

**THE MESSAGE OF H.E. MR. ISMAIL KAHRAMAN, SPEAKER OF THE
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PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC
COOPERATION**

At the end of the 20th century there were important changes in the world. Developed countries were moving from industrial and technological society towards information society, intensive political, cultural, social and economic reforms were carried out in the countries of the Black Sea and neighboring regions. Changing world order and globalization called for deepening of interaction between the countries.

Along with important political and structural reforms the countries in the region with centralized planning underwent transition to market economy and achievement of economic stability.

The increased need emerged to have an international organization in the Black Sea Region, which would strengthen unity and solidarity, reinforce historical links among nations, prevent economic and social tensions and contribute to the establishment of peace and security.

Today, when interaction between countries rapidly increases, international economic and regional integration organizations have gained significant importance. In the period of intensive globalization, Turkey came up with the initiative to establish the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), which was supported by the countries in the Region and following the consultations in 1992 the BSEC took its place at international arena.

The main objective of the BSEC Project was to establish harmonized economic cooperation among the Member Countries on the basis of traditional relations, geographical proximity and complementary nature of their economies.

With the aim to ensure legislative basis for the economic, commercial, social, cultural and political cooperation and to contribute to the achievement of the goals and objectives of the BSEC, the Parliamentary Assembly of the BSEC (PABSEC) was established on 26 February 1993.

From the long-term point of view it should be underlined that PABSEC first of all is a peace project. Undoubtedly, PABSEC serves as one of the most important

platforms in the Region promoting peace and stability through economic cooperation, parliamentary dialogue and further interaction. Since its establishment, PABSEC takes every effort to duly fulfill this mission. PABSEC significantly contributes to establishment of the regional cooperation culture and strengthening of ties among the governments and the parliaments of the Member Countries in the name of enhancing regional integration. However, I think that the Organization we have created together has to take further steps towards enhancing peace.

It should be remembered that PABSEC has to become an international organization, which will set an example for many regional organizations. At present there are various problems in our region. We intend to overcome these problems through consultations and dialogue and to reach our goals in this manner. The very fact that for a quarter of a century the 12 PABSEC Member Countries come together around one table in the name of shared noble goals is a big success. These achievements could be conveyed in the best possible way to our peoples through their elected representatives.

PABSEC will become successful when peoples in the streets feel the positive impact of concrete projects. Therefore, I think that the national parliaments have to play important role in turning PABSEC into more effective, efficient and project-oriented organization.

There is no doubt that when speaking about the achievements of PABSEC we have to review its shortcomings. Today the world is no longer the same as in the 90ies of the previous century when PABSEC was founded. Everything in the world develops and changes very rapidly. It is useful to shape a long-term shared PABSEC vision taking into account all changes and possible challenges and to define new working methods and fields of activity. This vision has to imply the real challenges for PABSEC of today and tomorrow.

Meeting the challenges of globalization it is necessary to activate more efficient, result-oriented and speedy decision-making mechanisms without unnecessary bureaucracy. We have to work together to carry out reforms that make PABSEC more effective international organization.

Turkey, as the host country of the International Secretariat and the country that played important role in the establishment of the PABSEC, has always attached great importance to its activities.

Dear colleagues,

Turkey has been playing an active role within PABSEC and brings its constructive contribution to the discussion of various issues. Turkey puts maximum efforts to ensure that the governments take into account the recommendations adopted by the Assembly. During the six-month PABSEC term-Presidency Turkey intends to promote implementation of the resolutions on various issues elaborated by the committees including sustainable healthcare systems, renewable energy, economic growth and social integration.

In my capacity as the PABSEC term-President and the representative of one of the founding countries, I would like to take this opportunity and stress that we will continue our efforts to develop the Organization into more efficient and effective international structure.