABSEC's involvement in the implementation of the Agenda, the harmonisation of legislation, sustainable development, democracy and the rule of law, institutionalisation of the PABSEC- BSEC cooperation, social and cultural development, local governance, cooperation with the European Parliamentary Assemblies.

The parliamentarians appreciated the bilateral political dialogue and the contacts aimed at institutionalisation of the BSEC – EU relationship, the practical steps taken for consolidation of the BSEC observer status with the UN, and the participation of the BSEC and its related bodies in the implementation of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe.

The message by Mr. Ersoy Volkan, President of the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank, was presented by the PABSEC Secretary General.

The General Assembly considered the following documents:

- The Third Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member-States, 20 October 2000, Bucharest (Doc.GA16/REP/BSEC/MFA/00)
- BSEC Economic Agenda for the Future (Doc.GA16/BP/BSEC/AG/00)

6. Financial matters:

The Assembly:
   a) adopted the Budget of the Assembly for the Financial Year 2001 (Doc.GA16/BUDG/00)
   b) set up the Budget Drafting and Auditing Committee composed of the representatives of Albania, Turkey and Ukraine (Doc.GA16/BP/AUDC/00)

7. New Credentials:

The Assembly ratified the credentials of two new members in the Armenian delegation and of the Head and three new members of the delegation of Ukraine (Doc.GA16/CRED/00)

8. Elections:

   • Election of a Vice-President of the Assembly

   The Assembly elected Mr. Yashar ALIYEV, Head of the Azerbaijani PABSEC Delegation, as PABSEC Vice-President for 2 years' term of office.

   • Completion of the mandate of a previous Vice-President of the Assembly
The Assembly designated Mr. Adnan Uças, member of the Turkish PABSEC Delegation, as PABSEC Vice-President to complete the remaining six months’ mandate of the former Vice-President, Mr. Salih Kapusuz.

9. Rotation of the Presidency:

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure, starting with the end of the Sixteenth Plenary Session in Yerevan, on 30 November 2000, Mr. Murtuz Aleskerov, Chairman of the National Assembly of Republic of Azerbaijan, assumed the six-months’ term Presidency of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of Black Sea Economic Cooperation.

10. The 2001 Spring Plenary Session of the General Assembly:

The Assembly decided that the 2001 Spring Plenary Session of the General Assembly will be held on 19-21 June 2001, in Baku.

The main subjects:

- **General Debate**: Strengthening of Stability in the Black Sea Region and the PABSEC Contribution
- **Environmental Affairs, Legal Affairs and Social Affairs**: Topics selected by the Committees and endorsed by the Standing Committee in Yerevan, mentioned below under the chapter of Standing Committee

STANDING COMMITTEE

1. **The Sixteenth Meeting of the Standing Committee** positively assessed the inclusion on the agenda of the three Committees, in the first half of 2001, of the following subjects:

- Economic, Commercial, Technological, Environmental Affairs Committee:
  - "**Black Sea Environmental protection: New Challenges**"
- Legal and Political Affairs Committee:
  - "**Cooperation among the PABSEC countries in strengthening the Rule of Law**"
- Cultural Educational and Social Affairs Committee:
  - "**Legal framework of the protection of Migrant Workers in the Black Sea countries and the relations between Immigrant Communities and the Host Country**"

2. **The Sixteenth Meeting of the Standing Committee**:

- **approved** the following documents:
  - Receipt of Contributions to the Budget 2000 (**Doc.SC16/CONT/00**)
  - PABSEC Calendar 2001 (**Doc.SC16/CAL/00**)

- **endorsed** the following documents:
  - Application by the National Council of the Slovak Republic for an observer status with the PABSEC (**Doc. GA16/BP/SLK/00**)
  - Progress Report of the Bureau and Standing Committee (**Doc. GA16/PROG/00**)
  - Draft Agenda (**Doc.GA16/AG/00**) and Draft Order of Business (**Doc.GA16/OB/00**) of the Sixteenth Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly
3. *The Standing Committee took note of the reports* concerning the participation by PABSEC representatives in international gatherings in the second half of 2000:

**A – International Meetings**

a) Mr. Armen Khachatryan, PABSEC President and Mr. Salih Kapusuz, PABSEC Vice-President, in the 15th Plenary Session of the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Member-Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States, 13 June 2000, Saint-Petersburg (Doc.SC16/REP/IPACIS15/00)

b) Mr. Armen Khachatryan, PABSEC President, in the Third Part of the Ordinary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, 26-30 June 2000, Strasbourg (Doc.SC16/REP/PACE/00)

c) Mr. Kastriot Islami, Head of the Albanian PABSEC Delegation, in the 48th NATO Parliamentary Assembly Rose-Roth Seminar, 26-30 June 2000, Ohrid (FYROM) (Doc.SC16/REP/NATOPA48/00)

d) Mr. Alexandru Popovici, PABSEC Vice-President, in the 9th Annual Session of the OSCE PA, 6-10 July 2000, Bucharest (Doc.SC16/REP/OSCEPA/00)

e) Mr. Armen Khachatryan, PABSEC President, Chairman of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, in the Conference of Presiding Officers of National Parliaments on the eve of the Millennium Summit of the United Nations' General Assembly, 30 August-1 September 2000, New-York (Doc.SC16/REP/UN/OO)

f) Mr. Kastriot Islami, Head of the PABSEC Albanian Delegation, in the Ordinary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, 25-29 September 2000, Strasbourg (Doc.SC16/REP/PACE/00)

