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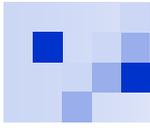
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## ENERGY SECURITY AND THE BLACK SEA

The issue of energy security has moved slowly but steadily to the top of the global security agenda. A plethora of studies, reports and analyses emphasize the growing dependence on oil and natural gas of the world economy, touching both developed and developing economies. Never before has the interdependence among energy producers, consumers and transit countries been so obvious, calling for cooperative rather than confrontational solutions. (continued on page 2)

## THE BLACK SEA MONITOR

The ICBSS has identified the need for a special circular on developments in and around the Black Sea region that goes beyond the mere news brief format. Therefore, the Centre has set up a quarterly electronic review focused particularly on the Black Sea region, aiming to provide stakeholders and other interested parties around the globe with an exclusive information service. The Monitor offers brief commentaries and refers key documents, publications and events of interest that impact on the wider Black Sea region.



In this context, one cannot help noting that there is something nonsensical about the attempts (with vocal proponents from both sides) to pit Russia and the monopolistic practices of its (state-owned) companies against the rest of the world. Is a global confrontation over oil and natural gas a real prospect? Is the debate over energy security much more substantive than meets the eye?

A reading of the BSEC [Summit Declaration](#) of 25 June 2007 and in particular its references to cooperation in the field of energy leaves one with the impression that all is rosy. So goes the Declaration:

*Recognizing the importance of energy as an essential element for sustainable development and being aware of the role and the further potential of the wider Black Sea area in terms of energy resources, including electric power, and its profile as a significant transit corridor for oil and gas bound mostly for Europe, we reaffirm our willingness to deepen our cooperation in the area of energy with due regard to interests of energy producing, consuming and transit countries and cooperate with the European Union and other international partners in order to ensure fair access to energy resources and markets on a mutual basis for all interested countries to enhance global energy security, efficiency, competitiveness and environmental sustainability.*

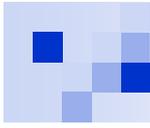
In fact, BSEC member states, including the much maligned Russian Federation refer to “fair access to energy resources and markets”, “efficiency” and “competitiveness”. Much of what is included in the Declaration stems from the [G8 Global Energy Security Declaration](#) of 16 July 2006 which stresses the equal importance of the security of supply and the security of demand. [President Putin’s remarks to the BSEC Summit](#) also appear to be constructive. Says Putin: “Ensuring reliable energy supplies is becoming more and more important. In connection with this we suggest increasing

the stability of the Black Sea region’s energy markets, including by introducing more long-term contracts. Diversifying energy routes, introducing new insurance policies, and better sharing partners’ financial risks through the exchange of assets are also on the agenda.”

So what is the fuss about? Is the increasing assertiveness of Russian energy diplomacy such a concern so as to consider Moscow a threat to Europe’s energy security? Or is the fact that much of the EU’s natural gas is supplied by Gazprom a valid cause for concern since the latter may acquire disproportionate influence over the consumers? Don’t we have to consider that such concerns may be reciprocal, should EU member states seek to supply themselves from elsewhere? Many suggest that the key to energy security is the diversification of the sources of supply. Therefore the threat is not so much that Gazprom and Rosfnct are monopolistic operators but that their policy is to control all the sources of supply (such as gas from the Central Asian countries) and their access to European and other markets. Some cost estimates show that the price of gas delivery via Russian pipelines to Europe is relatively higher than, say, gas delivered directly from Azerbaijan via Turkey.

Yet, despite effective anti-trust laws in the United States, isn’t every enterprise a monopolist at heart, seeking to acquire an ever larger market share to the detriment of its competitors and setting the price of its products so as to obtain ever greater profits? Is Russia to be blamed for the fact that the EU has an embryonic energy policy and that some of its member states (including Germany, Italy, Greece, and Bulgaria among others) have agreed to build oil and natural gas pipelines that also suit Russian interests?

Those who favour a broader diversification of sources of supply also assume that non-Russian solutions are more, at least equally, reliable. Has the impact of the protracted involvement by US and other forces in Iraq been factored in? Should Iraq eventually break up, would the reaction of



neighbouring states be supportive or could it be cause for further instability?

These and many other imponderables unfortunately make arguments in favour of greater competition and diversification a hard sell at this stage, while making the reliability of supply more relevant. With the wider Black Sea area being at the centre of energy developments both as “a production and transmission area of strategic importance for EU energy supply security”, as the [European Commission’s Communication on Black Sea Synergy](#) suggests, it makes sense to focus on a constructive approach to dealing with energy security. Such a philosophy can be found in the BSEC Summit Declaration and the G8 Global Energy Security Declaration. Dialogue and more dialogue is the only way forward. In its Black Sea Synergy document, the European Commission seems to have hit on the correct approach at heart when it stated that it “will continue to enhance its relations with energy producers, transit countries and consumers in a *dialogue on energy security*.” So, let us talk!

**DIMITRIOS TRIANTAPHYLLOU**

**Joint Declaration on Cooperation in the  
sphere of Transport in the BSEC Region  
on the Occasion of the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
of BSEC  
(Istanbul, 5 July 2007)**

The Ministers of Transport of the Member States of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) met in Istanbul on 5 July 2007, within the framework of the BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office of the Republic of Turkey;

*Bearing in mind* that BSEC, throughout its fifteen years of existence, has endeavoured to bring its Members together around common ideas, goals and principles;

*Taking into account* that the BSEC region, with its unique geographical location, has a strategic importance in connecting Europe and Asia;

*Believing* that after fifteen years of experience, it is time for BSEC to take concrete steps and achieve tangible results in the area of transport with a view to living up to the potential of the region;

*Being determined* to make every effort for further progress in cooperation in all modes of transport and to create a favourable environment for a satisfactory level of progress by initiating new projects and ideas;

*Emphasizing* the need to conduct a target-oriented evaluation of various plans and studies pertaining to the BSEC region in the area of transport that are being carried out by several international and regional organisations and initiatives, within the framework of BSEC which is the most suitable forum for such initiatives;

*Reiterating* the importance to continue working closely for the development of reliable, efficient, safe, integrated and sustainable transport systems in the BSEC region which connect the BSEC Member States with the European and Asian markets;

*Acknowledging* the necessity to intensify efforts for the development of the transport operations in the BSEC region according to the MoU on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC region as it is in force in the BSEC Member States and ease customs formalities and reducing waiting times at the border crossing points;

*Taking into consideration* that civil aviation has not been given the attention it deserves in BSEC transport agenda up to now and that fostering cooperation in this field holds great potential for the transport in the BSEC region, without prejudice to international obligations of the Member States;

*Welcoming* the successful completion of the Black Sea Ring Highway Caravan organised by BSEC PERMIS in partnership with the IRU and BSEC-URTA, with a view to promoting the future Black Sea Ring Highway;

*Acknowledging* the importance for the BSEC Member States of the UNECE contribution in developing internationally harmonized transport norms and standards and promoting development of Euro-Asian transport links;

*Stressing* the need and importance of the full and timely implementation of the Joint Declarations previously adopted by the Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States;

Have agreed:

1. To intensify joint efforts to promote sustainable transport systems, including multimodal transport networks, in the countries of the BSEC Member States, in order to help reduce regional disparities and to connect the BSEC region's transport infrastructure to the European and the Asian transport networks;
2. To promote the organization of regional training seminars and conferences aimed at the exchange of experiences and best practices in the sphere of transport

among experts of the BSEC Member States, other states and international organizations;

3. To strengthen cooperation with relevant international organizations and structures in order to coordinate the ongoing activities in the field of transport, while fully reflecting the interests of the Member States, through devising joint action plans and instituting appropriate coordination mechanisms with international organizations which would yield fruitful results for the region in the sphere of transport;
4. To promote the gradual liberalization of bilateral and transit road transport of goods in accordance with the MoU on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC region as in force within each BSEC Member States, which would help develop intermodal transport connections and transport services among BSEC Members States with a view to further improving the competitiveness of their national economies in the world trade system;
5. To take appropriate measures to improve the efficiency of BSEC PERMIS and its assisting role to the Chairmanship-in-Office, the Country Coordinator and the BSEC Member States, for better preparation of regular follow-up reports on the implementation of the BSEC transport agenda;
6. To encourage the BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partners to offer their contributions to the implementation of agreed measures and arrangements regarding the facilitation of transport in the region;
7. To ensure the implementation of the provisions of the Memoranda of Understanding on the Coordinated Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway, the Development of the Motorways of the Sea in the BSEC

Region, as well as the Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region, without any delay;

8. To call upon the Steering Committee established for the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region to take the necessary measures for the proper implementation of the said MoU;
9. To encourage the continuation and further strengthening of BSEC cooperation with the UNECE, IRF and IRU;
10. To support and promote cross-border cooperation projects among the BSEC Member States wherever is possible to the benefit of the whole region;
11. To explore the possibilities for cooperation in the field of civil aviation.

The participants expressed their gratitude to the Government and people of the Republic of Turkey for their warm hospitality and the outstanding organization of the Meeting of the Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States.

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**Statement of the Ministers for Culture of  
the Member States of the Organisation of  
the Black Sea Economic Cooperation  
(BSEC)  
(Sounion, 4 July 2007)**

We, the Ministers for Culture of the Member States of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) –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–, at the meeting at Sounion on 4 July 2007, during the BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office of the Republic of Turkey (May-October 2007) and

the term of the Hellenic Republic as the first Country-Coordinator of the Working Group on Culture (November 2006–October 2008),

*Acting* on the basis of the resolution of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (Moscow, 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting, 1 November 2006), which approved the establishment of the BSEC Working Group on Culture and its Terms of Reference;

*Confident* that culture, cultural heritage and cultural industries are major assets for sustainable social and economic development, as well as for meeting the challenges that our societies are facing in a changing world;

*Re-asserting* our commitment to the basic documents of the United Nations, in particular the UN General Assembly Resolutions on the global agenda for dialogue among civilizations and the promotion of cultural understanding and co-operation with UNESCO and the Council of Europe that are relevant to international co-operation in the field of culture;

*Convinced* that the variety of cultural identities and values represents a key resource for enhancing political dialogue, developing economic co-operation and ensuring stability in the wider Black Sea area in accordance with the BSEC Charter and other relevant policy documents;

1. Declare our determination to work together in the framework of the Organization of the BSEC in order to enhance mutual knowledge and appreciation of our respective cultural assets as a significant contributing factor to comprehensive interstate cooperation in the wider Black Sea area and to that end:

a) Attach particular importance to the current efforts for enhanced cooperation between BSEC and the European Union and to establishing a working relationship with a view to achieving an operational framework for co-operation also in the field of cultural affairs, as

mentioned in the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Summit Declaration (25 June 2007, Istanbul);

- b) Undertake to further strengthen the existing co-operation within the BSEC in the field of culture and to work together in a constructive spirit with international organizations concerned, especially the Council of Europe and UNESCO, as well as with other regional and international bodies and non-governmental networks for cultural co-operation.
- c) Emphasize the need to explore in a systematic way the potential of the region and to work towards shaping a better understanding of the Black Sea distinct regional cultural identity by developing joint strategies and programs.
- d) Enhance cooperation between the BSEC Working Group on Culture and the BSEC Related Bodies, in particular the Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC), with a view to implementing the relevant recommendations.

