



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea

Economic Cooperation (PABSEC)

and

Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC)

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (hereinafter PABSEC) and the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (hereinafter BSPC), hereinafter the 'Parties' to this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter MoU):

Taking into account the strategic importance of the Black Sea and the Baltic Sea Regions as geopolitical areas for stability, security, democracy, harmonious economic, cultural and social development, as well as the peaceful cohabitation of their peoples, given their significance to the European and Asian continents, forming the circumference of their shores;

Recognising the benefits of parliamentary cooperation based on the principles of respect of human rights and freedoms, social justice, the promotion of democracy, and the

supremacy of law with regards to the interests of all states and peoples in the Black Sea and Baltic Sea Regions;

Considering as priority the objectives of guaranteeing the security of their peoples, the economic growth and labour market of the Black Sea and Baltic Sea Regions, and furthering cultural, economic, political, religious and social integration, based on the principles of rule of law and, at the same time, promoting respect for human rights;

Confirming the need to develop synergies for the regions to further the process of deepening knowledge of each other, mutual exchange of information as well as learn from each others' best practices;

Recalling the strategic importance of the PABSEC and BSPC, created by the sovereign decision of the national parliaments of their Member Parliaments, as independent and equitable international organizations operating both within and beyond the catchment areas of the Black sea and the Baltic sea basins;

Acknowledging that the European Parliament is a member of the BSPC and of it's Standing Committee and an observer in PABSEC;

Acknowledging that the PABSEC and of the BSPC, as members and/or partners of numerous other international and regional organizations, active throughout the Black sea and the Baltic sea Regions, play a well-established and widely-recognized role as Centres of Excellence and key actors for parliamentary diplomacy and democracy building, peace and confidence-building initiatives, promoting synergies to support economic exchange and development, sustainable use of natural resources and protection of environment, and more generally, intercultural and interreligious integration ;

Recalling that the PABSEC was founded on 26 February 1993, in Istanbul, aiming at promoting economic cooperation among its Member States in the Black Sea Region;

Stressing upon the fact that the BSPC was established in 1991 as a forum for political dialogue between parliamentarians from the Baltic Sea Region and aims at raising awareness and opinion on issues of current political interest and relevance for the Baltic Sea Region, promoting and driving various initiatives and efforts to support a sustainable environmental, social and economic development of the Baltic Sea Region.

Strongly convinced that peaceful, stable and prosperous Black Sea and Baltic Sea Regions are of global interest;

Acknowledging the specific mission entrusted to the PABSEC Secretariat and the BSPC Secretariat by their Member Parliaments to identify, promote and ensure coordination of regional, sub-regional and transnational projects in order to improve the socio-economic development, regional integration, sustainable development and the exchange of knowledge among and within the countries of the regions;

Agree to sign this Memorandum of Understanding.

I. OBJECTIVE

The objective of this MoU is to lay down the basis for cooperation between PABSEC and BSPC, aiming at further developing initiatives and projects with regard to the interests of all states and peoples in their regions.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

The Parties agree that it is the mutual interest of the PABSEC and the BSPC to cooperate on activities relating to Black Sea and Baltic Sea issues. Accordingly, they agree the following:

a) Structured cooperation, exchange of information and consultation

The Parties hereby agree to keep each other informed of activities that may be of common interest to the extent permitted by the bye-laws of each Party. Such exchange may include making available reports and recommendations adopted within the respective organizations, and more generally, any publications on any subject of common interest.

In this respect, the two Parties will co-draft joint reports, resolutions and other documents on issues expressing shared points of views, and they will be able to exchange Secretariat staff on a short-term basis.

The Parties will at all times endeavour to deepen their cooperation by means of formal and informal consultations on issues of common interest.

With a view to maintaining an excellent partnership, exchanging information and furthering cooperation, the Secretaries General of PABSEC and BSPC will serve as the Permanent Observers of their respective Assemblies to the other, and each Party will designate a focal point that will be responsible for regular liaising and facilitating information flows.

The Parties may use appropriate media means to make public and disseminate the terms of this MoU as they think fit.

b) Joint activities

At any time, either of the Parties may make proposals to the other Party about particular projects or events undertaken by other Party, which the recipient Party will take into consideration in good faith.

Moreover, the Parties will organize joint events on areas of common interest on questions relating to Black Sea and Baltic Sea issues, falling under their respective mandates. These may include, by way of example, conferences, seminars, working groups and field study trips to specific areas of the regions.

c) Offering advice on strategic issues

The Secretariats of PABSEC and BSPC agree to provide both Parties with inputs for their debates and reports on, *inter alia*, the strategic priority areas as identified by the Heads of States and Governments, in particular: Economic development, Depollution of the Black Sea and of the Baltic Sea; Maritime and land highways, Civil Protection, Alternative Energies; Cultural and Social Affairs issues, Higher Education and Research, Business Initiatives.

PABSEC and BSPC agree to mobilize their parliamentary networks to support and advise on strategic issues relating to the regions, such as: parliamentary diplomacy and democracy building; economic development and public private partnerships (PPP); energy policy, promotion of investments, regulatory frameworks, SMEs, employment and vocational training; demography and migration.

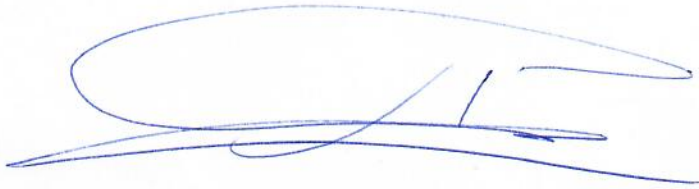
Such cooperation will serve the aim of supporting and mobilizing resources for the implementation of projects and the quality of PABSEC and BSPC hearings and activities, for the benefit of both Black Sea and Baltic Sea Regions.

III. ENTRY INTO FORCE, AMENDMENT AND SIGNING

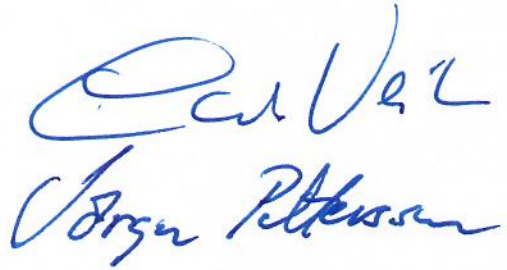
This MoU shall enter into force when signed by both Parties and remain valid until such time as either Party informs the other Party of its intention to cancel the MoU by giving at least one month written notice to the other Party.

Any amendments to this MoU shall be subject to written approval of both Parties.

Signed on 5 September 2017



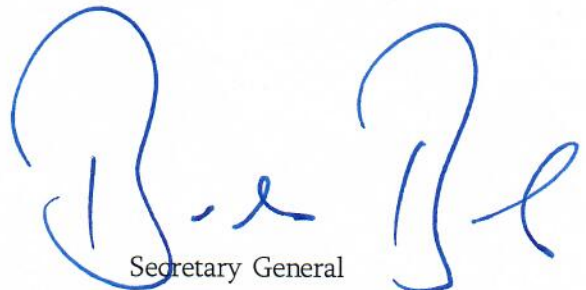
President of the
Parliamentary Assembly
of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation



President of the
Baltic Sea
Parliamentary Conference



Secretary General



Secretary General