

Istanbul, 20 November 2008

FOREWORD

THIRTY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OPENING CEREMONY

The Thirty-Second General Assembly of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation was held in Chisinau on 3-5 November 2008 upon the invitation of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova. The Plenary Session was opened by Mr. Marian Lupu, PABSEC President, Chairman of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova. The participants were addressed by H.E. Mr. Vladimir Voronin, President of the Republic of Moldova and Mr. Gegham Charibjanian, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, representing the current Armenian BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office.

PARTICIPATION

The plenary session was attended by:

1. The Chairman of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, the Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of Romania and the Vice-President of the Supreme Rada of Ukraine.
2. *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, the Republic of Turkey and Ukraine.
3. *The Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation:*
 - *BSEC:* the First Deputy Secretary General of the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat.
4. *Observers:* Delegations/representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus, the Senate and the National Assembly of the French Republic, the Assembly of the Western European Union (AWEU), the European Parliament (EP), the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Community of Independent States (IPACIS), Interparliamentary Assembly of the Eurasian Economic Community (IPA EurAsEC), and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus-Russia (PAUBR).
5. *Guests:* the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC) and the Marmara Group Strategic and Social Research Foundation.

THE 32nd PLENARY SESSION

1. *General debate.*

The topic of the General Debate was “The process of globalisation and the issue of the preservation of national identity in the BSEC countries”.

The heads and members of the National PABSEC Delegations, the representatives of the Senate of the French Republic, the European Parliament, the IPA EurAsEC, and the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States took part in the General Debate.

The speakers stressed the topicality of the issue and noted the importance of protection and preservation of national identity and cultural diversity. It was also noted that globalization accelerated the process of economic and cultural interaction by a large array of modern communication technologies. It was also stressed that global solutions have to be found to the recent financial crisis which is affecting all the states around the world.

The role of culture in the globalisation process was underlined. In this respect, cultural diversity as well as the preservation of cultural heritage and deepening of inter-cultural dialogue acquires particular importance. It comes out that the preservation of national identity has become an important strategic goal in the policies of the states.

The parliamentarians also noted that globalisation posed both threats and opportunities to the states and that the benefits of globalisation were not the same for all the countries subject to their level of development and geographical location. It was stressed that the process of globalisation sometimes led to tensions and conflicts.

The participants also mentioned the importance of integration in the process of globalisation which gives certain control in the globalisation process through the protection of national identity and minorities and upholding tolerance. In this respect, the necessity was stressed for stronger cooperation and intensification of good-neighbourly relations between the states in the region and in the world at large.

2. *Documents adopted by the Plenary Session:*

- a) Recommendation 104/2008 on “The WTO and the economic development of the BSEC Member States” *(Doc. GA32/EC31/REC104/08)*
- b) Recommendation 105/2008 on “15 years of Black Sea Economic Cooperation: political aspects of deepening of economic cooperation” *(Doc. GA32/LC32/REC105/08)*
- c) Recommendation 106/2008 on "The Impact of Globalization on the Social Policies of the BSEC Member States" *(Doc. GA32/CC31/REC106/08)*

3. *Documents approved by the Plenary Session:*

- a) Report on " The WTO and the economic development of the BSEC Member States" *(Doc. GA32/EC31/REP/08)*

b) Report on “15 years of Black Sea Economic Cooperation: political aspects of deepening of economic cooperation”
(Doc. GA32/LC32/REP/08)

c) Report on “The Impact of Globalization on the Social Policies of the BSEC Member States”
(Doc. GA32/CC31/REC106/08)

d) Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly
(Doc. GA32/PROG/08)

e) The Minutes of the Thirty-First Plenary Session of the General Assembly held in Athens, on 9-11 June 2008
(Doc. GA31/MIN/08)

4. The Plenary Session took note of:

The Report on the Nineteenth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member-States, 23 October 2008, Tirana (Doc. GA32/REP/BSEC/19CMFA/08)

5. Financial matters:

The Assembly:

- ♦ adopted the Budget for the Financial Year 2009 (Doc. GA32/BUDG09/08)
- ♦ set up the Draft Budget and Auditing Committee composed of the representatives of Ukraine, Albania and Armenia

6. New Credentials:

The Assembly ratified the credentials of the new members of the delegations of Armenia, Georgia, Romania and Ukraine.
(Doc. GA32/CRED/08)

7. Election of a Vice-President of the Assembly:

- The Assembly elected Mr. Mircea CIOPRAGA, Head of the Romanian PABSEC Delegation, as Vice-President of the Assembly, for a two-years term of office, until November 2010.