2. Reiterate our determination to promote an open model of cultural co-operation, based on:

- a) Respect for and promotion of the rich cultural diversity of our countries;
- b) Enhancement of intercultural dialogue as a means to increase mutual understanding and respect for each other;
- c) Identifying and maximizing the cultural potential and the available resources, including human capital, of the BSEC Member States;
- d) Addressing the challenge to link culture and economy and work with the creative industries and the business community towards developing a relationship between cultural aims and economic interests;
- e) Improvement, through culture, of the quality of life of the people in the region.

3. Agree to proceed with the establishment of an operational framework for the implementation of the priorities set in the agreed Terms of Reference of the Working Group on Culture, through intergovernmental co-operation, engagement of the relevant actors of the BSEC institutional family, in particular the PABSEC and the International Center for Black Sea Studies, and interaction with the civil society, focusing on the following lines of action:

- a) Fostering balanced and sustainable development by taking into account the significance of cultural heritage and its inherent values;
- b) Undertaking cooperative action, at regional level, for the listing, protection and valorization of cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible;
- c) Strengthening cooperation in the field of prohibiting and preventing the illicit import, export and transfer of cultural property;
- d) Building networks of cooperation and developing joint projects in the field of contemporary culture, such as literature, theatre, dance, music and visual arts;
- e) Creating synergies in the field of cultural tourism with related industries;
- f) Reviving ancient routes and creatively developing new ones as vehicles for intercultural dialogue, mutual understanding, good neighborhood relations and social cohesion;
- g) Identifying necessary sources for financing joint projects through national and international public and private funds.

4. Welcome the elaboration of the Draft Action Plan covering the term in office of the Hellenic Republic as Country-Coordinator of the BSEC Working Group on Culture (November 2006-October 2008), conceived to attain practical results in the field of cultural co-operation, and submit for endorsement to the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States. We deem it necessary that the Draft Action Plan be finalized by the end of September

2007, using the procedural possibilities available in the BSEC normative framework, including silence procedure.

5. Express our gratitude to the Hellenic Republic, in particular to the Hellenic Ministry of Culture, for the warm hospitality extended to the participants and the substantial contribution to the success of the First Meeting of the Ministers for Culture of the BSEC Member States.

**Agreement on Cooperation between the  
Organization of the Black Sea Economic  
Cooperation (BSEC) and the United  
Nations Development Programme  
(UNDP)  
(Istanbul, 28 June 2007)**

**Preamble**

The present “ Agreement” is entered into the First day of December 2006 by and between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), a subsidiary organ of the United Nations, an international organization established by treaty, having its Headquarters at 1, UN Plaza, New York, NY (USA) and the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), an intergovernmental organization, established by treaty having its Headquarters at Sakıp Sabancı Caddesi, Istanbul, Turkey, to be collectively referred to hereinafter as the “Parties”;

*Considering* that UNDP’s overarching mission is to help developing countries and countries in economic transition to build national capacities to attain the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs), giving top priority around the following practice areas namely: poverty reduction, energy and environment, gender equality, crisis prevention and recovery, ICT for development, democratic governance, HIV and development partnership;

*Considering* that BSEC only acts for the best interest of its member states through the

establishment of relations with international organizations in view of developing a mutually beneficial cooperation;

Noting that BSEC obtained the status of observer in the United Nations General Assembly by Resolution 54/5 of 8 October 1999, and that BSEC has concluded cooperation agreements with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the United Nations Environment Programme, among other United Nations bodies,

Noting further that the Parties share substantial areas of common interest and are aware of the benefits of a closer cooperation between them;

Reaffirming their wish of enhancing coordination of their work and strengthening cooperation especially on programmes of common interest;

*Have agreed* as follows:

#### **Article 1**

The Parties conclude the present Agreement with a view of acting in close cooperation on issues of common interest including implementation of projects/programmes in those areas, namely:

- a) Poverty reduction
- b) Regional Integration
- c) Capacity Building
- d) Good governance
- e) Gender Equality
- f) Crisis prevention and recovery
- g) Information and Communication Technology for Development
- h) Energy and Environment
- i) Other issues commonly determined by the Parties

All such cooperation envisaged hereunder shall be subject to the internal regulations, rules, policies and procedures of the Parties, and decisions of their respective bodies, as appropriate.

#### **Article 2**

In order to implement the specific activities envisioned hereunder, the Parties shall conclude cost-sharing agreements in accordance with the applicable UNDP regulations, rules and procedures, which shall specify the costs or expenses relating to the activity and how they are to be borne by the Parties. The cost-sharing agreements shall include a provision incorporating by reference the MOU, which is applicable to the cost-sharing agreements and the projects/programmes financed therefrom. It is understood that all activities at the country level will be carried out on the basis of project documents agreed between UNDP and the concerned governments, in consultation with BSEC and in accordance with the applicable UNDP regulations, rules and procedures.

Neither Party shall be an agent, representative or joint partner of the other Party. Neither Party shall enter into any contract or commitment on behalf of the other Party and shall be solely responsible for making all payments to and on behalf of its own account, as provided under this MOU and under cost-sharing agreements concluded hereunder.

#### **Article 3**

A party may request the cooperation and expertise of the other party in executing projects/programmes or other activities of mutual interest. Such cooperation will be provided by a party in accordance with the internal decisions of its governing bodies and applicable regulations and rules of each party.

#### **Article 4**

The Parties will inform each other on the progress of activities of common interest and will exchange information and documents that are not subject to any confidentiality limitations.

#### **Article 5**

The Parties will invite each other's representative to meetings and conferences to which observers are admitted, in accordance with internal procedures of the two organizations and when issues of common interest to the two Parties are discussed.

#### **Article 6**

The Parties undertake to consult one another periodically on issues relating to the present Agreement, and may agree, if necessary, on additional arrangements for its implementation.

#### **Article 7**

This Agreement enters into force on the date of its signature by the Parties and shall continue into force for a period of four years unless terminated earlier as provided herein. This Agreement may be amended with the mutual consent of the Parties in writing. The Parties may agree to extend this MOU for subsequent periods of two years.

This Agreement may be terminated by either party by giving the other party three months' prior notice in writing. In the event of termination of the MOU, the cost-sharing agreements and project documents concluded pursuant to this MOU may also be terminated in accordance with the termination provision contained in such agreements. In such case, the Parties shall take the necessary steps to ensure that the activities carried out under the MOU, the cost-sharing agreements, and project documents are brought to a prompt and orderly conclusion.

#### **Article 8**

Any dispute or difference between the parties arising from this Memorandum of Understanding shall be settled amicably through negotiations between the Parties.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the Parties have signed this Agreement in Istanbul, in the

English language, in four originals, on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2006

**Declaration on the Occasion of the  
Fifteenth Anniversary Summit of the  
Black Sea Economic Cooperation  
(Istanbul, 25 June 2007)**

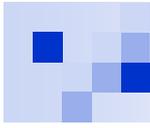
We, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), met in Istanbul on 25 June 2007 to mark the Fifteenth Anniversary of the BSEC.

Reaffirming our commitment and faith in the Organization and its Charter as indispensable foundations for peace, stability and prosperity in the wider Black Sea area,

Having reviewed the record of BSEC's activities and achievements, as well as its challenges, since its inception by the Istanbul Declaration of 25 June 1992, and having engaged in a comprehensive exchange of views on the way forward,

We solemnly declare on this historic occasion that;

1. The initiative agreed fifteen years ago to launch a regional cooperation project in the wider Black Sea area has proved its worth and has withstood the test of time. The Organization now presents itself as an inclusive, treaty-based, full-fledged regional economic organization, possessing mature institutional structures, well established operational rules and procedures, as well as a distinct political profile. We all share the conviction that our multilateral economic cooperation contributes to enhancing peace, stability and security to the benefit of our region. The Organization has also contributed to developing a sense of regional ownership and identity among our peoples. We therefore firmly believe in the importance of the Organization of the BSEC. We are resolved to further

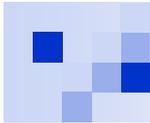


consolidate its role as an active and reliable partner in regional and international affairs. We are ready to meet the challenges ahead.

2. The growing role and importance of the wider Black Sea area necessitates the adaptation of the BSEC to a world of rapid change in order to assume new responsibilities in the years to come, while deepening cooperation in the priority areas of common interest such as environmental protection, trade, transport, tourism, energy, telecommunications, science and technology and combating terrorism, and all forms of organized crime, which would yield tangible outcomes to improve the quality of the daily lives of our peoples. Among these areas, energy, trade and transport could be given particular prominence.
3. Our common objective should be to further promote BSEC as a project oriented organization which will best represent its Member States and peoples and encourage cooperation and joint development. Improved economic outlook will enable the BSEC to set more ambitious goals and to undertake and effectively implement major regional projects of strategic importance. To further strengthen the cooperation in the BSEC area, we encourage the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (CMFA) to consider further steps toward enlarging the contractual foundation of the BSEC with new legal instruments, especially in the specified priority areas, without prejudice to other international obligations of the Member States.
4. Progress on projects in the aforementioned areas will require innovative solutions for financing, including a more active involvement of the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank (BSTDB) in conjunction with partner financial institutions. The recent achievements by the BSTDB are encouraging. Therefore we expect its active involvement in

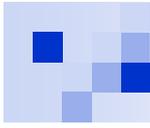
major regional projects. Reaffirming the importance of the role of the private sector, including small and medium sized enterprises, and public-private partnership as the driving force for the consolidation of our economic cooperation, we encourage their participation in the development and implementation of concrete projects of common interest for the BSEC Member States.

