SUMMARY

FORTY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OPENING CEREMONY

The Forty-First General Assembly of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation was held in Sofia on 9 – 11 July 2013 upon the invitation of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria. The Plenary Session was opened by Mr. Mihail Mikov, PABSEC President, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria. H.E. Mr. Rosen Plevneliev, the President of the Republic of Bulgaria, addressed the participants. Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to the Republic of Bulgaria Mr. Arsen Shoyan addressed the participants on behalf of the BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office. Mr. Jean Claude Mignon, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, also delivered a speech in the opening ceremony.

PARTICIPATION

The General Assembly was attended by:

1. **The National delegations** of the Parliaments of: the Republic of 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, Republic of Serbia, the Republic of Turkey and Ukraine.

2. **The Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation:**
   - **BSEC PERMIS:** the Deputy Secretary General.
   - **BSTDB:** The Secretary General.
   - **ICBSS:** The Director General

3. **Observers:** Delegations/representatives of the National Assembly of the French Republic, the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of the Independent States, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and Russia, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Turkic-Speaking Countries, the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States.
4. **Guests:** Vice-Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Black Sea Universities Network, the Regional Secretariat for Parliamentary Cooperation in South East Europe and Association of Bulgarian Cities and Regions.

THE 41st PLENARY SESSION

1. **General debate.**

The topic of the General Debate was “Tourism as an important factor for economic growth: cooperation in the BSEC region”.

The heads of the PABSEC national delegations, Mrs. Daniela Bobeva, Vice-Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria, the representatives of the Parliamentary Union of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Member States, the Black Sea University Network and the Association of Bulgarian Cities and Regions took part in the debate.

The speakers stressed that in a period of economic crisis, tourism could represent a great platform of cooperation especially for the Black Sea countries. The tourism sector can and should play an essential role in post crisis recovery in terms of jobs, infrastructure, trade and development.

It is important to promote capital investments and or joint ventures for the development of the tourism industry and infrastructure in the Black Sea region. Also, the participants highlighted the need to intensify exchange information on events and exhibitions, conventions and conferences, congresses and fairs between the BSEC Member States. With its rich cultural and linguistically diversity and wealthy of natural resources, the Black Sea region offers huge opportunities for leisure, tourism and genuine experiences.

The participants noted that tourism development is particularly important for the Black Sea region where the most popular tourist destinations are the coastal areas, the protected areas and the historical settlements. The speakers noted the necessity of a good management of the tourism growth, focusing on policy measures for implementing the sustainable tourism development in the region.

The participants stressed that tourism due to its powerful economic force as an income and employment generator could become a driving force for economic growth, regional development as well as social prosperity in the Black Sea region.

2. **Documents adopted by the Plenary Session:**

a) Recommendation 131/2013 on “Development of cooperation in Salvage and Rescue (SAR) at sea among the BSEC Member States” *(Doc.GA41/EC40/REC131/13)*

b) Recommendation 132/2013 on "PABSEC in the Wider Black Sea Region: 20 Years of Regional Cooperation" *(Doc.GA41/LC41/REC132/13)*

c) Recommendation 133/2013 on “Benefits and perspectives of cooperation at the postgraduate level among universities of the BSEC Member States” *(Doc.GA41/CC40/REC133/13)*

d) Statement of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation on Terrorist Attacks in Turkey.
e) Statement of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation in support of the Application of the Republic of Turkey to Host the 2020 Summer Olympic Games in the City of Istanbul.

3. **Documents approved by the Plenary Session:**

   a) Report on "Development of cooperation in Salvage and Rescue (SAR) at sea among the BSEC Member States" *(Doc.GA41/EC40/REP/13)*

   b) Report on “PABSEC in the Wider Black Sea Region: 20 Years of Regional Cooperation” *(Doc.GA41/LC41/REP/13)*

   c) Report on “Benefits and perspectives of cooperation at the postgraduate level among universities of the BSEC Member States” *(Doc.GA41/CC40/REP/13)*

   d) Granting the Observer status with the PABSEC to the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC) *(INC/334/13)*

   e) Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly *(Doc.GA41/PROG/13)*

   f) Auditing Report for the Financial Year 2012 *(Doc.GA41/AUDIT/13)*

   g) The Minutes of the Fortieth Plenary Session of the General Assembly held in Baky on 27 -28 November 2013 *(Doc.GA40/MIN/13)*

4. **New Credentials:**

   The Assembly **ratified** the credentials of the new members and proxies of the delegations of Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Russia and Ukraine *(Doc.GA41/CRED/13)*

5. **Election of the PABSEC Vice-Presidents**

   The Assembly **elected** Mr. David Saganelidze, Head of the Georgian PABSEC Delegation, Mr. Gheorghe Vlad Nistor, Head of the Romanian PABSEC Delegation, Mr. Necati Cetinkaia, Member of the Turkish PABSEC Delegation, as PABSEC Vice-Presidents and Mrs. Olena Netetska, Head of the Ukrainian PABSEC Delegation, as the PABSEC Vice-President in charge of Financial Matters, for a term of office of two years starting with July 2013. Mr. Petar Kanev, Head of the Bulgarian PABSEC Delegation, was elected as PABSEC Vice-President, till November 2014 *(to complete the term of office of Mr. Dimitar Atanasov)*.

