

**COOPERATION AGREEMENT**

**between Parliamentary Assembly of the**

**Black Sea Economic Cooperation**

**and Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the**

**Commonwealth of Independent States**

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States collectively referred to as the 'Parties' and individually as a 'Party',

Based on the positive experience of the collaborative effort under the terms of the Protocol on Cooperation between the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States signed in St. Petersburg on 8 December 1998 and in the interests of further strengthening and developing the mutually beneficial cooperation between the Parties,

Taking into consideration the important role of the member states of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and of the member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States in bringing stability, security, democracy, harmonious economic, cultural and social development as well as peaceful coexistence of their peoples,

Convinced of the benefit brought by inter-parliamentary cooperation based on the respect for human rights and freedoms, social justice, development of democracy and the rule of law,

Confirming adherence to the interests of all the member states of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and of the member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States,

Giving priority to equality of peoples, economic and social development of the member states of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and of the member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States,

Acting on the basis of principles of equality and mutual benefit,

Hereby agreed as follows:

#### Article 1

This Agreement establishes principles and areas of cooperation of the Parties in the implementation and development of mutually beneficial projects, information exchange and concerted efforts in law-making.

The primary purposes of this Agreement are:

To develop inter-parliamentary diplomacy for the purpose of effective exploring of legislative issues in the fields of respect for human rights, providing security and fight against international terrorism, social and economic development, humanitarian cooperation, migration, ecology and other issues common for the member states of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the member states of the Commonwealth of Independent states;

To facilitate the development of inter-parliamentary dialogue;

To strengthen mutual understanding and trust, cooperation, peace and stability, to facilitate integration processes in the member states of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States, as well as in other Eurasian states.

## Article 2

The cooperation within the framework of this Agreement shall be carried out as follows:

The Parties shall exchange the information about their activities. Providing reports, statements, recommendations and other documents of mutual interest may pertain to the information exchanged;

The Parties shall exchange the agendas; representatives of a Party shall take part in the plenary sessions by the invitation of the other Party. An Assembly representative of a Party may address to the Assembly of the other Party;

Representatives of a Party shall participate by the invitation of the other Party in congresses, conferences, forums and other events organized or conducted under the auspices of the other Party;

The Parties shall conduct joint sessions as necessary and by the decision of the President/Chairperson of the Parties and their bodies;

Representatives and experts of a Party shall participate by the invitation of the other Party in the work of its committees (commissions), including delivering reports and sharing opinions on issues related to both Parties;

The Parties shall facilitate dialogue and sharing experience among young parliamentarians of the member states of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States, representatives of youth organizations, encourage the young to fulfil effectively their potential and to be actively involved in social, economic and public policies;

The Parties shall ensure personnel exchange at the level of the Secretariats, including trainings and internships for increasing professional level;

The cooperation of the Parties shall be aimed at establishing uniform standards in monitoring elections and referendums, enforcement and respect for suffrage, development of democracy and parliamentarianism.

The parties shall establish regular contacts among their representatives, arrange expert consultations.

The parties shall implement joint projects, organize and conduct events with the common subject for the member states of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States. These events may include congresses, conferences, workshops, exhibitions, sessions of related committees (commissions) and working groups, and other events.

## Article 3

The parties shall secure the information exchange for the information that is required to be confidential by the transmitting Party.

Subject to a written request by a Party, the information received under this Agreement shall be confidential and used for the purposes defined by the Party.

The information received under this Agreement shall not be given to a third

party without a prior permission of the Party that provided this information.

#### Article 4

The working languages used by the Parties for the cooperation under this Agreement shall be Russian and English.

#### Article 5

The Parties shall be guided by the provisions of this Agreement in accordance with their rules of procedure. All disputes and differences that may arise from implementing and interpreting this Agreement shall be settled through negotiations and consultations between the Parties.

#### Article 6

This Agreement shall not affect rights and liabilities of the Parties under international agreements signed by any of the Parties and shall not preclude a Party from discharging its international obligations.

#### Article 7

Nothing in this Agreement shall affect the privileges and immunities of the Parties given under international agreements.

#### Article 8

This Agreement is not an international treaty, it does not create rights and obligations subject to international law, it does not impose financial obligations on the Parties other than in respect of the cases stipulated in other agreements signed by the Parties to fulfil paragraph 11 of article 2 of this Agreement, that define terms and conditions of participation of the Parties, including their financial, material and other costs.

#### Article 9

This Agreement shall become effective as of the date upon signature by the Parties and may be terminated in six months from the date the due notice of termination of this Agreement from a Party is received by the other Party.

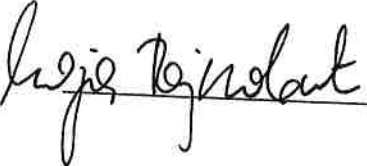
#### Article 10

Amendments to this Agreement may be entered by mutual consent of the Parties. Proposals for amendments shall be in the form of protocols in writing and become an integral part of this Agreement.

## Article 11

Signed in the city of Strasbourg on 15 September 2016 in duplicate, each duplicate in English and in Russian, each of equal legal force.

President of the  
Parliamentary Assembly  
of the Black Sea  
Economic Cooperation

  
Maja Gojkovic

Chairperson of the Council of the  
Interparliamentary Assembly of  
Member Nations of the Commonwealth  
of Independent States

  
Valentina Matvienko

Secretary General of the  
Parliamentary Assembly  
of the Black Sea  
Economic Cooperation

  
Asaf Hajiiev

Secretary General of the Council of the  
Interparliamentary Assembly of  
Member Nations of the Commonwealth  
of Independent States

  
Alexey Sergeev