



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION
PABSEC

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

Istanbul, 8 June 2007

**TWENTY-NINTH PLENARY SESSION
OF THE PABSEC GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Varna, 12-14 June 2007

PRESS-RELEASE

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) will hold the Twenty-Ninth Plenary Session of its General Assembly on 12-14 June in Varna under the Chairmanship of Mr. Georgi PIRINSKI, PABSEC President, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria.

Established in 1993 as the parliamentary dimension of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), the Assembly brings together members of parliaments from twelve Member States of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation - Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine. The People's Assembly of Egypt, the French Parliament, the German Bundestag, the Knesset of the State of Israel, the National Council of the Slovak Republic and the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus have an observer status with the PABSEC.

PABSEC has become today a dynamic democratic forum for dialogue and cooperation at inter-parliamentary level, as well an important channel of communication between governmental institutions and nations of the region, through their elected representatives. PABSEC seeks to strengthen and promote cooperation with other parliamentary assemblies and especially with the European Parliament.

The Varna Session will be attended by parliamentary delegations from the PABSEC Member Countries, the Secretary General of the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat as well as other BSEC family institutions such as the International Centre for Black Sea Studies. Among observers and guests will be representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus, the Senate of the French Republic, the European Parliament (EP), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), Interparliamentary Assembly of the Eurasian Economic Community (IPA EurAseC), the Belarus-Russia Union Parliamentary Assembly (BRUPA), the European Commission, the Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy (IPAO), the

Parliamentary Union of the OIC Members States, the Black Sea University Network (BSUN) and the Marmara Group Strategic and Social Research Foundation.

On the first day of the General Assembly, the working bodies of the Assembly - the Bureau and the Standing Committee - will meet to discuss mostly organizational matters, in particular to review the PABSEC activities in the first half of 2007.

The main topic of the General Debate of the Plenary Session will be "The Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the European Union: New Euro-Black Sea partnership".

The Assembly will conduct debates on the Reports and Recommendations drafted by the PABSEC specialized Committees during their spring meetings. The Report on "State and prospects of fisheries in the BSEC Member States" will be presented by Mr. David Saganelidze (Georgia) on behalf of the PABSEC Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee. Mr. Asaf Hajiyevev (Azerbaijan) will present the report on "Cooperation in the field of high technologies among the BSEC states". Mr. Borislav Ralchev (Bulgaria) will present the Report of the PABSEC Legal and Political Affairs Committee on "Partnership and cooperation agreements with the BSEC Member States in the context of enlargement of the European Union". The Report of the PABSEC Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee on "The Bologna Process and the reforms of higher educational systems in the BSEC countries" will be presented by Mr. Namik Dokle (Albania).

The Assembly will then adopt Recommendations on these subjects addressed to the Parliaments and Governments of the Member Countries and to the Organization of the BSEC.

Ambassador Leonidas Chrysanthopoulos, Secretary General of the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat, will present the information on the BSEC recent and forthcoming activities, in particular during the Serbian (November 2006 - April 2007) and the Turkish (May - October 2007) Chairmanships-in Office.

The Assembly will adopt a statement on the 15th Anniversary of the BSEC, as well as a statement on the Energy Problem in the South East European countries.

The members will also consider the Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly and will elect four PABSEC Vice-Presidents.

At the end of the Varna Session, Mrs. Nino Burjanadze, Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia, will take over the PABSEC Presidency, for six months' term, until November 2007. The next General Assembly is to be held in Tbilisi in November 2007.