5. We reaffirm our unswerving commitment to the protection of the environment in the Black Sea region, taking into consideration its gradual degradation, in recent decades and the severe health hazards this entails. Aware of the importance of multilateral initiatives in the region, we commit ourselves to undertake appropriate measures in order to preserve and rehabilitate the environment for the present and future generations, in line with the objective of sustainable development. In this respect, we consider necessary to strengthen the cooperation with all international organizations dealing with issues on protection and rehabilitation of the Black Sea marine environment including those on preventing and reducing of the pollution of the rivers flowing into the sea and the hydrographical basins of the rivers flowing into the sea. We also stress the serious consequences of climate change and the need for widest possible regional and international cooperation to address this issue in a comprehensive and effective manner.
6. We are resolved to proceed with the implementation without any delay of the Memoranda of Understanding on the Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway and of the Motorways of the Sea, which constitute regional contributions to the extension of Trans-European Networks and the development of Euro-Asian transport links. In this context, we encourage the development of stronger maritime



transport links between the Black Sea ports with a view to contributing to the prosperity of the wider Black Sea area.

7. At a time when the nexus between terrorism and organized crime has emerged as a major threat to national and regional security and stability, we reiterate our firm resolve to fight against them, in compliance with relevant resolutions and decisions of the UN Security Council and our international obligations in this sphere.
8. Recognizing that the existing protracted conflicts in the region impede cooperation, we emphasize the need for their earliest peaceful settlement on the basis of the norms and principles of international law.
9. We reaffirm our devotion to jointly devised initiatives that would help remove trade barriers, in conformity with the objectives set out in the Doha Development Agenda of the World Trade Organization (WTO), and to further facilitate trade through concluding legal instruments that would lead to the gradual harmonization of trade legislation and customs procedures in the BSEC region. The accession of all BSEC Member States to the WTO will contribute positively in this respect.
10. Recognizing the importance of energy as an essential element for sustainable development and being aware of the role and the further potential of the wider Black Sea area in terms of energy resources, including electric power, and its profile as a significant transit corridor for oil and gas bound mostly for Europe, we reaffirm our willingness to deepen our cooperation in the area of energy with due regard to interests of energy producing, consuming and transit countries and cooperate with the European Union and other international partners in order to ensure fair access to energy resources and markets on a mutual basis for all interested countries to enhance global energy security, efficiency, competitiveness and environmental sustainability.
11. Cognizant of the importance of communication for strengthening the links among our peoples, we express our readiness to jointly devise and implement projects to improve the quality and services of the telecommunications network in the region. We will further act and coordinate our efforts with the aim to build up in the wider Black Sea area an information society based on the recent information and communication technologies developments.
12. We are convinced that the BSEC, while constituting an indispensable means to accelerate regional economic and social development, also presents a historic opportunity to consolidate the democratic experiences of its Member States. We consider the BSEC as a valuable platform to build up together, in a step-by-step approach, our common future through mutual cooperation at all levels - state to state, region to region, people to people - so that the BSEC region becomes an integral part of a stable and prosperous Europe.
13. We appreciate the role of the Parliamentary Assembly of BSEC providing effective and close interaction among the national parliaments and consistent support to the BSEC cooperation process.
14. We welcome the completion of the process of reform envisaged in the Bucharest Statement as an important step in enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization, as well as its role in the economic and social development of its Member States. This should be a continued process to be pursued with consistency, cooperation and coordination, having the overall objective of convergence among BSEC Member States in economic, social and



cultural terms. Accordingly, the BSEC system should develop more effective capabilities and appropriate instruments for conceptual design, policy planning, implementation and monitoring of follow-up activities.

15. Over the past five years, the BSEC region has improved its economic profile, becoming one of the fastest growing in the world, while achieving a reasonable level of macroeconomic stability and accountable financial management. We invite the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to examine the implications of these encouraging developments, and to adjust accordingly the objectives and working modalities of the BSEC Economic Agenda for the Future.
16. We attach great importance to the role of the business communities in the BSEC Member States in promoting economic cooperation and development in the Region and appreciate the contribution of the BSEC Business Council in catalyzing business cooperation and promoting innovation. We envisage an increased role for it in the future in facilitating the process of identification and elimination of trade barriers and business/investment disincentives towards greater economic and trade integration and the establishment of a favorable business and investment climate in the Black Sea region.
17. We appreciate the useful contribution of the International Center for Black Sea Studies to BSEC activities as a productive think-tank providing assistance to the policy design and decision making process, as well as a scholarly research and training unit of regional significance. We envisage the ever growing contribution of the ICBSS in supporting the activities of the BSEC and in enhancing regional cooperation in the region.
18. We highly value the United Nations General Assembly Resolutions on cooperation between the UN and BSEC, and the Observer status BSEC acquired in the UN General Assembly. We reaffirm our resolve to undertake further efforts to strengthen BSEC's cooperation with the UN system. We also attach importance to the meaningful project-based cooperation with other regional and international governmental and non-governmental organizations.
19. We reiterate our commitment to contribute to the attainment of UN Millennium Development Goals at national, regional and global levels and invite the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to examine possible steps for the achievement of these goals in the BSEC region.
20. We declare our spirit of openness to dialogue on a mutual basis with existing organizations, initiatives, processes and other fora, that recognize the significant role of BSEC in our region.
21. As we move into a new period of expanding relations between BSEC and the EU, we confirm the importance of establishing a strategic relationship between the two Organizations. We stand ready to define together with the EU guidelines and areas of such relationship. That interaction could be an integral part of the efforts towards creating a more prosperous and secure Europe without dividing lines. BSEC Member States participate in EU initiatives, such as the European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) Black Sea Basin Cross-Border Cooperation Program, which encourages cooperation in the region. The Communication of the European Commission, dated 11 April 2007, on "Black Sea Synergy – A New Regional Cooperation Initiative" is welcomed as yet another step in order to enhance relations between BSEC and the EU, which acknowledges the role of

BSEC as a regional partner for the EU and envisages the possibility of regular ministerial meetings.

22. We welcome the granting of Observer status to the Commission of the European Communities. This will facilitate a closer BSEC-EU interaction that may establish new partnerships and lead to the creation of appropriate instruments for the implementation of agreed projects and activities in a regional format. We invite the EU to jointly hold with BSEC a Ministerial Meeting, which would mark the official start of the Black Sea Synergy process. We also agree that, without prejudice to specific EU programmes applying to individual States or sub-regions, the joint BSEC-EU action in the wider Black Sea area should be comprehensive and inclusive so that its benefits encompass all BSEC Member States.

23. We are unanimous in expressing our profound gratitude to the Government and people of the Republic of Turkey and to the host city of Istanbul, the birthplace of BSEC, for their warm hospitality and the outstanding organization of the Fifteenth Anniversary Summit.

**Special Meeting of the  
Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of  
the BSEC Member States  
Resolutions  
(Istanbul, 25 June 2007)**

The Special Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC),

agreed on the following:

**RESOLUTIONS**

**GRANTING OBSERVER STATUS TO THE  
COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN  
COMMUNITIES IN BSEC**

1. Considering the application of the Commission of the European Communities and in pursuance of articles 8 and 9 of the BSEC Charter, the Council agreed to grant the Commission of the European Communities an observer status in BSEC.

[...]

**Council of the European Union,  
Presidency Conclusions  
(Brussels, 21-22 June 2007)**

[...]

**IV. EXTERNAL RELATIONS**

**European Neighbourhood Policy**

45. The European Council reaffirms the paramount importance of the ENP, which aims at consolidating a ring of prosperity, stability and security based on human rights, democracy and the rule of law, as well as supporting the process of reform and modernisation of partners in the Union's neighbourhood.

46. The European Council endorses the Council Conclusions on strengthening the European Neighbourhood Policy and the Presidency Progress Report, which includes a set of measures to further strengthen Neighbourhood Policy. While the ENP's character as a single and coherent policy framework should be maintained, implementation of the Policy should take due account of the specificity of partner countries. The European Council invites future Presidencies to continue work on the basis of the Presidency Report and relevant Commission proposals and communications.

## Central Asia

47. The European Council adopted an EU strategy for a new partnership with Central Asia. This strategy will serve as an overall framework for EU relations with Central Asia, including in the fields of human rights, rule of law, good governance and democracy, education, economic development, trade and investment, energy and transport, environmental policies, migration and intercultural dialogue. The strategy defines the EU's priorities for its cooperation with the region as a whole, but implementation will be tailored to the specific requirements and performance of each Central Asian state. The European Council asks the Council and the Commission to regularly review progress in implementing this strategy and to submit a first progress report to the European Council by the middle of 2008.

[...]

**General Affairs and External Relations  
Council (GAERC)  
Council Conclusions on Strengthening  
the European Neighbourhood Policy  
(Brussels, 18-19 June 2007)**

The Council welcomed the significant progress that has been made in strengthening the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), a core priority within the EU's external action, under the mandate agreed by the European Council of December 2006. It endorsed the Presidency's Progress Report which takes stock of the substantial accomplishments to date and looks forward to the future development of the strengthened ENP.

The Council reaffirmed the crucial importance of the ENP to consolidate a ring of prosperity, stability and security based on human rights, democracy and the rule of law in the EU's neighbourhood. Continuous efforts should be made so that all partner countries truly embrace a strengthened ENP.

The Council recalled the key principles of the ENP:

- ENP is a strategy based on partnership and joint ownership to promote modernisation and reform.
- ENP is a single, inclusive, balanced and coherent policy framework.
- Performance-driven differentiation and tailor-made assistance remain essential for EU relations with the neighbouring countries.
- ENP remains distinct from the question of EU membership and does not prejudice any possible future developments of partner countries' relationship with the EU.

The Council welcomed the work achieved so far in deepening the ENP's economic, financial, thematic, regional and civil society dimensions. It underlined that deeper economic integration is an essential building block of the strengthened ENP, to be achieved in particular by the progressive adoption of deep and comprehensive free trade agreements. The opening of negotiations on such agreements will be preceded by the accession of our partner countries to the WTO. It particularly welcomed the opening of negotiations on an Enhanced Agreement with Ukraine, certain aspects of which could serve as a model for other ENP partners in the future.

