OPENING CEREMONY

The Eighteenth Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation was held in Sofia on 4-6 December 2001 upon the invitation of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria.

The General Assembly was opened by Mr. Ognian GERDJIJKOV, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria. H.E. Mr. Simeon SAXE-COBURG-GOTHA, Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria, addressed the General Assembly. The message to the participants in the Plenary Session by Mr. Anatoliy ZLENKO, Chairman-in-Office of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, was presented by the Ambassador Olexander MOTSYK, Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.

PARTICIPATION

The General Assembly was attended by:

1. The Chairman of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria.
2. National delegations of all Member Countries: Albania, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Bulgaria, Georgia, the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and Ukraine.

3. Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and Related Bodies:
   - BSEC: the representative of the BSEC Chairman-in-Office and the Secretary General of the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat.
   - Black Sea Trade and Development Bank: Secretary General of the BSTDB
   - International Centre for Black Sea Studies: Director General of the ICBSS

4. Observers:

   National Parliaments: Delegations of the German Bundestag, the Knesset of Israel, the National Council of the Slovak Republic.

   Parliamentary Assemblies: Representatives of the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

   Guests: the National Assembly of Belarus, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Belarus-Russia Union, the Black Sea Universities Network and the Black Sea Region Association of Shipbuilders and Shiprepairers.

5. PABSEC International Secretariat.
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. General debate:

The General Debate was devoted to “Globalisation and the Black Sea Region’s Challenges”.

Heads of national delegations, the representative of the International Centre for Black Sea Studies, observers from the German Bundestag, the Knesset of the State of Israel, the National Council of the Slovak Republic, the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly as well as guest representatives of the National Assembly of Belarus and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Belarus-Russia Union took part in the General Debate.

The participants underlined the high degree of improvement in human standards in those countries which have taken advantage of the opportunities it provides, the accelerated integration of previously marginalised societies.

But the speakers also stressed that globalisation brings with itself not only new opportunities but also new challenges, given the fragmentation of a globalised world and the clash between the identity ambitions and frustration with the modern and global order within an era of high technology. These threats and challenges could be overcome only by leaving the field of highly emotional cultural conflicts and developing a strategy of common projects - first and foremost of an economic nature - a strategy based on the solidarity of interests. This is exactly what BSEC and its Parliamentary Assembly is trying to achieve.

Economic development and education are two therapies that could cure the Black Sea area diseases. But we must say that today the access to the world property which implies the sharing of the modern technologies implies openness, respect for pluralism and diversity, transparency and accountability.

Globalisation is somehow undermining democracy at the level of the nation state as a result of creating trans-governmental decision making systems, effectively escaping the control of any single nation state. Consequently, in order to avoid the development at international bureaucratic structures lacking democratic legitimacy, a system of a global subsidiary must be put in motion and the role of parliamentarians at the international level should increase, thus moving closer to the citizens the decision making process. Here lies the importance of the parliamentary dimension of international organisations as guarantor of democratic input in the activities of such institutions. The Parliamentary Assembly of the BSEC plays an important role in providing such democratic input.

The Director General of the International Centre for Black Sea Studies, Mr. Yannis Papanikolaou expressed the intention to host a common meeting of representatives of the PABSEC, the European Parliament, the OSCE PA, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the IPACIS.
2. **Recommendations adopted by the General Assembly:**

   a) Recommendation 54/2001 on “Promoting Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development”  
      *(Doc.GA18/EC17/RECS4/01)*

   b) Recommendation 55/2001 on “Cooperation among the PABSEC Member-Countries in promoting Political Stability through Economic Integration”  
      *(Doc.GA18/LC18/RECS5/01)*

   c) Recommendation 56/2001 on “Black Sea Universities Network: Contribution to the BSEC Academic Cooperation”  
      *(Doc.GA18/CC17/RECS6/01)*

   d) Recommendation 57/2001 on “The Second General Assembly of the Black Sea Capitals’ Association”  
      *(Doc.GA18/RECS7/01)*

   e) Recommendation 58/2001 on the organisation of the Children and Youth Festival of the BSEC Member-States  
      *(Doc.GA18/RECS8/CYF/01)*

