

**DECLARATION
OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF
THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF
THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

(Moscow, 1 November 2006)

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States: 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 Serbia, the Republic of Turkey and Ukraine met in Moscow, Russian Federation, on 1 November 2006.

Recognizing the need to further develop multilateral cooperation in the BSEC region;

Reaffirming their commitment to the values embodied in the United Nations Charter, OSCE Principles, BSEC Charter, BSEC Summit Declarations and BSEC Economic Agenda for the Future;

Bearing in mind that BSEC has already increased the awareness among its Member States of their regional identity;

Being convinced that solution of existing conflicts on the basis of norms and principles of international law will ensure a proper environment conducive to improvement of bilateral and multilateral economic relations in the region;

Considering BSEC to be a constructive regional response to the challenges of the twenty first century and an international organization capable of making an important contribution to the development of the united Europe on the basis of security, stability and prosperity by ensuring stronger democracy, economic development and social justice;

Stressing the need to establish a mechanism for cooperation between BSEC and EU, in particular in the economic sphere,

Welcoming the initiative launched by the Hellenic Republic during its Chairmanship-in-Office to intensify the BSEC-EU interaction, and **recalling** related provisions of the Komotini Statement of 23 April 2005, Chisinau Declaration of 28 October 2005 and Bucharest Statement of 26 April 2006;

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States:

1. **Note** that the growing importance of the BSEC region is gaining wider recognition due to its rich natural and human resources, as well as to the current trends of global politics and economics. The task of close interaction between BSEC and EU in the BSEC region is coming to the forefront, which will call for the progressive promotion of their relations and cooperation.
2. **Welcome** intensified cooperation among the BSEC Member States in areas specified by the BSEC Charter and BSEC Economic Agenda for the Future, which made it possible, during the Russian Chairmanship-in-Office from 1 May to 1 November 2006, through effective interaction with BSEC PERMIS, to organize about sixty events, including a fruitful exchange of ideas among the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States that took place in the framework of the UN General Assembly session in New York on 23 September 2006.
3. **Acknowledge** that the main fields of cooperation have been identified, such as transport, energy, combating crime, in particular in its organized forms, and emergency assistance, where positive results have been achieved.
4. **Highly evaluate** the Meetings of the Ministers of the BSEC Member States in charge of transport, energy, emergency cooperation, informational technologies and communications, held during the Russian Chairmanship-in-Office, which helped to express ideas and outline prospects for practical cooperation that are of common interest, such as: coordinated development of the Black Sea Ring

Highway and the Motorways of the Sea, establishment of a common framework of energy development strategies within the BSEC Member States, establishment of regional emergency assistance coordinating center(s) etc. BSEC PERMIS is invited to report on the progress of these projects at the next Meeting of the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

5. **Note** the importance of analysis of the BSEC Working Groups' performance undertaken to further increase the efficiency of international interaction in the BSEC region and reaffirming the Organization's commitment to specific projects that promote peace, stability and general prosperity in the region.

6. **Declare** their commitment to searching responses to non-economic challenges, *inter alia*, cooperation in combating organized crime, developing advanced technologies for diagnosis and treatment of new infectious diseases, interaction in emergency situations and other programmes agreed at the 2005 UN World Summit, which are also regarded as priorities for BSEC cooperation.

7. **Reaffirm** the relevance of the resolution adopted at the 12th Meeting of the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, establishing an Ad-Hoc Group of Experts on BSEC-EU interaction and the outcome of their Meetings in Mati/Greece on 6-7 September 2005, in Istanbul/Turkey on 1 March 2006 and in Mati/Greece on 15-16 March 2006.

8. **Renew** their intention to convey to the EU the new version of the platform for a BSEC-EU cooperation at every level for the benefit of all sides.

9. **Reaffirm** their strong commitment to continue the restructuring and reform process, launched by the 14th Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States, with the aim to increase the effectiveness and visibility of the Organization at the regional and international levels.

10. **Reiterate** their support for the initiative taken by the Republic of Turkey to host, in Istanbul, in June 2007, the Summit on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of BSEC and expressed their strong intension to mark this event as a milestone with further deepening of the BSEC cooperation. In this context, they **call upon** the

Member States to act more vigorously for implementing concrete projects in the BSEC region.

11. *Express* their gratitude to the Government and people of the Russian Federation for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to them during the Meeting in Moscow.