The Council welcomed the Commission's ongoing work to establish a Governance Facility, with objective and transparent allocation criteria, to better encourage partners' reforms, and took note of the ongoing work to set up a Neighbourhood Investment Fund, which should be fully compatible with FEMIP. It underlined the importance of the progress made on the opening of Community agencies and programmes to partner countries.

The Council underlined the importance of the extension of the Global Approach to Migration to the neighbouring Eastern and South-Eastern regions and considered that further initiatives could be explored to facilitate mobility for certain categories of

people from ENP countries to the EU, in particular for participation in ENP-related events.

The Council equally welcomed the decision to invite Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia on a case by case basis to align with EU declarations, demarches and positions on CFSP issues. A similar possibility should be pursued for the EU's Mediterranean partners. The Council welcomed the adoption and the beginning of implementation of the Egypt and Lebanon ENP Action Plans, which will allow the strengthening of relations with these two countries.

The Council welcomed that work on a strengthened and coherent EU engagement towards the Black Sea area has started and recalled the Council Conclusions of 14 May 2007 on the Black Sea Synergy Initiative. In developing this initiative, the EU can build on the experience gained in the context of the Barcelona Process and consider the lessons learnt in the Northern Dimension and build upon synergies with other regional cooperation processes.

The Council underlined that the efforts to develop the strengthened ENP as a core foreign policy should continue dynamically and invited the incoming Presidencies and the Commission to take forward this work in the relevant bodies.

**General Affairs and External Relations  
Council (GAERC)  
Strengthening the European  
Neighbourhood Policy  
Presidency Progress Report  
(Brussels, 18-19 June 2007)**

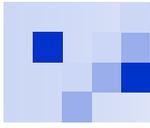
As mandated by the Council on 11 December 2006, this report takes stock of the political consensus achieved and the progress made in this field over the last months and identifies further practical measures necessary to intensify the ENP with success.

**1. Strategic Aims and Principles**

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) remains a core priority of the EU's foreign policy. There is a clear geopolitical imperative to foster stability, the rule of law and human rights, better governance and economic modernization in our neighbourhood. This is critical to address our strategic objectives, to tackle the challenges we face and to reap the substantial benefits of closer political and economic ties.

In the first two years of its implementation, the ENP has already achieved significant results, in particular by helping partners to forge a detailed reform agenda and by providing higher and more effective EU assistance. Still, given the magnitude of the challenges ahead, we must channel Europe's great modernizing power even more efficiently. Political instability and weak governance in our neighbourhood could impact on the EU. At the same time, risks to Europe's energy security, environmental threats and rising flows of illegal migration, to name but a few, also have a growing influence on our security and prosperity. The EU, together with ENP partners, must tackle these issues with greater resolve and consolidate a ring of friends around its rims. The ENP already offers our partners a privileged reform relationship. Now is the time to make this offer even more attractive, effective and credible. Helping our neighbours advance on their paths of modernization and creating a space of stability and shared values beyond the EU's borders is in our mutual interest. The strengthened ENP is thus a security and prosperity policy for Europe's citizens.

There is, firstly, agreement among Member States that the ENP is a core priority within the EU's external action and that the Union's political and practical commitments towards our partners should therefore be enhanced. Secondly, there is consensus that the intensified Neighbourhood Policy is a single, inclusive and coherent policy framework. The offer of intensified relations and the ENP's improved toolbox apply to all partner countries, while maintaining an overall



balance between the East and the South. This continued coherence is to the advantage of all EU Member States.

The ENP's policy framework, however, needs to remain sufficiently flexible to allow individual partners to self-differentiate according to their capacity, needs and performance. Clearly, the level of ambition of our bilateral relationships and the level of EU support will continue to depend on partners' achievements and the extent to which they effectively and visibly make progress on the reform-track, notably along the lines of their ENP Action Plans which remain pivotal tools. In the same vein, EU support should be even more tailor-made to the needs of partners and their priorities as set out in the Action Plans.

A third key principle of the ENP which shall be retained is that it remains distinct from the process and policy of EU enlargement. Participation in the ENP is crucial in its own right to bolster domestic transformation processes in the interest of our partners' citizens, independently of an EU accession perspective. Notwithstanding the relevant provisions of the EU Treaty, ENP remains distinct from the question of EU membership; it does not prejudge any possible future developments of partner countries' relationship with the EU.

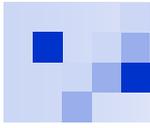
## **2. Progress to date**

Over the last six months, the EU has already succeeded to implement a number of substantial and politically visible measures, with the proposals by the Commission presented in its December Communication serving as a good and firm basis. Several rounds of negotiations on an Enhanced Agreement with Ukraine have been held. This Agreement should be considered as a flagship project for the enhanced ENP. Certain aspects of it can serve as a model for other partners and a signal of the credibility and sustainability of the Union's commitment, as the opening of talks demonstrates that the implementation of Action Plan priorities brings rewards.

Furthermore, work to substantiate an "advanced status" for Morocco has begun. Detailed ENP Action Plans with Lebanon and Egypt as well as Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia are now being implemented and serve as important building blocks of these partners' domestic reform agendas. To the same end, the Commission has prepared a non-paper on Belarus, which would serve as a useful basis once democratic changes in the country allow to start work towards fully-fledged participation in the ENP. Also, twinning and TAIEX activities with ENP-countries are being strengthened, through the widening of the operational area, thus helping to develop modern administrations capable of implementing relevant parts of the EU acquis. Generally, reform progress shall be monitored and evaluated on a regular basis and partners encouraged to enhance their own internal monitoring systems.

In the critical field of energy, we have also started to deepen relations with partners, inter alia through the Energy Action Plan agreed at the March European Council. A Ministerial Conference in April in Berlin rallied partners around the agenda of energy efficiency and renewable energy. The implementation of the Energy Memoranda of Understanding with Ukraine and Azerbaijan has progressed, and Algeria has been offered a strategic energy partnership.

Discussions have continued on the full extension of the Energy Community of South-Eastern Europe to Ukraine and Moldova, who currently have observer status. These partners need to make headway to accomplish that objective, which shall be assessed by an EU mission. In the field of infrastructure, the Council on 7 June welcomed the intention to extend the Trans-European Transport Networks to our neighbours in the South and East, a measure of significant economic and infrastructural importance. In the same vein, the new integrated approach to the Union's maritime policy is of particular significance for our Mediterranean and Black Sea partners.



In view of better managing migration and tackling illegal immigration, the Commission presented a Communication on Applying the Global Approach to Migration to the Eastern and South-Eastern Regions Neighbouring the European Union, which contains proposals for intensifying dialogue and cooperation in this crucial field. The first results of the Global Approach's implementation regarding Africa and the Mediterranean are encouraging for its application to our Eastern and South-Eastern neighbours on the basis of these proposals. In particular, the EU will improve coordination with partners in combating illegal migration and step up its capacity-building efforts.

As a tangible sign of the Union's openness to its neighbours and in line with its common approach on visa facilitation, we concluded negotiations on visa facilitation/readmission agreements with Ukraine and Moldova, which now need to be implemented rapidly. Also, we will discuss visa facilitation for certain groups of people from our Eastern partners, in particular for participation in ENP-related events, building on equivalent measures that have been applied for groups of citizens from the EuroMed countries since 2003. All these measures are part of broader progress with the ENP countries in the field of justice and home affairs, including on anti-terrorism-policy with our Southern partners. In order to further encourage and support regulatory and administrative reform and institutionbuilding, the EU has paved the way for opening Community agencies and programmes to ENP countries following a gradual approach. Targeted participation in these bodies and programmes will be a catalyst for reforms and convergence towards EU policies and legislation. The Council expressed its support to this approach on 5 March. The Commission shall now on the basis of Council directives negotiate the relevant additional protocols. After the approval by the Council, the Commission shall on a case-by-case basis pursue contacts regarding the participation of partners in Community agencies with a view to establishing international agreements to this end. Israel, Morocco and Ukraine are likely

to be the first partner countries to benefit from these measures.

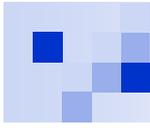
A number of events have taken place during the last six months to help take forward the 2005 Barcelona Summit commitments. The Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Research, to be held in Cairo on June 18 with our Mediterranean Partners, as well as the first Euro-Med Youth Parliament held in Berlin in May and June are important milestones in this regard. Furthermore, a conference on Employment and Social Dialogue in the Euro-Med Region in March was held to strengthen the civil society dimension, while working groups on migration, counter-terrorism and energy also deepened cooperation in crucial policy areas. To provide specific leverage for our partners' reforms in the fields of democratisation and institution-building, the ENP's parliamentary dimension should equally be strengthened. To this end, the Presidency has been holding exploratory talks with MEPs on the European Parliament's possible contribution, e.g. an increased focus of interparliamentary delegations on ENP-issues and "parliamentary twinning" to transfer democratic know-how.

An immediate political improvement is the decision to invite the Southern Caucasus countries on a case-by-case basis to align with EU declarations, demarches and positions on CFSP issues. A similar possibility should be pursued for the EU's Mediterranean partners.

It is critical, both for the impact and visibility of our policy, that this positive momentum is kept and that the measures begun in the course of the last six months continue to be specified and implemented.

### **3. Strengthening the ENP for the Future**

In the light of the aforementioned principles and the progress to date, the EU will build on what has been achieved so far and take forward the following key elements of the strengthened European Neighbourhood Policy:



The principal aim of an enhanced Neighbourhood Policy is to provide better incentives for partners to advance on the path of reforms, thus recognizing the efforts required on their part. Improved access to our internal market, taking into account its impact on internal European policies, is such a key incentive and must therefore stand at the heart of the intensified ENP. It would not only result in greater commercial exchanges but equally improve the business climate in partner countries and thus be a major catalyst for overall reforms, which would in turn contribute to political stability.

Deeper economic integration is thus in the Union's own interest.

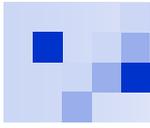
Improved market access for our partners is therefore now being examined. It should in particular focus on partners' comparative advantages and thus feature elements of asymmetry in their favour as appropriate. In return, partners must continue opening their economic systems and selectively adopt relevant parts of the EU acquis. This regulatory convergence, which could be given priority in ENP Action Plans where appropriate, will both strengthen their legislative frameworks and improve their trading opportunities with the EU.