8. Election of the Deputies of the PABSEC Secretary General:

- The Assembly elected Mr. Igor Bolboceanu (Moldova) to the post of the Deputy Secretary General in charge of Organisational Matters for the term of office of three years starting with 1 January 2009; Mr. Alexander Furman (Ukraine) to the post of the Deputy Secretary General in charge of Administrative and Financial Matters for the term of office of three years starting with 1 January 2009 and Mr. Murat Bakir (Turkey) to the post of the Deputy Secretary General in charge of Interparliamentary Relations and Protocol for the term of office of three years starting with 1 January 2009.

9. Rotation of the Presidency:

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure, on 5 November 2008, Mr. Bogdan OLTEANU, the President of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of Romania, assumed the six-month term Presidency of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of Black Sea Economic Cooperation.

10. The 2009 Spring Plenary Session of the General Assembly:

The Assembly decided to hold its 2009 Spring Plenary Session of the General Assembly in Bucharest on 9-11 June 2009.

STANDING COMMITTEE

The Thirty-Second Meeting of the Standing Committee:

1. **Adopted** the proposals of the Committees concerning the subjects to be taken up in the first half of 2009 and to be placed on the Draft Agenda of the Plenary Session of the 2009 Spring General Assembly.

The main subjects for the Spring Committees Meetings are:

- “Development of sea transport in the BSEC Member States: Problems and Perspectives”.
- “Migration in the BSEC Member States - legal aspects”.
- “Migration in the BSEC Member States – social and cultural aspects”.

2. **Approved** the following documents:

- a) Minutes of the Thirty-First Meeting of the Standing Committee
(Doc.SC31/MIN/08)
- b) PABSEC Calendar 2009
(Doc. SC32/CAL/09)
- c) The Terms of Reference of the Permanent Delegation for Cooperation between the PABSEC and the European Parliament (Doc.SC32/DEL/PABSEC-EP/08), adopted by the PABSEC Legal and Political Affairs Committee, during its 32nd meeting, held in Belgrade on 8-9 October 2008.

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

4. **Endorsed:**

- a) Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly (Doc. GA32/PROG/08)
- b) Draft Agenda of the Thirty-Second Plenary Session (Doc.GA32/AG/08)

5. **Considered** the issue of the 3rd position of PABSEC Deputy Secretary General and **decided** to establish starting with 1 January 2009 the position of Deputy Secretary General in charge of Interparliamentary Relations and Protocol and to make the necessary changes in the Staff Regulations of the PABSEC International Secretariat.

6. **Took note of:**

- i) The receipt of Contributions to the 2008 Budget (Doc. SC32/CONT/08)
- ii) The reports concerning the participation by PABSEC representatives in international gatherings between June-November 2008:

A – International Meetings

- a) Mr. Marian Lupu, PABSEC President and Mr. Igor Bolboceanu, PABSEC Deputy Secretary General, in gatherings on the Occasion of the 90th Anniversary of the Milli Mejlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan, 18-19 June 2008, Baky.
- b) Mr. Petar Kanev, PABSEC Vice-President, Head of the PABSEC Bulgarian Delegation, in the 17th Annual Session of the OSCE PA, 28 June – 3 July 2008, Astana
(*Doc.SC32/REP/17th OSCEPA/08*)
- c) Mr. Asaf Hajiyev, PABSEC Vice-President, Head of the PABSEC Azerbaijani Delegation, in the 17th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, 31 August – 2 September 2008, Visby, (Sweden).
- d) Mr. Nicolae Bondarciuc, Head of the PABSEC Moldovan Delegation, in the Annual 2008 Session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO, 11-12 September 2008, Geneva.
(*Doc.SC32/REP/PCWTO/08*)
- e) Mr. Bulent Arinç, Head of the PABSEC Turkish Delegation, in the 119th Assembly of IPU, 13-15 October 2008, Geneva.
- f) Mr. Marcel Raducan, Member of the PABSEC Moldovan Delegation, in the Council of Europe Forum for the Future of Democracy, 15-17 October 2008, Madrid.
- g) Mr. Alexander Furman, PABSEC Deputy Secretary General, in the Conference “Stability and Security in the Black Sea Region - a Socialist Initiative”, 17 October 2008, Sofia
(*Doc.SC32/REP/CONF-SSBS/08*)

