

Cooperation in the Black Sea Region. Parliamentary Diplomacy.

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- The Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) was created as a result of the major political changes of the late 1980's, when the nations of the Black Sea Region re-emerged on the world scene, with the aim of joining their efforts, in order to turn the Black Sea Region into an area of peace, stability and prosperity
- Taking advantage of common characteristics, such as geographic proximity and shared cultural and historical heritage, the countries of the Black Sea Region have expedited the establishment of bilateral and multilateral relations

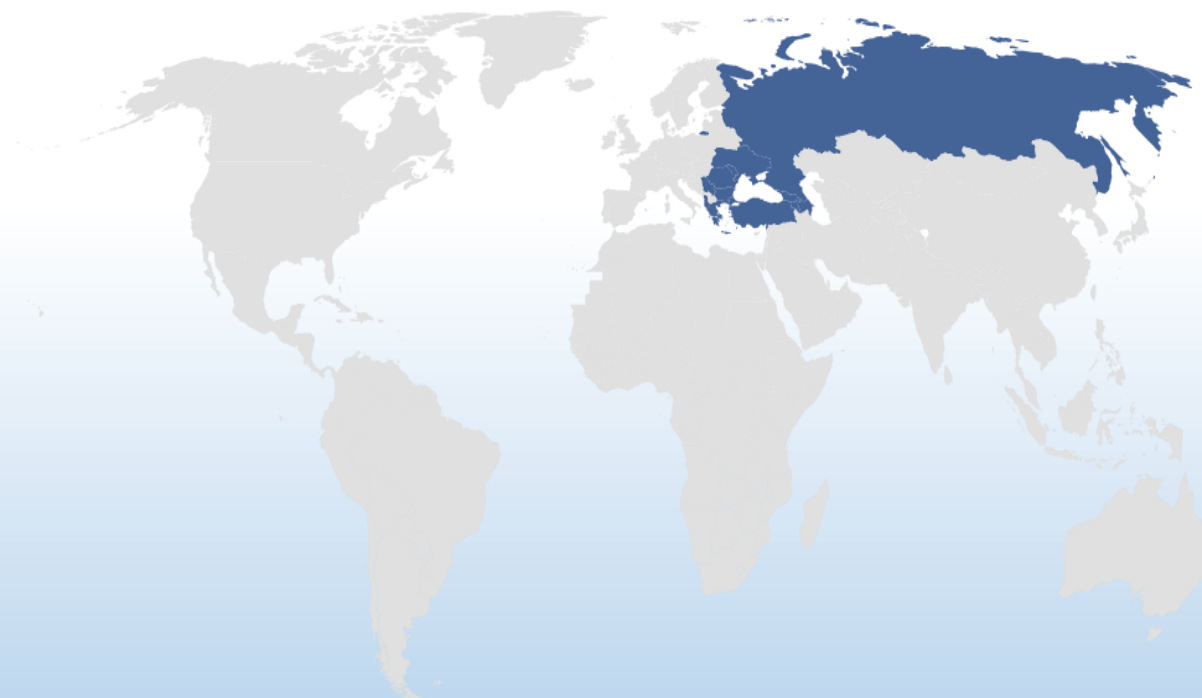
- On the 26th of February 1993, in Istanbul, the Speakers of the Parliaments of nine countries: Republic of Albania, Republic of Armenia, Republic of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Republic of Turkey and Ukraine, adopted the Declaration on the Establishment of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation



- In June 1995, the Hellenic Republic joined the Assembly as the tenth full-fledged member
- The Republic of Bulgaria became the eleventh full-fledged member, in June 1997
- In November 2004, Serbia and Montenegro joined the Assembly. After Montenegro declared its independence, the Republic of Serbia became the legal successor of the former state in the PABSEC, thus representing the twelfth full-fledged member

Today, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation is
composed of
76 parliamentarians representing the twelve PABSEC Member States