The central platform for this increased economic integration is the adoption of bilateral deep free trade agreements. The opening of negotiations on such agreements will be preceded by the accession of partner countries to the WTO. The Enhanced Agreement with Ukraine, including a deep and comprehensive FTA, could serve as a model in this regard, though further agreements will of course depend on the ambition and individual state of development of each country, thus reflecting the performance-oriented, differentiated nature of the enhanced ENP. As Moldova is not yet in the position to establish a free trade area with the EU according to a recent feasibility study, work to grant the country Autonomous Trade Preferences should be finalized. Also, the feasibility studies for FTAs with Armenia and Georgia will be

presented quickly for discussion among Member States. The ongoing negotiations on trade in services, the right to establishment, agricultural, processed agricultural and fisheries products with our Mediterranean ENP partners will be pursued with dynamism. Finally, intra-regional deep and comprehensive free trade among ENP countries, efforts for which are already progressing among our Southern partners, will be encouraged more strongly as an important tool of integration and stabilization between them.

A second key point for the enhanced ENP is to make best use of the Union's financial weight. The increase in funding for partners under the new European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) is already a sign of the Union's enhanced commitment. To encourage reforms even more strongly, the Commission has launched the establishment of a substantial Governance Facility with objective and transparent allocation criteria. Furthermore, work has progressed on the establishment of a Neighbourhood Investment Fund, which is supposed to improve the impact of the EU's budgetary levers and help pool resources of major donors, while being fully compatible with existing financial instruments, in particular FEMIP.

In addition to improving our reform incentives through substantially deeper economic integration and more effective financial inducements, the strengthened ENP shall, thirdly, also place a stronger focus on cross-cutting sectoral themes, thus providing a multilateral complement to its main bilateral tracks with individual countries. This thematic dimension shall largely build on and reenergize existing cooperation in a variety of fields, ranging from governance and the rule of law to justice and security issues, and from economic cooperation to transport, energy and environment matters. Intensified regional cooperation on border and migration management as well as on energy issues are of special importance, hence the extension of the EU transport and energy networks to neighbouring countries



shall be continued. The intensified use of the TAIEX and twinning tools, e.g. through the networking of twinning-projects within partners, and the opening of Community agencies and programmes to ENP countries will be particularly instrumental to this thematic dimension and to economic integration, helping partners to learn from best practices and share expertise more effectively. Finally, this deepened sectoral cooperation is not just important in its own right, but an important element of mutual political confidence-building.

A strengthened ENP shall generally provide an impetus to stronger political cooperation with and between ENP partners. In particular, it shall make a clearer contribution to conflict resolution in our neighbourhood, by creating a climate conducive to dialogue and by playing a more active role in regional or multilateral conflict-resolution efforts, to be decided on a case-by-case basis. The EU's ongoing border-management operations - the EUBAMs in Ukraine/Moldova and Rafah, the EUSR Border Support Team in Georgia and the EU Police Mission in the Palestinian Territories (EUPOL COPPS) - will continue to play an important role in this regard.

Finally, a strengthened ENP could not work properly without better involving the citizens of the EU and of partner countries. Ownership by governments is essential but not in itself sufficient to successfully support better governance. Therefore, strengthening its civil society dimension is vital for the ENP's overall success. This will take the form of an intensified dialogue with civil society in partner countries, including on intercultural and inter-faith issues, better information on ENP matters by EU and Member States' institutions, also on the ground, and in particular through enhanced EU support to the civil society dimension.

The latter shall include increased capacity-building through EU aid programmes and reinforced education and training activities with ENP partners, notably through increased scholarships for students from ENP

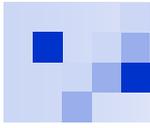
countries in the Erasmus Mundus framework as of 2007/2008. In the Mediterranean region, the Barcelona Process has already been instrumental in bringing forward cooperation with and among civil society actors. Last but not least, the EU should further facilitate legitimate travel for our partners' citizens, building on actions taken the last months, in accordance with the requirements of the 2005 common approach on visa facilitation. Addressing the issue of mobility is an important element to enhance the ENP's effectiveness.

#### **4. The Way Ahead**

There is agreement that the EU must substantially deepen the ENP in order to support development and reform in its neighbourhood and deepen relations with our partners. We must in particular translate our shared political commitment into more attractive and palpable incentives for our partners, notably in the area of democracy, governance and the rule of law and the economic and financial field. Fleshing out this positive conditionality and applying the arsenal of measures set out above is therefore essential, especially when considering the potentially high long-term costs of failing to support our neighbours.

On this basis, the EU and especially the incoming Presidencies and the European Commission will take this work forward in the relevant bodies. The Commission is invited to table the relevant proposals and required negotiating directives as appropriate. Generally, the coherence between Member States' and EC action in our neighbourhood should be improved, through better coordination and information-sharing in headquarters and on the ground.

At the same time, it is clear that the ENP is an offer based on partnership. It is neither an abstract concept nor an imposed framework, but a policy of encouragement and support. Our partner countries should therefore continue to demonstrate political determination and make headway along



their reform agendas, which they need to embrace as their own. We must strengthen this local ownership in partner countries and ensure that partner countries truly embrace the reinforced European Neighbourhood Policy. This is a key to the ENP's success. The European Union shall thus intensify its dialogue with partners to discuss the details of the strengthened ENP and better support local reform momentum. Experience gained from the Barcelona Process should be fully utilised in this regard, and the Barcelona Process and the strengthened ENP should continue to complement each other.

The ENP remains a critical instrument of the EU's foreign policy. Sharpening its tools is crucial to realize its full potential. Only an open and committed EU can help in the creation of open societies in its neighbourhood that fully respect democracy, the rule of law and human rights. Continuing this political commitment is vital for delivering to our partners and the EU's citizens alike.

### **5. The Black Sea Synergy Initiative**

The Black Sea area is a neighbouring region of great strategic importance to the EU, developments in which have direct repercussions on the Union. After the accession of the two Black Sea littoral states Bulgaria and Romania, the EU interest in furthering stability and prosperity in the Black Sea area has become even greater. Therefore, the moment has come for developing a strengthened, coherent and complementary EU engagement towards the Black Sea region, particularly in the framework of a strengthened ENP. A stronger EU-engagement in the region is all the more pertinent as all states in the Black Sea area have expressed a specific interest in more cooperation with the Union. Additionally, it establishes a natural link to the EU Strategy for Central Asia.

The EU Black Sea Synergy Initiative shall strengthen cooperation among the countries of the region and deepen the EU's relations with it at all levels. It will focus on practical,

result-oriented cooperation in sectors of cross-border relevance, where improved cooperation can create synergies and increase the efficiency of our resources. Key sectors of this regional approach are inter alia energy, the environment, transport, telecommunications, science and technology, freedom, justice and security, as well as democracy, human rights promotion, respect for international law and civil society cooperation. Improved regional cooperation will not only generate economic benefits, but may also help to build political confidence in the area. This could in turn lead to a gradual reduction of tensions and to an environment more conducive to the resolution of the so-called frozen conflicts.

In developing this enhanced cooperation in and with the Black Sea area, the EU can build on the experience gained in the context of the Barcelona Process and also consider the lessons learnt in the Northern Dimension and other regional cooperation processes such as the Council of the Baltic Sea States.

In order to be effective, an enhanced EU Black Sea cooperation should be fully inclusive and involve all countries of the region, the littoral states Bulgaria, Romania, Georgia, Ukraine, Russia and Turkey, as well as the Eastern ENP partners Armenia, Azerbaijan and the Republic of Moldova.

In the same vein, the EU shall be open to cooperation with all regional bodies and initiatives in order to book tangible results through concrete projects. One potential partner is the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) as an inclusive and institutionalized forum in the area. At the same time, flexible geometry will be an essential principle, for progress in regional cooperation does not always necessitate the participation of all Black Sea states or, vice versa, might benefit from close coordination with initiatives in neighbouring regions such as the Danube region. The implementation of concrete measures will also require the participation of international financial institutions.

With a view to strengthening regional cooperation in the different sectors, the Presidency and the Commission in its Black Sea Synergy Communication of 11 April 2007 have suggested a number of short- and medium-term measures. The Commission Communication of 16 May 2007 on Applying the Global Approach to Migration to the Eastern and South-Eastern Regions Neighbouring the European Union recommended exploring the possibility of setting up a regional cooperation platform for migration, bringing together all relevant actors from the EU side and in the region. Under the incoming Presidencies, these elements shall be further concretised and implemented in close cooperation with the Commission, partner countries as well as regional bodies and initiatives. As recommended in the Council Conclusions of 14 May 2007, an evaluation should be made in the first half of 2008 on progress achieved in further shaping and implementing the EU's Black Sea Synergy Initiative, as a basis for further consideration by the Council of its engagement towards the region as a whole.

**General Affairs and External Relations  
Council (GAERC)  
The EU and Central Asia: Strategy for a  
New Partnership  
(Brussels, 18-19 June 2007)**

**I. Introduction: The EU and Central Asia**

Central Asia has a centuries-old tradition of bringing Europe and Asia together. It lies at a strategically important intersection between the two continents. The Central Asian States of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan have known considerable evolution in political and economic transformation since attaining independence. They have established statehood, safeguarded multi-ethnic understanding and inter-religious communication. By joining the OSCE, they subscribed to the Organization's values, standards and commitments. By signing the

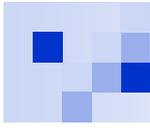
United Nations Millennium Declaration they set themselves ambitious goals.

At the beginning of the 21st century, the time has come for a new partnership between the EU and Central Asian States in a globalised world.

The common goal of achieving stability and prosperity by means of peaceful inter-action makes Europe and Central Asia partners for increased cooperation. The strong EU commitment towards its Eastern neighbours within the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy will also bring Europe and Central Asia closer to each other, both in terms of political cooperation and economic development.

The development and consolidation of stable, just and open societies, adhering to international norms, is essential to bring the partnership between the European Union and Central Asian States to full fruition. Good governance, the rule of law, human rights, democratisation, education and training are key areas where the EU is willing to share experience and expertise. The EU can offer experience in regional integration leading to political stability and prosperity. Lessons learnt from the political and economic transformation of Central and Eastern Europe can also be offered. With their rich traditions and centuries-old exchanges, the EU and Central Asia can contribute actively to the dialogue between civilisations.

Many challenges facing the globalised world affect Europe and Central Asia alike, and warrant a common response. Security questions and regional economic development require close cooperation of the EU with each Central Asian state, taking into account their geographical location, in particular with respect to Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran. This applies i.a. to developments in the areas of border management, migration, the fight against organized crime and international terrorism, as well as human, drugs, and arms trafficking.