B – BSEC Meetings

- a) Mr. Elias Kallioras, Head of the PABSEC Hellenic Delegation and Ms. Evgenia Strati, Secretary of the PABSEC Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee, in the ICBSS Annual Conference “The Wider Black Sea Area and the Great Energy Game”, 25 June 2008, Athens
(*Doc.SC32/BP/ICBSS-CONF/08*)
- b) Mr. Elias Kallioras, Head of the PABSEC Hellenic Delegation and Mrs. Natia Gaprindashvili, Secretary of the PABSEC Legal and Political Affairs Committee, in the second Meeting of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on BSEC-EU Interaction, 26 September 2008, Athens
(*Doc.SC32/BP/ADG/BSEC-EU/08*)
- c) Mr. Namik Dokle, Vice-Chairman of the PABSEC Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee, in the High Level Conference on the Development of Cultural Tourism, 14 October 2008, Tirana.
- d) Mr. Edmond Spaho, Head of the PABSEC Albanian Delegation and Mr. Alexander Furman, PABSEC Deputy Secretary General, in the 19th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member-States, 23 October 2008, Tirana.
(*Doc.GA32/REP/BSEC-19CMFA/08*)
- e) Staff of the International Secretariat in the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials, Working Groups and other meetings:
 - ♦ Mr. Alexey Kudriavtsev, PABSEC Secretary General, in the Meeting on the Occasion of the BSEC Day, 25 June 2008, Istanbul.

- ♦ Mr. Anar Rahimov, Secretary of the PABSEC Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee, in the BSEC Ad Hoc WG of Experts on Electrical Networks, 24-25 June 2008, Istanbul; in the BSEC WG on Agriculture and Agro-Industry, 25 September 2008, Tirana
(Doc. SC32/BP/BSEC-ADWGEEN/08)
(Doc.SC32/BP/BSEC-WG-AAI/08)
- ♦ Mr. Alexander Furman, PABSEC Deputy Secretary General, in the BSEC CSO, on 15-16 September 2008, Istanbul and on 21-22 October 2008, Tirana.
(Doc.SC32/BP/BSEC-CSO/08)
- ♦ Mrs. Natia Gaprindashvili, Secretary of the PABSEC Legal and Political Affairs Committee, in the Meeting of the BSEC WG on Organizational Matters, 10-11 July 2008, Istanbul.
- ♦ Ms. Evgenia Strati, Secretary of the PABSEC Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee, in the BSEC WG on Cooperation in Combating Crime, 10 September 2008, Istanbul (Doc. SC32/BP/BSEC-WG-COMCRIME/08)

C – Other Meetings

- a) Mr. Mircea Ciopraga, Head of the Romanian PABSEC Delegation, in the Extraordinary Session of the Conference of Rectors from the Black Sea Region, 18-20 September 2008, Eforie Nord, Romania.

D -Working Visits

- a) Mr. Marian Lupu, PABSEC President, Headquarters of the PABSEC International Secretariat, 20 June 2008, Istanbul.
- b) Mr. Alexey Kudriavtsev, PABSEC Secretary General and Mr. Igor Bolboceanu, PABSEC Deputy Secretary General, Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, 12 August and 15 October 2008, Chisinau.
- c) Mr. Alexandru Simionov, Expert at Regional Secretariat for Parliamentary Cooperation in South East Europe, Headquarters of the PABSEC International Secretariat, 13-14 October 2008, Istanbul.
- d) Mr. Alexey Kudriavtsev, PABSEC Secretary General, Grand National Assembly of Turkey, 18 October 2008, Ankara
- e) Mr. Marek Siwiec, Vice-President of the European Parliament, Headquarters of the PABSEC International Secretariat, 23 October 2008, Istanbul
(Doc.SC32/BP/VIZIT-EP/08)

7. The Standing Committee decided to hold its next Ordinary Meeting on 9 June 2009 in Bucharest.

BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY

The Thirty-Ninth Meeting of the Bureau:

Approved the following documents:

- Minutes of the Thirty-Eighth Meeting of the Bureau held in Athens on 9 June 2008
(Doc.BA38/MIN/08)
- Draft Order of Business of the Thirty-Second Plenary Session Assembly
(Doc.GA32/OB/08)

- Matters of Procedure of the Thirty-Second Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly (Doc.BA39/MP/08)

Considered the following items:

- Report by the Vice-President on Financial Matters on the execution of the Assembly's budget (Doc.BA39/EXE/08)
- Participation of the PABSEC representatives in the international gatherings between November 2008 – June 2009 (Doc.BA39/GATH/08)

The new PABSEC President was authorized to take decisions on the participation of the PABSEC representatives in international gatherings between November 2008 - June 2009. 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.GA32/PROG/08)
- Draft Agenda of the Thirty-Second Meeting of the Standing Committee (Doc.SC32/AG/08) and the Draft Agenda of the Thirty Second Plenary Session (Doc.GA32/AG/08)
- Election of the Vice-President of the PABSEC
- Election of the Deputies of the PABSEC Secretary General

Decided:

- To renew the term of office of Mrs. Natia Gaprindashvili, Secretary of the PABSEC Legal and Political Affairs Committee, for a term of office of three years starting with 1 February 2009.
- To hold its next Ordinary Meeting on 9 June 2009 in Bucharest.

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The Ad Hoc Meeting of the PABSEC Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee decided to hold election of the Vice-Chairman of the Committee at the next Meeting in Belgrade.