



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION
PABSEC

STATEMENT*
of the Parliamentary Assembly of the BSEC
on Energy Problem in the South East European States

Taking into consideration the Joint Declaration of the Ministers of Energy of South East European States of 12 March 2007 stressing the concern over the existing electric power shortage,

Taking into account the activities undertaken by the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation to promote cooperation in the field of energy,

Recalling the documents adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly of the BSEC, namely, Recommendation 68/2003 on "Cooperation in the field of Energy" and Recommendation 91/2006 on "Alternative energy sources and their possible application in the Black Sea region",

Given the fact that the economies of the South East European countries develop at a higher pace compared to the EU average levels and that the decommissioning of Units 3 and 4 of Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant (Bulgaria) at the end of 2006 has caused a growing electric power shortage in a number of the South East European States that also are the members of the Organization of the BSEC,

The Parliamentary Assembly of the BSEC shares the concern of some South East European States that the currently operational electricity generating capacities of the region cannot satisfy the growing electricity demand in a short and mid-term perspective, in particular in winter and summer seasons characterized by peak consumption levels, and that at present there is no other alternative electricity supplier in the region that could substitute for the decommissioned Kozloduy NPP capacity, while electricity supplies from European countries outside the region are limited due to underdeveloped intersystem connections.

The Assembly corroborates the need for a careful analysis in the EU framework of the existing opportunities for solving the current electricity supply problems, including the extension of the operational period of Units 3 and 4 of Kozloduy NPP, and stresses, therefore, that the operation of these units until other equivalent generating capacities are built and put into operation in the region will contribute to overcoming the difficulties related to the electricity deficit in a short and mid-term perspective.

The Assembly underlines the importance of close collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in ensuring the secure operation of Units 3 and 4 of Kozloduy NPP in conformity with the international norms of nuclear safety.

The Assembly is convinced that such an approach to the solution of this problem will contribute to the adequate fulfillment of the commitments under the Treaty establishing the Energy Community and, at the same time, will help to avoid possible negative socio-economic and political consequences in the South East European States.

* The Statement text was prepared in conformity with the decision by the 29th Meeting of the Legal and Political Affairs Committee on 25 April 2007 in Bucharest, approved at the 29th Standing Committee Meeting on 12 June 2007 in Varna, and adopted at the 29th General Assembly in Varna on 14 June 2007.