The dependency of the EU on external energy sources and the need for a diversified energy supply policy in order to increase energy security open further perspectives for cooperation between the EU and Central Asia. EU efforts to strengthen local energy markets will help to improve investment conditions, increase energy production and efficiency in Central Asia and diversify energy supply and distribution in the region. Through this Strategy and the Commission's assistance programme for the period of 2007-2013, the EU defines the priorities for its cooperation with each Central Asian state according to its specific needs, requirements and performance, including human rights, good governance, democracy and social development. Within the new external assistance instruments based on the EU-budget 2007-2013 the EU has planned to double the financial means for assisting Central Asian States.

Building upon and complementing the Commission's assistance programme, Member States of the EU are prepared to study specific bilateral partnership and twinning programmes with individual Central Asian States as well as programmes with a regional dimension based on an adequate and coordinated needs-assessment. Member States will support the Community's programmes to contribute to a more coherent and visible EU policy in the region. In order to address issues of particular importance, the EU will within the framework of this Strategy:

- Establish a regular regional political dialogue at Foreign Minister level;
- Start an "European Education Initiative" and support Central Asian countries in the development of an "e-silk-highway";
- Start an "EU Rule of Law Initiative";
- Establish a regular, result-oriented "Human Rights Dialogue" with each of the Central Asian States;
- Conduct a regular energy dialogue with Central Asian States.

In implementing the goals and objectives laid down in this Strategy, the EU will be guided by the principles of equal dialogue, transparency and result orientation. It will seek close cooperation with all neighbouring countries of Central Asia.

## **II. EU strategic interests: Security and stability**

The EU has a strong interest in a peaceful, democratic and economically prosperous Central Asia.

These aims are interrelated. The aim of the EU Strategy is therefore to actively cooperate with the Central Asian States in reaching these goals as well as to contribute to safeguarding peace and prosperity in neighbouring countries.

The Strategy builds on the progress which the Central Asian States have themselves made since attaining independence. It takes account of their common aspects as well as specific national contexts and requirements. It also builds on the results obtained under the implementation of the various Partnership and Cooperation Agreements, EU assistance programmes and other initiatives taken by the EU to support the states of Central Asia.

The Strategy is based upon common interests of the EU and the states of Central Asia. To align expectations of Central Asian partners with those of the EU will be a mutually beneficial and reinforcing process.

The EU has an interest in security and stability as well as in adherence to human rights and the rule of law in Central Asian States because:

- Strategic, political and economic developments as well as increasing trans-regional challenges in Central Asia impact directly or indirectly on EU interests;
- With EU enlargement, the inclusion of the Southern Caucasus into the European Neighbourhood Policy and the Black Sea Synergy Initiative,

Central Asia and the EU are moving closer together;

- Significant energy resources in Central Asia and the region's aim to diversify trade partners and supply routes can help meet EU energy security and supply needs.

The EU strongly believes that strengthening the commitment of Central Asian States to international law, the rule of law, human rights and democratic values, as well as to a market economy will promote security and stability in Central Asia, thus making the countries of the region reliable partners for the EU with shared common interests and goals.

### **III. Instruments**

In order to intensify cooperation with Central Asian States, the EU will make full use of the potential of Partnership and Cooperation Agreements, Commission and Member States programmes, cooperation frameworks such as the Baku Initiative and political dialogue, using the variety of CFSP instruments. Cooperation with the UN, in particular the ECE, the OSCE, the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe, NATO, international financial institutions and with other regional organisations and fora will be enhanced. The EUSR, EU Member State embassies and the European Commission delegations should seek to strengthen cooperation with the OSCE. In addition, the EU seeks to put into place, together with Central Asian States, new forms of cooperation, such as a regular bilateral human rights dialogue.

The EUSR and the Commission as well as Member States play an important role in implementing this Strategy. The EUSR shall, on behalf of the High Representative and in accordance with his mandate, together with the Commission and the Presidency, and without prejudice to Community competence, monitor the implementation process, make recommendations and report to relevant Council bodies on a regular basis.

Twinning and seconding staff between EU and Central Asian administrations or companies is an essential part of EU co-operation with Central Asia in order to introduce EU-wide best practices in connection with Community legislation. This policy will be intensified based on the experience gained.

Public-private partnership initiatives as well as bilateral instruments and Member State programmes can play an important role in increasing the EU's commitment in Central Asia.

Interaction with international financial institutions will be strengthened, including the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). The European Investment Bank (EIB) should play an important role in financing projects of interest to the EU in Central Asia.

### **IV. Bilateral and regional cooperation**

The EU Strategy aims at a balanced bilateral and regional approach. The EU will balance policy approaches in Central Asia according to the differing needs of every country and to the performance of each country. The EU will foster regional cooperation among Central Asian States and between Central Asian States and other regions.

Bilateral cooperation will be of special importance. It will be strengthened to respond adequately to individual proposals brought forward by each of the five Central Asian States. It is essential to cooperate bilaterally on issues such as human rights, economic diversification, energy and other sectoral issues, including youth and education. The intensity of the cooperation will reflect the commitment to transition and reform of each country.

A regional approach is suitable for tackling common regional challenges such as organised crime, human, drugs and arms trafficking, terrorism and non-proliferation issues, inter-cultural dialogue, energy, environmental pollution, water



management, migration as well as border management and transport infrastructure. In this regard the EU will cooperate with international financial institutions, multilateral and regional organisations and institutions.

The EU is prepared to enter into an open and constructive dialogue with regional organisations in Central Asia and to establish regular ad hoc contacts i.a. with EURASEC, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), CICA, CSTO, CAREC and CARICC.

### **Human rights, rule of law, good governance and democratization**

The development of a stable political framework and of functioning economic structures are dependent on respect for the rule of law, human rights, good governance and the development of transparent, democratic political structures.

The EU and its Member States intend to step up support for the protection of human rights and for the creation and development of an independent judiciary, thus making a sustainable contribution to the establishment of structures based on the rule of law and international human rights standards.

Cooperation on justice between the Central Asian States and the EU Member States will also be appropriate. The EU will cooperate closely with the OSCE, the Council of Europe, the UN and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in this field.

The EU is engaged in human rights dialogues with a number of countries. Those dialogues are an instrument of the Union's external policy. Human rights dialogues constitute an essential part of the EU's overall strategy aimed at promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, sustainable development, peace and stability.

Against this background and on the basis of the relevant EU guidelines, the EU will raise human rights issues with each Central Asian

state through an appropriate channel for discussion, inter alia by entering into a structured, regular and results-oriented human rights dialogue. The form and the modalities of such dialogue will be defined individually and at a future stage.

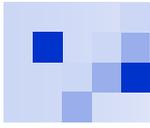
The objectives of a human rights dialogue with each of the countries of Central Asia should include:

- Discussing questions of mutual interest and enhancing cooperation on human rights, inter alia in multilateral fora such as the United Nations and the OSCE;
- Raising the concerns felt by the EU as regards the human rights situation in the countries concerned, information gathering and initiatives to improve the relevant human rights situation.

In addition, human rights dialogues contribute to supporting practical steps aimed at meeting human rights objectives at national level, in particular through financial and technical cooperation and specific projects to be funded under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights.

The EU will respond to suggestions put forward by the Central Asian States and will further intensify cooperation on matters pertaining to the rule of law, good governance and combating corruption. To this end, the EU will develop a Rule of Law Initiative which addresses the specific priorities identified by each country. EU Member States and the Commission will coordinate their projects closely. Within the framework of this Rule of Law Initiative, the EU will support the Central Asian States in core legal reforms, including reform of the judiciary, and in drawing up effective legislation, for example in the fields of administrative and commercial law.

In promoting the consolidation of peace and international justice, the EU and its Member States are determined to share, with the Central Asian States their experience in the adoption of the necessary legal adjustments



required to accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and in combating international crime in accordance with international law.

The EU and Member States will aim to:

- Allocate adequate funds to this Rule of Law Initiative;
- Second judicial and administrative experts to Central Asian States on both short-term and long-term assignments;
- Provide training opportunities to experts from Central Asian States;
- Support the transparent implementation of legal reform;
- Offer the possibility of international exchanges by organizing and sponsoring specialized conferences;
- Facilitate cooperation by Central Asian States with the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe;
- Encourage implementation of ILO norms and conventions for decent work;
- Coordinate closely with existing activities of OSCE field missions, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), bilateral programmes as well as the UN and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights;
- and provide technical assistance and establish close cooperation aimed at making the legislative and constitutional amendments required for accession to and implementation of the Rome Statute.

The task of sustaining a culture of human rights and making democracy work for its citizens calls for the active involvement of civil society. A developed and active civil society and independent media are vital for the development of a pluralistic society. The EU will cooperate with the Central Asian States to this end and promote enhanced exchanges in civil society.

The EU will also pursue its objectives of ensuring the promotion and protection of human rights throughout the world, as well as in Central Asia states, through

international bodies such as the General Assembly or the Human Rights Council as appropriate. The EU is willing to cooperate with Central Asian States in these international fora to achieve this common aim.

### **Investing in the future: youth and education**

Central Asia's future will be shaped by its young people. The majority of Central Asia's population is under the age of 25, providing enormous potential for development. Good education is essential in order to open up this potential for the younger generation.

The EU and Member States will therefore set up a European Education Initiative for Central Asia in order to contribute to the adaptation of the education systems of Central Asian States to the needs of the globalised world. It is willing to cooperate with major international partners and donors supporting educational programmes and institutions.

Under the European Education Initiative, the EU and Member States will in particular offer support in the fields of

- Primary school education;
- Secondary school education;
- Vocational education and training;
- Higher education cooperation, academic and student exchanges, for instance under the new Erasmus Mundus facility and TEMPUS and bilaterally.

The EU will support the development of regional education centres and cooperate closely with the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. The EU stands ready to open European Studies Institutes in the region.

The EU is prepared to grant scholarships for students from Central Asian countries to European universities.

The EU will also support the continuation of the activities performed by the European Training Foundation in the field of vocational education and training in Central Asia.



Furthermore, the EU stands ready to support Central Asian States in linking with the EU e network through the development of an 'e-silk-highway' and to promote long distance learning. It is our aim to link Central Asia to global Internet-based communication networks and to enable Central Asian students, teachers, academics, and scientists to participate in modern forms of life-long learning.