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

   a) Report on “Promoting Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development”  
      *(Doc.GA18/EC17/REP/01)*

   b) Report on “Cooperation among the PABSEC Member-Countries in promoting Political Stability through Economic Integration”  
      *(Doc.GA18/LC18/REP/01)*

   c) Report on “Black Sea Universities Network: Contribution to the BSEC Academic Cooperation”  
      *(Doc.GA18/CC17/REP/01)*

   d) Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly  
      *(Doc. GA18/PROG/01)*

4. **Other documents and proposals approved by the General Assembly:**

   a) “Declaration on Combating International Terrorism”

   The Declaration expresses the firm stand of the Assembly in supporting the Resolution No. 1373 of the UN Security Council and the Statement on Joint Measures in Combating International Terrorism, which was adopted by the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs during its fifth Meeting in Antalya.

   b) The Assembly approved the Proposal for the “Public Radio Broadcasters of the BSEC Member – States” to be included in the project agreed upon by the Public Television Broadcasters at their Meeting on 26-27 May 2001, in Bucharest.

5. **Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation:**

   The Assembly reviewed the main activities carried out by the BSEC during the last six months. Members of the national delegations and the representatives of the Organisation of the BSEC, the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank and the Black Sea Region Association of Shipbuilders and Shiprepairers took part in the debate.
The Fifth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, held on 26 October 2001, in Antalya, represented a landmark in strengthening the legal status of the Parliamentary Assembly.

The Assembly welcomed the decision of the Council to adopt the “Protocol Concerning the Privileges and Immunities of the PABSEC” which is going to be signed by the Member-States and then forwarded to the National Parliaments for ratification. This is the first ever legally binding international agreement related to the PABSEC.

The participants appreciated the substantial contribution of the Turkish BSEC Chairmanship in working out the final version of the “Host-Country Agreement” between the Organisation of the BSEC and the Government of the Republic of Turkey for the International Secretariat of the PABSEC, which covers the status of the International Secretariat and its Premises in Istanbul.

The Assembly underlined the importance of the endorsement by the Fifth Meeting of the Council of Ministers, of the Declaration on Small and Medium – Sized Enterprises at the Dawn of the 21st Century as well as of the involvement of the PABSEC in drawing up the document.

The Secretary General of the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank, Mr. Charalampos TSAROUCHAS addressed the Assembly on the activities of the BSTDB.

The Representative of the Black Sea Region Association of the Shipbuilders and Shiprepairers addressed the Assembly on the major issues related to the field of Shipbuilding and Shiprepairing and on the need of drafting general directions and governmental policies in the sphere by the BSEC states.

The General Assembly endorsed the following Documents:

a) The “Protocol Concerning the Privileges and Immunities of the PABSEC”

b) Statement by the 18th PABSEC Legal and Political Affairs Committee concerning the terrorist attacks on the United States on 11 September 2001
   (Doc.GA18/LC18/STAT/01)

The General Assembly considered the following Documents:

a) Report on “The Fifth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member-States”
   (Doc.GA18/REP/BSEC/MFA/01)

b) The Background Paper on the “Meeting of the Ministers Responsible for SMEs of the BSEC Member – States”
   (Doc.GA18/BP/BSEC/IND/01)

6. Financial matters:

The Assembly:

a) adopted the Budget of the Assembly for the Financial Year 2002
   (Doc. GA18/BUDG/01)

b) set up the Budget Drafting and Auditing Committee consisting of the representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Bulgaria.

7. New Credentials:

The Assembly ratified the credentials of the new PABSEC delegations from Albania and Bulgaria as well as the new members of the delegations of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania and Turkey. (Doc.GA18/CRED/01)
8. **Rotation of the Presidency:**
   In accordance with the Rules of Procedure, starting with the end of the Eighteenth Plenary Session in Sofia, on 6 December 2001, the Chairperson of the National Assembly of Georgia assumed the six-months’ term Presidency of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation of Black Sea Economic Cooperation.