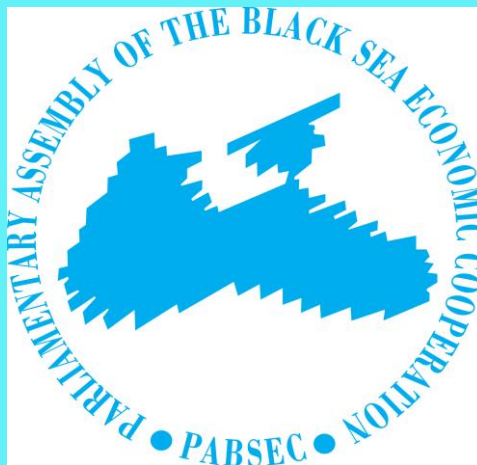
PABSEC Member Countries



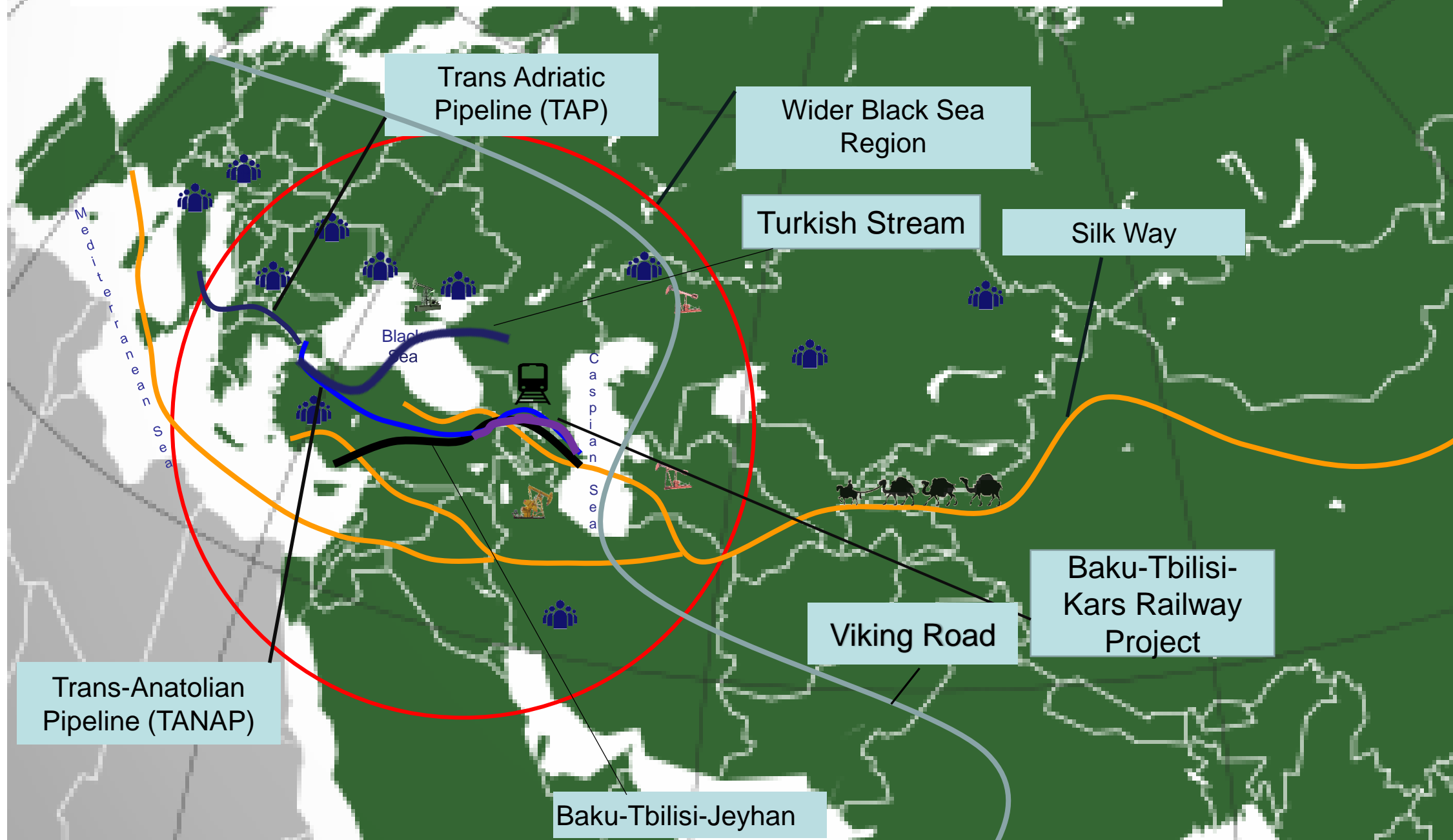
Principle aims of the PABSEC

- Being an inter-parliamentary consultative legislative body of the BSEC, the Assembly has united the efforts of the national parliaments to pursue the following aims, as stated in the preamble of the PABSEC Rules of Procedure:
- to secure the understanding and adoption, by the peoples, of the ideals and aims of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation;
- to provide a legal basis for economic, commercial, social, cultural and political cooperation among the member countries;
- to enact the necessary legislation for the implementation of the decisions taken by the Heads of State or Government or by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs;
- to provide assistance to the national parliaments so as to strengthen the parliamentary democracy;
- to promote the cooperation with the other international and regional organizations.