### **Promotion of economic development, trade and investment**

The EU supports the removal of trade barriers between the Central Asian States and it will continue to support WTO accession for the four Central Asian States which are not yet WTO members on commercially viable terms and in full compliance with WTO requirements. WTO accession is key for wider economic reforms and diversification and better integration of the countries into the international trade and economic system. The EU will promote the creation of regulatory and institutional frameworks for an improved business and investment environment and further support economic diversification. The EU will continue to cooperate with Central Asian States in order to improve access for Central Asian products to EU markets. In this regard the renewed EU Generalised System of Preferences (GSP – 2006/2015) offers the best ever preferential framework aimed at encouraging exports and economic diversification in these countries. Equally, it will be an incentive for diversifying their economies on the basis of the market access advantages offered by the EU.

Under INOGATE (Baku Initiative) and TRACECA (funded through DCI and ENPI), the EU will promote the development and expansion of the regional infrastructure in the fields of transport, energy and trade in order to make better use of Central Asia's economic potential, not least through improved regional cooperation. As an important trade corridor between East and

South Asia and Europe, Central Asia can benefit from increasing trade.

The EU will continue to support the development of market economy structures in Central Asia. In this connection, the EU will cooperate with interested companies from the EU in a public-private partnership to promote the market economy. It will offer training and assistance programmes for Central Asian partners. The EU will support the aspirations and actions of the Central Asian States towards market economy structures.

The EU will:

- Support deeper integration of Central Asia into the world trade and economic system, in particular through the WTO accession process and eventual membership;
- Support economic diversification with a view to promoting sustainable development by improving local skills and potential (science and technology, innovation, tourism), promotion of SMEs, development of basic infrastructure (road, rail, telecom, IT);
- Support substantial reforms of the financial systems which are needed in most countries, especially in the banking and micro credit sector; improved banking regulation, supervision and enforcement; privatisation of state banks; increased competition among banks and easier entrance for foreign banks are key steps which Central Asian States need to take;
- Study further possible options to enhance the Central Asian States' ability to make better use of the available GSP and encourage regional trade;
- Develop the necessary systems, including with regard to regulatory approximation to the EC acquis, to allow a practical better access to the EU market for Central Asian products;
- Continue to support the efforts of the Central Asian States to fully implement the trade and economic provisions of the Partnership and Co-operation Agreements;

- Extend trade-related technical assistance and policy advice to facilitate the creation of legislative and institutional frameworks conducive to better business environments and to attracting foreign direct investment;
- Help the countries of the region to work out strategies to improve their individual credit ratings in order to qualify for future lending programmes;
- Support these countries in enforcing best customs practices as set by the World Customs Organisation;
- Support initiatives for know-how transfer and capacity building.

### **Strengthening energy and transport links**

The EU and Central Asia share a paramount interest in enhancing Energy Security as an important aspect of global security. There is a common interest in diversifying export routes, demand and supply structures and energy sources.

Besides oil, gas and electricity, water management is a decisive aspect of energy cooperation with Central Asia. Hydro-power production and distribution are crucial to promoting stability and prosperity in Central Asia and beyond, including Afghanistan and Pakistan. Its potential has not been sufficiently addressed.

The development of resources in oil and gas has significantly increased the role of Central Asian States as energy producers and transit countries. Increasing oil and gas exploitation will contribute to better world market supplies and will be conducive to diversification. Gas deliveries from the region are of special importance to the EU.

The key elements for a long-term partnership based on common interests and reciprocity can therefore be established in the years to come: the exploitation of the energy resources of Central Asian States calls for substantial and sustained investment as well as for comprehensive policies addressing all the components of their energy sectors and facilitating access to most developed

markets. The EU, for its part, is ready to consider all options for the development and transportation of these resources, in cooperation with other interested partners.

A market-based approach to investment and procurement and transparent, stable and non-discriminatory regulatory frameworks guarantee, for all sources of energy, the best prices and increased opportunities for all stake-holders.

Against this background, the EU will conduct an enhanced regular energy dialogue with Central Asian States in the framework of the Baku Initiative<sup>1</sup>. EU activities will also be based on the Energy Charter and bilateral MoUs on Energy issues.

The EU will support the exploration of new oil, gas and hydro-power resources and the upgrading of the existing energy infrastructure. To enhance EU security of energy supply, the EU will also support the development of additional pipeline routes and energy transportation networks. It will also contribute to regional energy security and cooperation, and widen export markets for Central Asian producers. The EU will lend political support and assistance to Central Asian countries in developing a new Caspian Sea - Black Sea - EU energy transport corridor.

The EU will promote the creation of an integrated Central Asian energy market and will support public-private partnerships which encourage EU investment.

Based on the objectives laid down in the Baku Initiative the EU will focus cooperation with Central Asian States in particular on the following matters:

- Converging of energy markets on the basis of the EU internal energy market principles taking into account the particularities of the partner countries;

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<sup>1</sup> Energy Co-operation between the EU, the Littoral States of the Black and Caspian Seas and their Neighbouring Countries, launched at the Energy Ministerial conference held in Baku in November 2004.

- Enhancing energy security by addressing the issues of energy exports/imports, supply diversification, energy transit and energy demand;
- Transparency and capacity-building in statistics and in the governance of the energy sector;
- Supporting and enhancing technological cooperation between the EU and the Central Asian States in the energy sector;
- Supporting sustainable energy development, including the development of energy efficiency, renewable energy sources and demand side management;
- Attracting investment towards energy projects of common and regional interest;
- Supporting the rehabilitation of existing pipelines and the construction of new pipelines and electricity transportation networks inside the region and towards Europe;
- Supporting the development of comprehensive action programmes aiming at the promotion of energy saving, energy efficiency and renewable energy, notably with a view to meeting commitments in the framework of the Kyoto protocol;
- Supporting the 'Global Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Fund' initiative;
- Encouraging the countries to take initiatives similar to those taken by the EU in the Action Plan for an Energy Policy for Europe (European Council of March 2007).

In addition, the EU will continue to promote the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative within the Central Asian region as a means to contributing to sustainable development and poverty reduction.

#### **Environmental sustainability and water**

Fair access to water resources will be a major challenge for the world in the 21st century. Most major environmental issues in Central Asia are related to the allocation, use and protection of the quality of water resources. With the region connected through cross-

boundary rivers, lakes and seas, a regional approach to protecting these resources is essential. Linked to this is the need to improve forestry management. There is a need to have an integrated water management policy (upstream and downstream solidarity).

For the EU water cooperation is of particular interest, especially in view of achieving by 2015 the Millennium Development Goals on clean drinking water and good sanitation facilities.

Promoting cooperation on water management can at the same time foster regional security and stability and support economic development.

An EU-Central Asia dialogue on the environment was launched in Spring 2006 and will provide the basis for joint cooperation efforts.

Environmental issues related to the extraction and transport of energy resources as well as vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters are also matters of major concern. Questions pertaining to the protection of the environment should be taken into account in regional dialogue at all levels.

The EU will therefore:

- Support the implementation of the EECCA (Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia) component of the EU Water Initiative (EUWI-EECCA) for safe water supply and sanitation and integrated water resources management.
- Promote transboundary river basin management as well as regional cooperation under the Caspian Sea Environmental Convention;
- Give particular support to the integrated management of surface and underground transboundary water resources, including the introduction of techniques for a more efficient water use (irrigation and other techniques);
- Enhance cooperation for appropriate frameworks for facilitating the financing

of water related infrastructure projects, including through attracting IFI's and public-private partnership funds;

- Support regional capacity building on integrated water management and production of hydropower;
- Cooperate with Central Asian countries on climate change including support for the introduction and further implementation of the Kyoto Protocol mechanisms at regional level;
- Cooperate with Central Asian countries in combating desertification and safeguarding bio-diversity including support for the implementation of the UN Conventions on Biological Biodiversity and to combat Desertification;
- Improve sustainable management of forests and other natural resources in Central Asia, providing assistance for regional aspects of the indicative actions under the Forest Law Enforcement and Governance Ministerial process (FLEG);
- Encourage increased environmental awareness and the development of environmental civil society including through cooperation with the Central Asia Regional Environment Centre (CAREC).

In the context of the above priorities, the EU will also give attention to related issues:

- Support Central Asian States in developing policies for pollution prevention and control;
- Upgrade natural disaster preparedness and assessment capability in Central Asia;
- Intensify cooperation with EnvSec Initiative.

### **Combating common threats and challenges**

Modern border management creating open and secure borders could facilitate trade and exchange in the region and help combat regional criminal activity, especially the international drug trade.

Assistance in fighting organised crime will be one of the priorities of the EU in the region aiming at a reduction of non-conventional threats to security.

Migration is one of the major global challenges of the 21st century. The impact of migration, both positive and negative, can be felt in all countries, including in Central Asia. The EU seeks to enhance dialogue and cooperation on migration with regions of transit, origin and destination through the EU's Global Approach to Migration. As part of the Global Approach the EU proposes to launch a close dialogue on migration with the eastern and south-eastern neighbouring regions.

The EU will step up its support for the development of modern border management in the region of Central Asia, including the borders with Afghanistan. Afghanistan's cooperation with its neighbours should be strengthened. Through BOMCA, the EU will seek a multilateral and regional approach.

The EU will broaden BOMCA activities and seek synergy with projects under implementation to reform customs services. The EU will seek better coordination and explore possibilities of close cooperation between BOMCA, the OSCE and other border projects from Member States and third countries.

The EU will:

- Continue to introduce the basic principles of integrated border management in border guard services and other relevant services;
- Work on specific border crossing points;
- Provide organisational assistance to support transformation of border guards from a conscript to a professional service; to support transition from a purely military system to a more police-style law enforcement agency and to support efforts to strengthen control mechanisms;
- Seek increased involvement of customs services to facilitate trade;

- Update the legal framework in accordance with international law in the field of combating organised crime (e.g.: UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols), with a focus on illegal migration, trafficking in human beings, preventing and countering drugs and precursors trafficking; improve institutional capacity of law enforcement agencies, and strengthen regional cooperation in fighting trans-national organised crime.

Crime and its Protocols), with a focus on illegal migration, trafficking in human beings, preventing and countering drugs and precursors trafficking; improve institutional capacity of law enforcement agencies, and strengthen regional cooperation in fighting trans-national organised crime.