9. **The 2002 Spring Plenary Session of the General Assembly:**
   The Assembly decided that the 2002 Spring Plenary Session of the General Assembly will be held on 4-6 June 2002, in Tbilisi.

   The main subjects:
   - **General Debate:** “BSEC: Ten years Anniversary”
   - **Economic Affairs, Legal Affairs and Social Affairs:** Topics selected by the Committees and endorsed by the Standing Committee in Sofia, mentioned below under the chapter of Standing Committee

10. **Calendar 2002 (Doc. SC18/CAL/01)**
    The General Assembly endorsed the decision of the Standing Committee to organise under the PABSEC auspices the ‘Third General Assembly of the Black Sea Capitals’ Association” in the first half of May 2002 in Baku and the “Second Meeting of the Public Broadcasters from the PABSEC Member – Countries” in May 2002, in Athens.

### STANDING COMMITTEE

1. **The Eighteenth Meeting of the Standing Committee** positively assessed the inclusion on the agenda of the three Committees, in the first half of 2002, of the following subjects:

   Economic, Commercial, Technological, Environmental Affairs Committee:
   - “Economic Integration in the BSEC region: Current State and Future Prospects”

   Legal and Political Affairs Committee:
   - “Globalisation: Challenges and Prospects for the PABSEC Member-States”
   - Additional subjects:
   - “Political and Legal Consequences of elaboration of a PABSEC Statute”

   Cultural Educational and Social Affairs Committee:
   - “Women’s participation in the Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Life”

2. **The Eighteenth Meeting of the Standing Committee:**
   - **approved** the following documents:
     a) Activities of the Committees in the first half of 2002 (Doc. SC18/ACT/01)
     b) Receipt of Contributions to the Budget 2001 (Doc. SC18/CONT/01)
     c) Report on the Second Meeting of the PABSEC Coordination Council on the Exchange of Legal Information among the Parliaments of the PABSEC Member-Countries, 9 October 2001, Tirana (Doc. SC18/COORD2/REP/01)
   - Guiding Principles for the Design and Implementation of the PABSEC Legal Information Network –PABSEC LIN-
• List of Priority Fields of the PABSEC LIN

c) Decision on the Proposals of the 18th Legal and Political Affairs Committee on Payment of the Retirement Premiums (Doc. SC18/BP/STAFF/01) and Payment of the Income Taxes (Doc. SC18/BP/INC/01)

• endorsed the following documents:

a) Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly (Doc. GA18/PROG/01)
b) Draft Agenda (Doc.GA18/AG/01) and Draft Order of Business (Doc.GA18/OB/01) of the Seventeenth 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 2001:

A – International Meetings

a) Mr. Blagovest SENDOV, Member of the Bulgarian PABSEC Delegation, in the Parliamentary Conference of the Partner Countries in the Stability Pact and the Candidate Countries for Accession to the EU, 17-18 September 2001, Brussels

b) Mr. Borislav RALCHEV, Head of the Bulgarian PABSEC Delegation, in the Colloquium on the Mediterranean-Black Sea Cooperation, 10-12 October 2001, Nice

c) Mr. Dorel-Constantin ONACA, Head of the Romanian PABSEC Delegation, in the 50th Rose-Roth Seminar of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, 25-27 October 2001, Bucharest

d) Mr. Yashar ALIYEV and Mr. Necati CETINKAYA, PABSEC Vice-Presidents, in the Eighteenth Plenary Session of the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Member-Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS), 24 November 2001, Saint Petersburg.