Institutions of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Family

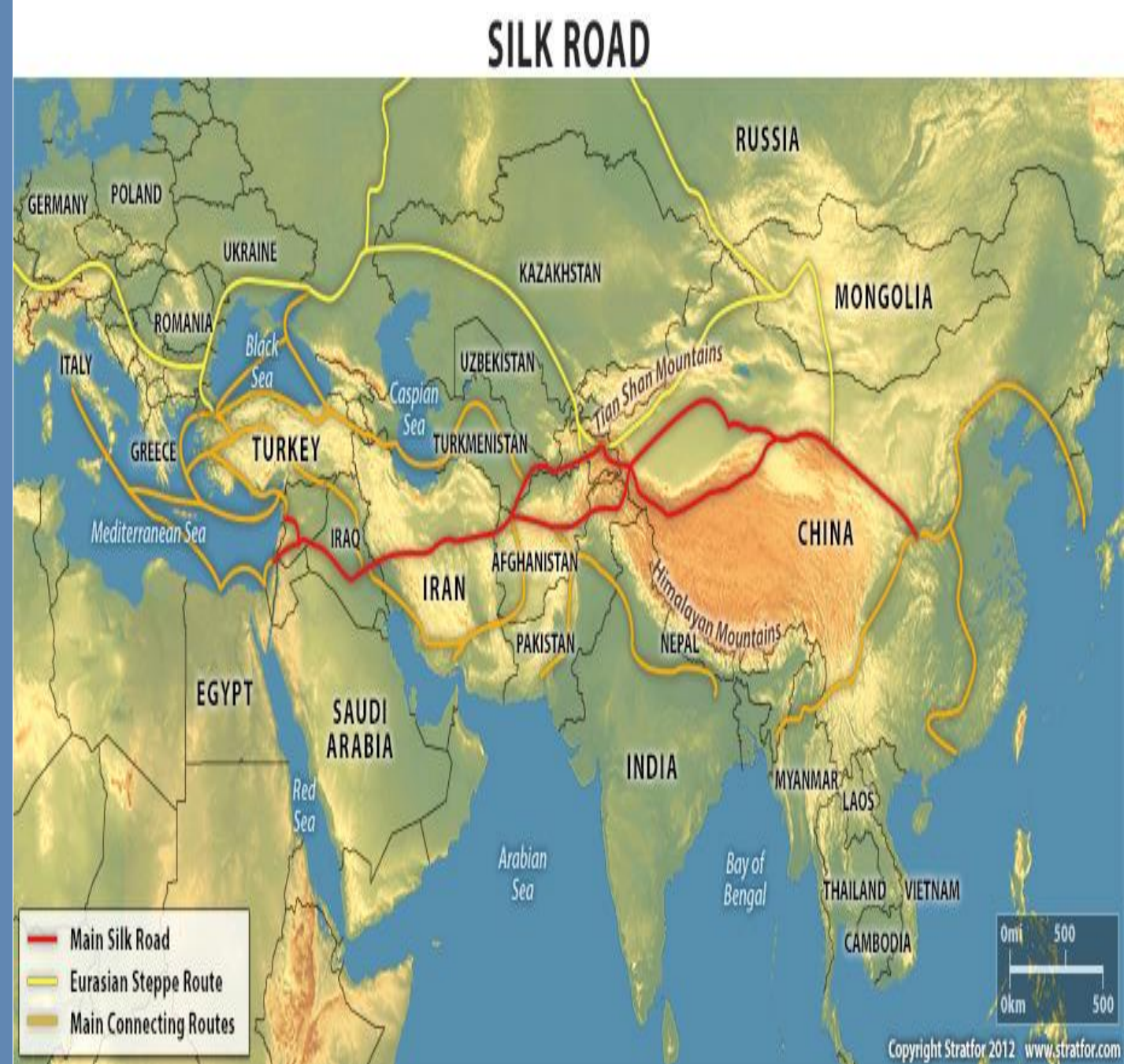


Most Important Value of the Black Sea is the People



The Main Economic Assets of the Black Sea Region

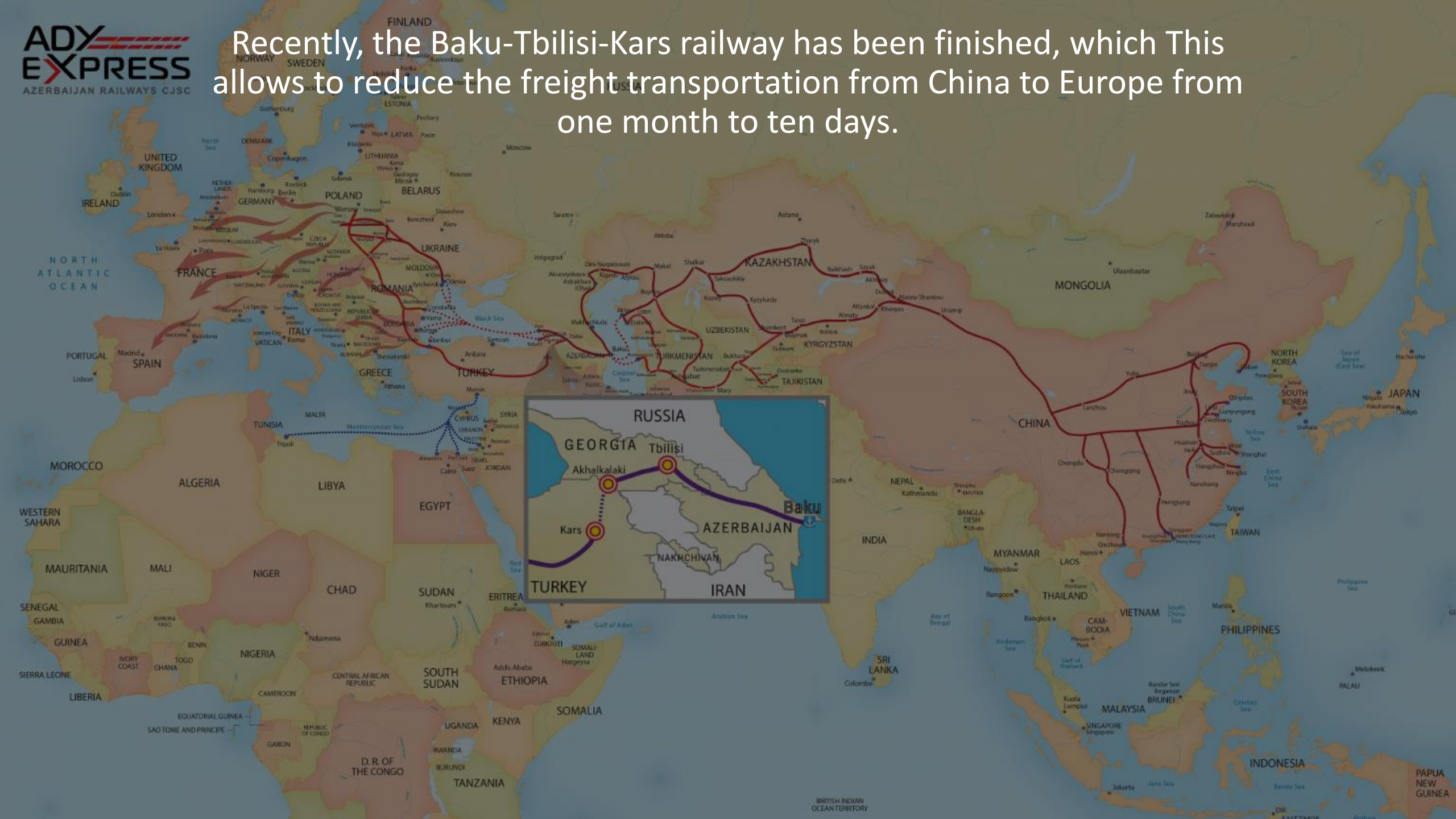
- In the world politics, the Black Sea Region plays an important role, as a bridge between Asia and Europe, being situated at the crossroads of major transportation routes from the East to the West (Silk Road) and from the North to the South (Viking Road)
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- The Silk Road Project can be considered one of the main transportation routes for the world economy. Its main purpose is to link Asia to Europe and to bring prosperity to the economies belonging not only to the Black Sea Region, but worldwide