At the same time, the EU will continue to offer its assistance to help the interested Central Asian States –both at national and at regional level- to manage migration in a more balanced manner, which implies setting up well functioning systems to match labour demand and supply, facilitating integration of legal migrants and providing international protection to asylum seekers and refugees and other vulnerable persons.

The EU will give greater support to the fight against corruption, the drug trade, human trafficking, illegal trade of weapons from and to Afghanistan and organised crime in Central Asia. It will step up cooperation with the Central Asian States to combat international terrorism. The EU will strengthen the fight against drugs with a specific EU presence in Dushanbe. It will support the rapid installation of the regional anti-drug centre (CARICC) in Almaty and intensify cooperation with UNODC also with a view to tracking chemical precursors of heroin production. Cooperation with China and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization on drug-trafficking will be strengthened.

The Ferghana Valley best embodies the challenges and possible perspectives of Central Asia. The EU is therefore prepared to

lend assistance to Central Asian countries sharing borders in the Ferghana Valley in promoting projects which are designed to bring stability, prosperity and sustainable development to that region. The EU will dedicate special attention to programmes which address questions of border management, intra-regional trade and free movement of goods and persons.

### **Building bridges: inter-cultural dialogue**

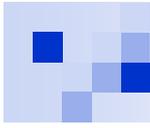
The diversity of religions and centuries-old traditions of peace and tolerance constitute a valuable heritage in Central Asia. Moderate and tolerant Islamic thinking respecting the constitutional secular principle is a hall-mark of the Central Asian countries. The EU highly values the peaceful multi-ethnic and multi-cultural coexistence of various creeds in Central Asia. Building on this, the EU will promote dialogue within civil society and respect for freedom of religion.

### **VI. The EU and Central Asia in the future**

This EU Strategy for Central Asia serves as an overall framework for the EU policies in the region of Central Asia. The EU sees a mutual interest in sustained dialogue and cooperation with the five Central Asian States respecting their differences and fostering closer cooperation among them on regional issues.

The EU is willing to contribute substantially to security, stability and prosperity in Central Asia. To this end the EU is committed to opening Commission delegations in all five Central Asian countries. Member States will consider expanding the network of embassies in Central Asia.

The EU will ensure coherence between this Central Asia Strategy and other EU regional initiatives, including the Black Sea Synergy Initiative. It will support intraregional trade and cooperation. It will also support active integration/participation of Central Asia in the WTO in order to ensure better



integration of these countries in the world trade and economic system.

With this Strategy, the EU invites Central Asia to establish an enhanced political dialogue, including regular meetings at Foreign Ministers' level with the EU troika. The EU will hold annual meetings of its Heads of Mission in the region.

Based on the principles of this Strategy, the EU will work with each of the Central Asian countries to develop individual approaches to implementation, according to the specific needs and performance of each country, building on existing and future agreements, including PCAs.

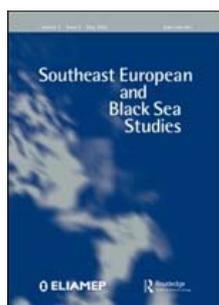
The progress made on implementing the Strategy will be reviewed by the Council in June 2008 and at least every two years thereafter.

## Recent Publications by the ICBSS



**“The BSEC at Fifteen: Key Documents, 1992-2007”**, International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS), Athens, 2007. *The volume was issued in limited edition on the occasion of the BSEC 15th Anniversary Summit. An updated version including the Summit Declaration will be available for download within the next month.*

**“Black Sea Economic Cooperation: Fifteen Years of Regional Activity, 1992-2007, Views by Foreign Ministers & Heads of BSEC Institutions”**, International Centre for Black Sea Studies



**Journal of Southeast European and Black Sea Studies** (Vol.7: 2, June 2007)  
Special Issue: **The Wider Black Sea Region and the Energy Security**  
Guest Editors: **Panagiota Manoli** and **Dimitrios Triantaphyllou**

### Includes articles by:

- **Gareth Winrow**, "Geopolitics and Energy Security in the Wider Black Sea Region"
- **Christophe-Alexandre Paillard**, "Go East, Young European! The Black Sea is Now Yours: A French View on Energy Strategies in the Black Sea Region"
- **Necdet Pamir**, "The Black Sea: A Gateway to Energy Security and Diversification"
- **Zeyno Baran and Robert A. Smith**, "The Energy Dimension in American Policy towards the Black Sea Region"
- **Andrew Monaghan**, "Russia's Energy Diplomacy: A Political Idea Lacking a Strategy?"
- **Dimitrios Triantaphyllou**, "Energy Security and Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP): The Wider Black Sea Area Context"

## News and Events

The ICBSS and its partners held a number of important events in the last month. For more information and proceedings check the links below or [www.icbss.org](http://www.icbss.org):

- Closed event: [First Meeting of the ICBSS Task Force for a Joint Black Sea Strategy](#) Rhodes, 6-7 July 2007.
- Closed event: In the framework of its [Outreach Programme](#) and in cooperation with the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy ([ELIAMEP](#)), the ICBSS held a [roundtable debate with Mr. Peter Semneby](#), EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus, General Secretariat, Council of the European Union on “[Developments in the Caucasus](#)”, Athens, 5 July 2007.



Address by Peter Semneby at joint ICBSS-ELIAMEP Event, Athens, 5 July 2007 © ICBSS



H. Kaplan, M. Aydin, D. Triantaphyllou at joint ICBSS-TEPAV|IPRI roundtable, Istanbul, 24 June 2007.  
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- [Open Roundtable “Looking Ahead – The Prospects and Potentials in the wider Black Sea”](#) co-organised by the International Policy Research Institute, Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey ([TEPAV|IPRI](#)) and ICBSS. Keynote Speakers were Mr. Süleyman Demirel, Ninth President of the Republic of Turkey, and Ms. Nino Burdjanadze, Chairwoman of the Parliament of Georgia and the PABSEC, Istanbul, 24 June 2007. [Read more...](#)

- Open Conference “[Security Concerns in the Wider Black Sea and Mediterranean Regions](#)” in cooperation with the Department of Mediterranean Studies of the [University of the Aegean](#), Rhodes, 15-16 June 2007. [Report](#), [Read more...](#)



Panel at joint ICBSS-University of the Aegean Conference, Rhodes, 15-16 June 2007 © ICBSS

- In cooperation with the [Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe](#), the ICBSS co-organised a [Symposium on “The Collaboration on the Black Sea from the View of the Countries of the Danube Region”](#) in Vienna, 1-2 June 2007. Dimitrios Triantaphyllou and Sergiu Celac were speakers in the event.

## Recent Publications on the Black Sea Region

1. Karaganov, Sergei et al., (eds), *The World Around Russia: 2017, An Outlook for the Midterm Future*, The Council of Foreign and Defence Policy, Moscow, 2007
2. Nuriyev, Elkhan, "EU Policy in the South Caucasus, A view from Azerbaijan", *CEPS Working Document* No. 272, Centre for European Policy Studies, July 2007
3. Gromyko, Alexey, "Russia and the EU: The quest for a new European security landscape", *Europe's World*, Summer 2007
4. Arbatova, Nadezhda, "Russia-EU beyond 2007. Russian Domestic Debates", *Russie.Nei.Visions* no. 20, Institut français des relations internationales (Ifri), June 2007
5. Ven Bruusgaard, Kristin, "The Future of Russian Peacekeeping" *Briefing Paper*, Volume 9, Issue 2, Carnegie Moscow Centre, June 2007
6. European Commission, "European Neighbourhood Policy: Economic Review of EU Neighbour Countries", *European Economy Occasional Papers* No. 30, European Commission, Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs, June 2007
7. Perret, Quentin, "La paix froide: stabiliser les relations entre l' UE et la Russie", *European Issues* no. 65, Fondation Robert Schuman, 25 June 2007
8. Tassinari, Fabrizio, "Whole, free and integrated? A Transatlantic Perspective on the European Neighbourhood", *CEPS Working Document* No. 271, Centre for European Policy Studies, June 2007

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- General Affairs and External Relations Council Conclusions on the Black Sea Region (Brussels, 14-15 May 2007)
- General Affairs and External Relations Council Conclusions on Central Asia (Luxembourg, 23-24 April 2007)
- Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on a Black Sea Synergy - a New Regional Cooperation Initiative [COM(2007) 160 final] (Brussels, 11 April 2007)
- Joint Declaration on Institutional Renewal and Good Governance of the Ministers in Charge of Public Administration of the BSEC Member States (Athens, 3 April 2007)
- Agreement Between the Government of the Russian Federation, the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Government of the Hellenic Republic relating to the Cooperation in the Construction and the Operation of the "Burgas - Alexandroupolis" Oil Pipeline (Athens, 15th March 2007)
- Communication From the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on the Extension of the Major Trans-European Transport Axes to the Neighbouring Countries, Guidelines for Transport in Europe and Neighbouring Regions [COM(2007) 32 Final] (Brussels, 31 January 2007)

## Issue 3, March 2007

- BSEC-EU Interaction: The BSEC Approach (Istanbul, 17 January 2007)
- Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on strengthening the European Neighbourhood Policy (Brussels, 4 December 2006)
- European Parliament's resolution on the Commission's Communication on the Enlargement

Strategy and Main Challenges 2006-2007 (Brussels, 29 November 2006)

- BSEC Agreed Documents (last updated 12 February 2007)

## Issue 2, November 2006

- Declaration of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (Moscow, 1 November 2006)
- Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation: Priorities of the Serbian Chairmanship, November 2006 - April 2007
- General Affairs and External Relations, Council Conclusions on European Neighbourhood & Partnership Instrument (Luxembourg, 17 October 2006)
- UN General Assembly Resolution on "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization" (13 October 2006)
- Statement of Ministers of Energy of the Member States of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) (Sochi, 27 September 2006)
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- General Affairs and External Relations, Council Conclusions on Black Sea Regional Cooperation (Brussels, 15 September 2006)
- Speech by Benita Ferrero-Waldner, EU Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy on "Political Reform and Sustainable Development in the South Caucasus: The EU's Approach" at the Bled Strategic Forum (Bled, Slovenia, 28 August 2006)
- Report of the UN Secretary General to the UN General Assembly on "Cooperation between the United Nations and Regional and Other Organizations" - Black Sea Economic Cooperation (16 August 2006)
- G8 Statement on Global Energy Security (St. Petersburg, 16 July 2006)