6. **Rotation of the Presidency:**

   In accordance with the PABSEC Rules of Procedure, on 11 July 2013, the Parliament of Georgia assumed the six-month term Presidency of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of Black Sea Economic Cooperation.

7. **The Forty-Second Plenary Session of the General Assembly is to be held in Tbilisi on 18-19 December 2013.**

**STANDING COMMITTEE**
The Forty-First Meeting of the Standing Committee:

1. **Adopted** the proposals of the Committees concerning the subjects to be taken up in the second half of 2013 and to be placed on the Draft Agenda of the Plenary Session of the 2013 Autumn General Assembly.

The main subjects for the Autumn Committees Meetings are:

- “Global climate change: causes, effects and possible consequences for the BSEC Member States”
- “Tangible and intangible cultural heritage - challenge of linking cultural and tourist routes in the countries of the Black Sea region”.
- “Role of the PABSEC in enhancement of cooperation in the Black Sea region: challenges and prospects”.

2. **Approved** the following documents:
   
   a) Minutes of the Fortieth Meeting of the Standing Committee held in Baky on 26 November 2013 (Doc.SC40/MIN/13)
   
   b) PABSEC Calendar for 2013 (Doc.SC41/CAL2013/13)

3. **Verified** the credentials of new members of the Assembly.

4. **Endorsed**:
   
   a) Granting the Observer Status with the PABSEC to the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC) (INC/334/13)
   
   b) Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly (Doc. GA41/PROG/13)
   
   c) Draft Agenda of the Forty-First Plenary Session (Doc.GA41/AG/13)
   
   d) PABSEC Draft Budget for the Financial Year 2014 (Doc.GA41/BUDG14/13)

5. **Took note of**:

   i) The receipt of Contributions to the 2013 Budget (Doc. SC41/CONT/13)

   ii) The participation by PABSEC representatives in international gatherings between November 2012 – July 2013.

6. **Decided** that the French translation of the PABSEC meetings will be carried on only in case of the presence of French-speaking participants. The PABSEC documents shall be translated into French only upon the request of one of the PABSEC delegations.

7. **The Forty-Second Meeting of the PABSEC Standing Committee is to be held in Tbilisi on 17 December 2013.**
BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY

The Forty-Eighth Meeting of the Bureau:

1. **Approved the following documents:**
   - Minutes of the Forty-Seventh Meeting of the Bureau held in Baky on 26 November 2013 *(Doc.BA47/MIN/12)*
   - Draft Programme of the Forty-First Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly *(Doc.BA48/PROG/13)*
   - Matters of Procedure of the Forty-First Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly *(Doc.BA48/MP/13)*

2. **Considered the following items:**
   - Report by the Vice-President on the execution of the Assembly’s budget *(Doc.BA48/EXE/13)*
   - Participation of the PABSEC representatives in the international gatherings between July-December 2013 *(Doc.BA48/GATH/13)*
     The new PABSEC President was authorized to take decisions on the participation of the PABSEC representatives in international gatherings between July – December 2013. The decision on the participation by the staff of the International Secretariat will be taken by the Secretary General.
   - Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly *(Doc.GA41/PROG/13)*
   - Draft Agenda of the Forty-First Meeting of the Standing Committee *(Doc.SC41/AG/13)* and the Draft Agenda of the Forty-First Plenary Session *(Doc.GA41/AG/13)*

3. **Endorsed** the candidacies to the post of the PABSEC Vice-Presidents.

4. **Decided:**
   - To make a clarification to the section “B” of the Decision of the Bureau of the Assembly of 19 June 1997 as follows: ‘*accompanied by one Secretary*’ means one Secretary from each chamber in case of two chambered parliaments.
   - To reappoint Mr. Yadigar Mammadov, Secretary of the PABSEC Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee for a term of office of three years starting with 1 January 2014.
   - To reappoint Mrs. Evgenia Strati, Secretary of the PABSEC Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee, for a term of office of three years starting with 1 February 2014.

5. **The Forty-Ninth Meeting of the PABSEC Bureau is to be held on 17 December 2013 in Tbilisi.**