



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION
PABSEC

DECLARATION

ON STRENGTHENING THE STATUS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

We, the Presidents of the Parliaments of the Member States of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) – Republic of Albania, Republic of Armenia, Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Bulgaria, Georgia, Hellenic Republic, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Republic of Serbia, Republic of Turkey and Ukraine,

Stressing that changing international situation, increased political significance of regional parliamentary organizations and the entailing need to fully unlock the potential of the PABSEC as a platform for effective inter-parliamentary dialogue necessitates strengthening of the status of the PABSEC and its transformation into an international parliamentary organization,

Affirming our commitment in the Declaration on the Establishment of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC), signed by the Presidents of the Parliaments of Republic of Albania, Republic of Armenia, Republic of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Republic of Turkey and Ukraine in Istanbul on 26 February 1993,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration and Bosphorus Statement of 25 June 1992 which signified beginning of BSEC and affirming our belief in the concept of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, which is based on good will and a mutual commitment to strengthen constructive cooperation among the countries in the Region,

Reaffirming our determination to further promote the development of interparliamentary cooperation and dialogue in the BSEC region with the aim of ensuring the coordination of the national parliaments in resolving international problems and enhancing regional ownership,

Stating that in the course of the past 22 years the PABSEC has demonstrated the necessity and expediency of its existence and activities as a body that ensures fruitful cooperation and effective communication between the parliamentarians of our countries in a spirit of confidence and constructive cooperation within the framework of good-neighborly relations, cordiality and partnership,

Being aware of the rising importance of the wider Black Sea area in international affairs in ensuring the atmosphere of peace, stability and cooperation, as well as the fact that mutual action between the PABSEC and the BSEC on the basis of equality and common strategy determines the success of achieving the objectives and achieving the concrete results and ensuring the best practical results,

Taking into consideration the potential and opportunities for further enhancing regional interaction to meet the challenges ahead, as well as the significance and the role of the Parliamentary Assembly as a parliamentary dimension of the BSEC,

Stressing that strengthening of the status of the PABSEC and its transformation into an international parliamentary organization is prompted above all by the changes in the international situation and the increasing political significance of regional parliamentary organizations and the entailing need to fully unlock the potential of the PABSEC as a platform for effective inter-parliamentary dialogue,

Acknowledging that due to uncertainty of the PABSEC status the cooperation between the Parliamentary Assembly and the BSEC remains rather weak preventing effective achievement of the goals of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and posing complications in the work with other parliamentary assemblies and international organizations,

We declare our resolution to:

1. *make every effort* to ensure that the PABSEC evolves into a more effective instrument for addressing the priority tasks by equipping it with the necessary resources and tools to implement the adopted decisions and recommendations;
2. *take necessary measures* to bring the Article 20 on the Parliamentary Assembly of the BSEC out of the Chapter VII "BSEC Related Bodies" of the BSEC Charter and to formulate a new Chapter on the Parliamentary Assembly keeping the contents of the Article 20 of the Charter.
3. *instruct* the PABSEC International Secretariat to prepare in a short possible time the draft Statute of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and to submit it to the approval of the PABSEC General Assembly.

On behalf of the Parliament of the Republic of Albania

On behalf of the Parliament of the Republic of Armenia

On behalf of the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan

On behalf of the Parliament of the Republic of Bulgaria

On behalf of the Parliament of Georgia

On behalf of the Hellenic Parliament

On behalf of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova

On behalf of the Parliament of Romania

Senate of Romania

Chamber of Deputies

On behalf of the Parliament of the Russian Federation

Council of the Federation

State Duma

On behalf of the Parliament of the Republic of Serbia

On behalf of the Parliament of the Republic of Turkey

On behalf of the Parliament of Ukraine