

## **Bucharest Statement**

### **BSEC towards its 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegations of 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, Serbia and Montenegro, the Republic of Turkey and Ukraine met in Bucharest, Romania, on 26 April 2006.

*Bearing* in mind that, in 14 years of its dynamic existence, the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) has proved its value as a framework of regional cooperation, understanding and mutual confidence as well as a promising mechanism for finding the balance of common interests in the BSEC region,

*Reaffirming* our commitment to the values enshrined in the United Nations Charter, the outcome of the Millennium Summit 2000 and the World Summit 2005, the BSEC Charter, BSEC Summit Declarations, BSEC Economic Agenda for the Future, the Joint Declarations adopted by the Meetings of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of BSEC Member States and other sectoral Ministerial Meetings,

*Looking forward* to the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of BSEC in June 2007, as an important momentum for mobilizing its resources and capabilities and reinforcing common commitment to further promote BSEC values and ideals,

We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the Heads of Delegations of the BSEC Member States *emphasize* the need to enhance the multilateral cooperation in the Black Sea region and *agree to*:

1. *Consider* that the growing importance of the Black Sea Region, based on rich natural and human resources, scientific and technological potential, cultures and traditions as well as a broad consumer market is a strong prerequisite for building a reinforced and mutually beneficial cooperation within the BSEC, and also an important basis for mutual understanding, regional stability and security,
2. *Acknowledge* the importance of resources concentration of the BSEC Member States for expanding the transport, telecommunications and energy infrastructures (including that of trans-regional corridors) and trade facilitations in the Black Sea Region,
3. *Highly appreciate* the ground covered by BSEC in such a short period of time and would like to amplify their unswerving political support for the future success of this promising and dynamic Organization,
4. *Emphasize* that BSEC, as a regional organization, being committed to the principle of project-based approach to all its activities, will enrich the fields of cooperation and promote a more active involvement of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, the BSEC Business Council, the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank, the International Center for Black Sea Studies and the BSEC Project Development Fund,

5. *Appreciate* that the efficiency of BSEC, the economic credibility and effective financing of its future projects have to be considered and reinforced,

6. *Therefore, decide* to support the implementation of the following items:

a) To monitor the implementation of resolutions, decisions and recommendations adopted

by the BSEC Council of Ministers by:

- Focusing the meetings of the Working Groups, prior to the sectoral Ministerial Meetings, on the implementation of the decisions of the previous meetings, by the following modalities: short reports presented by individual Member States and Evaluation Report presented by the country-coordinator of the respective Working Group;
- Treating in a practical manner the item introduced on the agenda of the Meetings of the CMFA entitled “Review of the state of cooperation among the Member States”, by discussing the implementation of all decisions and recommendations adopted during the events under consideration;
- Increasing the role of the Country-coordinators of the Working Groups with regard to the continuity of decisions adopted by various meetings of the same Working Group;
- Periodical updating of the Chart of Implementation of the BSEC Economic Agenda, with specific provisions for the Member States having direct responsibilities on various aspects of regional economic cooperation;
- Better coordinating the current and prospective activities of the BSEC Related Bodies, in order to avoid duplications and to correlate efforts for implementing priority objectives;
- Assessing on a regular basis, through the Committee of Senior Officials, the Progress Report of the Secretary General of BSEC PERMIS and its Annexes.

b) To reform and restructure the BSEC in order to increase its effectiveness through:

- Strengthening the competencies of the Committee of Senior Officials in the BSEC system, in its capacity as a body elaborating all drafts of Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations to be adopted by the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs;
- Enhancing the capacity and the coordinating role of PERMIS in planning and organizing BSEC activities, including the taking over of the initiative to convene meetings, when there is an obvious lack of initiative (or expertise) of the country-coordinators of different Working Groups;
- Introducing a rigorous financial discipline of PERMIS activities in relation to drafting and execution of annual budget, establishing the amount and utilization of the Reserve Fund, proper management of the Project Development Fund;
- Ensuring the resources of the Project Development Fund on a sustainable basis, by “voluntary” or “mandatory” contributions of all Member States and large opening towards Observer States and other organizations and financial institutions;
- Ensuring the continuity of policies and objectives during several chairmanships of BSEC (by avoiding the fragmentation specific to other stages) and, particularly, a full compatibility between the objectives of the Chairmanship-in-Office with those of the country-coordinators of different Working Groups;

- Considering the establishment of a fast-track model in BSEC, which would enhance further cooperation in specific sectors;
- Further development of already established cooperation with UN/ECE, UNIDO, UNDP and other respective UN mechanisms on elaboration and realization of a unified and effective strategy able to meet challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

c) To improve the contribution of the Observer States to the BSEC activities through:

- Participation, together with the Member States (through the specialized Working Groups), to the elaboration and implementation of certain projects, relevant for the Black Sea Region as well as for some adjacent zones, on the following topics:
  - Trade and transportation facilitation;
  - Regional energy market, energy transportation and energy security;
  - Security issues: soft security measures for fighting against / prevention / suppression / detection / disclosure and investigation of crimes, including combating organized crime and international terrorism;
  - Environmental protection;
  - Good governance, education - exchange of students, training programs, human resources;
  - Emergency assistance.
- Participation to the Project Development Fund with voluntary contributions;
- Transfer of expertise through specialized seminars and workshops;

7. *Call upon* the Member States, the BSEC Related Bodies, the Observers, the sectoral dialogue partners and other interested organizations and institutions to increase their efforts aimed to substantially prepare the 15<sup>th</sup> BSEC anniversary through significant projects of regional development in such priority areas as: transport, energy, trade and economic development, agriculture, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, tourism, environmental protection, health care, combating organized crime, good governance, science and technology, emergency assistance, education etc.,

8. *Welcome and fully support* the initiative of the Republic of Turkey to host, in Istanbul, in June 2007, a BSEC Summit, devoted to the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation,

9. *Express* their gratitude to the Government and people of Romania for the warm hospitality extended to them during the Meeting in Bucharest.

Bucharest, 26 April 2006