

# **AGREEMENT**

## **on Cooperation in the Exchange of Legal Information among the Parliaments of the PABSEC Member Countries**

In order to facilitate the exchange of legal information among the Parliaments of the Member Countries of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation,

contribute to the establishment of the legal basis of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation,

ensure a better availability of legal and normative documents to members of Parliaments,

perform the comparative analysis of the legislation of different countries, harmonise the legislation of the PABSEC Member Countries in accordance with European Union standards,

carry out the obligations deriving from international agreements on the exchange of legal and normative information,

the Secretariats of the Parliaments of the PABSEC Member Countries, hereinafter referred to as the Parties, have agreed on the following:

### Article I.

The Parties acknowledge the advisability for the relevant services of the Parliaments of the PABSEC Member Countries to begin the introduction of a system of the exchange of legal and normative documents by using existing international information systems and projects, such as INTERNET, GLIN (Global Legal Information Network), ECPRD (European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation), etc.

Each PABSEC Member Country signatory of the Agreement shall take its own decision regarding its participation in international information systems and projects.

### Article 2.

The Parties shall set up the Coordinating Council, affiliated to the PABSEC International Secretariat and composed of the heads of the information and legal services of the Parliaments, in order to ensure organisational, technical, scientific and methodological measures needed for the system of the exchange of legal documents among the PABSEC Member Countries.

The Coordinating Council shall set up a subsidiary working body for the practical implementation of legal information exchange.

Article 3.

The Parties shall exchange available legal databases in accordance with bilateral and multilateral agreements.

Article 4.

The Parties undertake to provide to each other on a free of charge basis the software, over which their Parliaments have ownership rights, needed to interrogate the mutually granted databases.

Article 5.

The Parties shall additionally agree among themselves on:

- legal guarantees and measures of protection of information and software from unsanctioned copying, as well as the responsibility of the Parties for committed violations;
- possibility of expanding the range of subjects of the information provided to each other according to bilateral agreements (economy, environment, crime control and other fields).

Article 6.

This agreement shall come into effect upon its signing by the official representatives of the Parties and shall continue to be effective until its termination by the Parties.

Done at Tbilisi, this 10th day of December 1996, in a single copy in English, which shall be deposited in the archives of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation. The Secretary General of the PABSEC shall transmit certified copies of the Agreement to all the Parliaments of the PABSEC Member Countries.

Bardhyl MUSAI, Head of the Albanian national delegation,

Ashot ANTINIAN, Head of the Staff of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia

Yashar ALIYEV, Head of the Azerbaijan national delegation

Khatuna GOGORISHVILI, Chief of Staff of the Parliament of Georgia

Panayotis TZORTZOPOULOS, Secretary General of the Hellenic Chamber of Deputies

Fiodor ANGHELI, Head of the Moldovan national delegation

Gheorghe STAN, Deputy Secretary General of the Chamber of Deputies of Romania

Roman ROMANOV, Deputy Head of the Staff of the Federation Council of Russian Federation

Nikolay LYAKH, Deputy Head of the Staff of the State Duma of Russian Federation

Orhan DULGERLER, Deputy Secretary General of the Turkish Grand National Assembly

Valentin LANDYK, Head of the Ukrainian national delegation