B – BSEC Meetings

a) Mr. Mehmet GÜL, Head of the Turkish PABSEC Delegation, in the Meeting of Ministers of Industry on SMEs, 27 September 2001, Istanbul (Doc. GA18/REP/BSEC/IND/01)

b) Mr. Ognian GERDIKOV, PABSEC President, Mr. Borislav RALCHEV, Head of the Bulgarian PABSEC Delegation, and Mr. George PETRICU, PABSEC Secretary General, in the Fifth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, 26 October 2001, Antalya (Doc. GA18/REP/BSEC/MFA/01)

c) Staff of the International Secretariat in the BSEC Working Groups and other Meetings:

Ms. Panagiota Manoli, Secretary of the Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee, in the BSEC Working Group on Trade and Economic Development, 28-29 June 2001, Istanbul

Ms. Panagiota Manoli, Secretary of the Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee, in the BSEC Working Group on Agriculture and Agro-Industry, 5-6 July 2001, Istanbul
Ms. Panagiota Manoli, Secretary of the Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee, in the Seminar on Patterns of Cooperation in SEE and Black Sea Region organised by the ICBSS under the auspices of Working Table I on Democratisation and Human Rights of the Stability Pact, 30 August – 5 September 2001, Halki, Greece

Mrs. Natia Gaprindashvili, Secretary of the Legal and Political Affairs Committee, in the Ad-hoc Meeting of Legal Experts, 17-18 September 2001, Istanbul

Ms. Panagiota Manoli, Secretary of the Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee, in the 2nd Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Transport, 20 September 2001, Istanbul

Mr. George Petricu, PABSEC Secretary General, in the Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials, 24-25 September 2001, Istanbul

Ms. Panagiota Manoli, Secretary of the Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee, in the meeting of Senior Officials of Ministries of Industry, 26 September 2001, Istanbul

Mrs. Natia Gaprindashvili, Secretary of the Legal and Political Affairs Committee, in the Ad-hoc Meeting of Legal Experts, 16-17 October 2001, Istanbul

Mr. George Petricu, PABSEC Secretary General, in the Meeting of the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials, 24-25 October 2001, Antalya


Mr. George Petricu, PABSEC Secretary General, in the Second Coordination Meeting of the Chairmanship-in-Office, BSEC PERMIS, BSEC Related Bodies and Affiliated Centres, 30 November 2001, Istanbul

C – Other Meetings

a) Mrs. Maria ARSENIS, Head of the Hellenic PABSEC Delegation, and Mr. George PETRICU, PABSEC Secretary General, in the Second General Assembly of the Black Sea Capitals’ Association, 15-16 October 2001, Athens (Doc. SC18/REP/BSCA/01)

b) Mr. George PETRICU, PABSEC Secretary General, in the “Forum of Cities and Region of the South Eastern Europe”, 2-3 November 2001, Istanbul

c) Mr. George PETRICU, PABSEC Secretary General, in the Fourth Eurasia Economic Summit, 8-10 November 2001, Istanbul

D – Elections Monitoring

a) Mr. Olexander PUHKLAL, PABSEC Vice-President, in the monitoring of Presidential Elections in Belarus, on 9 September 2001, Minsk (Doc. SC18/REP/ELBEL/01)

E – Working Visits

a) Mr. George PETRICU, PABSEC Secretary General, on 18-19 September 2001, for the preparation of the 18th Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly, Sofia
4. The Standing Committee decided to hold the Nineteenth Meeting on 4 June 2002, in Tbilisi.

**BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY:**

The Twenty Fourth Meeting of the Bureau:

a) **Approved the following documents:**
   - Report by the Treasurer on the execution of the Assembly’s budget  \( \text{(Doc.BA24/EXE/01)} \)
   - Matters of Procedure of the Eighteenth Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly  \( \text{(Doc.BA24/MP/01)} \)
   - Participation by the PABSEC Representatives in the International Gatherings between 1 January – 1 July 2002  \( \text{(Doc. BA24/GATH/01)} \)

   It was agreed upon that the new PABSEC President will take decision on the participation in the international gatherings scheduled between 1 January– 1 July 2002.

b) **Endorsed the following documents:**
   - Draft Agenda of the Eighteenth Meeting of the Standing Committee  \( \text{(Doc.SC18/AG/01)} \)
   - Examination of New Credentials  \( \text{(Doc.GA18/CRED/01)} \)

c) **The Bureau** decided to hold the Twenty-Fifth Meeting on 4 June 2002, in Tbilisi.