g) Mr. Ioannis Tsaklidis, member of the PABSEC Hellenic Delegation, in the OSCE PA Seminar on “Organised crime and Corruption”, 4-5 October 2000, Limassol (Doc.SC16/REP/OSCEPA/00)

h) Mr. Sergey Shirokov, member of the PABSEC Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee, in the 49th NATO PA Rose-Roth Seminar, 12-14 October 2000, Copenhagen (Doc.SC16/REP/NATOPA49/00)

i) Mr. Salih Kapusuz, PABSEC Vice-President, in the 104th Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, 15-20 October 2000, Jakarta (Doc.SC16/REP/IPU/00)

j) Mrs. Julia Yaneva, member of the Bulgarian PABSEC delegation in the 6th Conference on Sustainable Development of the Mediterranean and Black Sea Basins of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, 19-21 October 2000, Varna (Doc.SC16/REP/CMBSR/00)

k) Mr. Matei Agathon Dan, Vice-Chairman 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, 26-27 October, Bucharest (Doc.SC16/REP/STAB/00)

**B – BSEC Meetings**

a) Mrs. Naira Khnkoyan, Secretary of the PABSEC Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee, in the 1st International Congress of the Black Sea Universities Network, 5-8 July 2000, Istanbul (Doc.SC16/REP/BSEC/BSUN/00)

b) Mr. Olexander Charodeyev, PABSEC Vice-President, in the International Conference “Business opportunities in the BSEC Region”, 7-10 September 2000, Yalta (Doc.SC16/REP/BSEC/CONF/00)

c) Mr. Alexandru Popovici, PABSEC Vice-President, and Mr. George Petricu, Secretary General, in the Third Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC
Member-States, 20 October, 2000, and the PABSEC Secretary General, in the Meeting of the BSEC Committee of the Senior Officials, 18-19 October 2000, Bucharest (Doc.GA16/REP/BSEC/MFA/00)

C – Other Meetings

a) Mr. Salih Kapusuz, PABSEC Vice-President, in the 4th Saint-Petersburg Economic Forum, 14-17 June 2000, Saint-Petersburg (Doc.SC16/REP/SPEF/00)

b) Mr. Salih Kapusuz, PABSEC Vice-President, and Mr. George Petricu, Secretary General, in the First General Assembly of the Black Sea Capitals' Association, 5-6 September 2000, Ankara (Doc.SC16/REP/BSCA/00)

c) Ms. Panagiota Manoli, Secretary of the PABSEC Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee, in the Halki International Conference «Shaping Europe's Future», 6-13 September 2000, Halki – Greece (Doc. SC16/REP/ICBSS/00)

d) Mr. Aslan Abbasov, Vice-Chairman of the PABSEC Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee, in the Third Eurasia Economic Summit, 1-3 November 2000, Istanbul (Doc.SC16/REP/EES/00)

e) Mr. Gagik Tadevosyan, Member of the PABSEC Armenian Delegation, in the International Scientific and Practical Conference of the IPACIS, 14-15 November 2000, Saint-Petersburg (Doc. SC16/REP/IPACIS/00)

D – Elections Monitoring

a) Mr. Yevgeny Salov and Alexander Charodeyev, PABSEC Vice-Presidents, in monitoring the Parliamentary Elections in the Republic of Belarus on 15 October, and Mr. Alexander Charodeyev – on 29 October 2000, Minsk (Doc. SC16/REP/BEL/00)

The Standing Committee decided to forward the reports by the PABSEC representatives to the Presidents of the OSCE PA and the European Parliament.

E – Working Visits

a) Mr. George Petricu, PABSEC Secretary General, to Yerevan, on 23-24 August 2000, for the preparation of the 16th Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly (Doc. SC16/REP/AR/00)

4. The Standing Committee decided to hold the Seventeenth Meeting on 19 June 2001, in Baku.

BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY:

The Twenty Second Meeting of the Bureau:

a) Approved the following documents:
   - Report by the Treasurer on the execution of the Assembly’s budget (Doc.BA22/EXE/00)
   - Matters of Procedure of the Sixteenth Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly (Doc.BA22/MP/00)
   - Decisions of the Bureau (Doc. BA22/DEC/STAFF/00 and Doc. BA22/DEC/RA/00)
   - Participation by the PABSEC Representatives in the International Gatherings between 1 December 2000 – 8 June 2001 (Doc. BA22/GATH/00)

   Requested the PABSEC President to designate the PABSEC representatives attending the international gatherings scheduled between 1 December 2000 – 8 June 2001

b) Endorsed the following documents:
   - Draft Agenda of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Standing Committee (DocSC16/AG/00)
• Examination of New Credentials (Doc.GA16/CRE/00)
c) The Bureau decided to hold the Twenty-Third Meeting on 19 June 2001, in Baku.

SUPPLEMENTARY MEETING OF THE LEGAL AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The supplementary meeting in Yerevan on 28 November 2000 within the framework of the 16th Legal and Political Affairs Committee decided to consider the two items regarding the payment of the income taxes and payment of the retirement premiums at the 17th Meeting of the Committee in Athens on 18-19 April 2001.

At the same time, the Committee decided to forward for the consideration of the General Assembly the item concerning the translation of the PABSEC documents at the 16th General Assembly in Yerevan on 29-30 November 2000 with due regard to the proposals by the national delegations of Romania and Turkey.

SUPPLEMENTARY MEETING OF THE CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The meeting was held on 28 November 2000 at 12:00 hours.

The Committee worked out the draft Recommendation 48/2000 on organisation of “The Children and Youth Festival of the BSEC Member-States” (Doc. GA16/REC48/CYF/00) and decided to submit it to the General Assembly.