- At the same time, this region is rich in energy resources and in important energy routes from Central Asia and the Caspian Region, representing an outstanding source of oil and gas for the world market
- Different economic projects are developing in our Region.
- The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline has already been achieved and the Trans Adriatic Pipeline (TAP) and the Trans Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline Project (TANAP), which are very important energy routes, not only for the Black Sea Region, but for the whole Europe, are under construction, and they can be considered as part of the Silk Road Project, where energy resources from the Caspian Basin can be delivered to the European and to the Asian markets.



Recently, the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway has been finished, which This allows to reduce the freight transportation from China to Europe from one month to ten days.



The main values of our region are the people from different countries having different religions and cultures, so we are proud to live in this multicultural region

Our mission is to prepare the young generation for a bright future and in this regard, education becomes one of the most important tools for the future of our societies.

Therefore, we have to join our efforts for increasing the education level of our region and we have to strongly cooperate in order to improve the education systems of different countries of the region



The Black Sea Region and Europe have faced a serious treat, namely the REFUGEE PROBLEM.

- World economy has already lost more than 500 bln. USD.
- This is result of terrorizm, territorial pretention and other.
- In the world to day there is approximately 65 mln. refeeeges.
- It means if the worldwide out of 110 people one is refugee.
- In the Black Sea Region the amount is almost 2 times higher.
- Out of 60 people one is refugee.
- In Azerbaijan out of 10 ther is 1 refugee.
- Only Turkey last years got 4mln. refugees.

- The Black Sea Region is faced with another very serious problem, which has a negative impact on the development of our region. Our organization includes 12 Member Countries and today we have several conflicts among them, which affect the regional economic development. They have to be solved in the near future, since they entail the innocent people's suffering.

- However there should be one main principle for finding a solution to these conflicts, according to the international principles, such as decisions and resolutions of the UN and other international organizations, where the principle of territorial integrity should have the precedence.

- Today, mankind uses the principles stipulated in the Helsinki Treaty: I would like to refer here to three of its main principles: territorial integrity, the right of the nation to self-determination and peaceful solution to all the problems. All countries are supporting peaceful solutions. If the principle of the right of nations to self-determination is applied directly, the result will be that the world will get a lot of new small countries, which will fight each other and mankind will be confronted with numerous wars. Hence, to apply directly this principle is not possible. But in the frame of territorial integrity of the countries, we can achieve the principle of a nation's right to self-determination and we can find peaceful solutions to these problems. Thus, the principle of territorial integrity can be used as a basis for peaceful solutions of the conflicts and for fulfilling the rights of the nations to self-determination as well.

- In order to ensure peace and stability in our region, it is important to strengthen the cooperation and the good-neighborly relations among its states.
- Recognition of the added value of parliamentary diplomacy remains crucial in this respect. Parliamentary diplomacy has specific advantages in comparison with executive diplomacy, such as an increased flexibility in establishing contacts with various local stakeholders, as well as communicating on more sensitive issues with fewer constraints.

- The dialogue and cooperation among parliamentarians, which are the very essence of parliamentary diplomacy, make a positive contribution to easing inter-state tensions and finding feasible solutions to complex problems, namely those in the fields of human rights, of parliamentary democracy and of the rule of law.
- The constant contacts with parliaments abroad help share experience and best practices among parliament members and, furthermore, foster understanding between political decision makers in the countries concerned. They also help establish and build up trusting relationships between individuals.

- it is important to consolidate the cooperation among the Parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Assemblies belonging to different regions of the world. The PABSEC is open for the cooperation with other Inter-Parliamentary Assemblies, not only from Europe, but from the whole world, with which it shares common values and interests.
- As a result of the parliamentary diplomacy developed by the PABSEC, we were granted the Observer status to the OSCE PA, the Associate Member status to the IPU and we signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the IPACIS.
- I would like to conclude my remarks by emphasizing that we are all one family and we have to bring our contribution to build a common peaceful future.
- History showed that confrontation yields to nothing positive for the world, and in this respect, **the Black Sea should not divide, but unite us all.**

THANK YOU FOR KIND ATTENTION!

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