



Confidence Building in the Black Sea Region

**CONFIDENCE- AND SECURITY-BUILDING
MEASURES**

IN THE NAVAL FIELD IN THE BLACK SEA

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“Black Sea Economic Cooperation as a Confidence Building Measure”

Amb. Nicolae Micu, *Perceptions*, Vol. I, 1996

“During the four years since its establishment, the BSEC has, indeed, increasingly asserted itself as an important confidence-building measure and, as such, as an essential element of peace and stability in the area.”

“BSEC serves as a very useful framework for informal dialogue between various member states on outstanding concerns they may have”

Optimistic view

BSEC Charter

- BSEC Charter – scarce reference

“the common vision of their regional cooperation as a part of the integration process in Europe, based on human rights and fundamental freedoms, prosperity through economic liberty, social justice, and equal security and stability which is open for interaction with other countries, regional initiatives and international organizations and financial institutions”
(9th recital)

Political Declarations (I)

Summit Declaration on Black Sea Economic Cooperation, Istanbul, 25 June 1992

“recognizes that a prosperous and united Europe will evolve on shared values such as democracy based on human rights and fundamental freedoms, prosperity through economic liberty and social justice, and equal security for all countries”;

“confirms the intention to develop economic cooperation as a contribution to the CSCE process” with the “aim to ensure that the Black Sea becomes a sea of peace, stability and prosperity, striving to promote friendly and good-neighborly relations”.

Political Declarations (II)

Moscow Summit Declaration

25 October 1996

- doctrine of security and stability in the Black Sea region through developing economic cooperation in the BSEC:

the Heads of State or Government

“view the economic cooperation and partnership as the cornerstone of lasting regional stability and as a practical mechanism of reducing the political risks and preventing destabilization”, and

“agree upon the necessity of joint efforts to ensure stability in the region”

Political Declarations (III)

Yalta Summit Declaration

5 June 1998

“conviction that the considerable progress achieved in the multilateral economic cooperation contributes to enhancing peace, stability and security to the benefit of our countries.”

Istanbul Summit Declaration

17 November 1999

“common view that during its seven years of existence, the BSEC has contributed substantially to the process of enhancement of peace and security in the BSEC area by applying the pragmatic concept that economic cooperation is an effective confidence-building measure and serves as a pillar in the new European architecture.”

the Heads of State or Government “solemnly reaffirm [their] political will to contribute to peace and security in the BSEC area by means of multilateral economic cooperation.”

Political Declarations (IV)

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The BSEC “method”

Security through economic cooperation

In a region marked with unrest and insecurity, BSEC’s role as a confidence building mechanism should be highlighted

Confidence- and security-building measures in the naval field in the Black Sea

- **Joint Declaration of the Republic of Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and Ukraine, Kiev, 25 April 2002**
- **Annex: Document on Confidence- and security-building measures in the naval field in the Black Sea**
- Politically binding document
- Applicable as of 1 January 2003

Negotiating Forum

“initiative of a stand alone regional character... not relevant to other international arrangements and initiatives”

Adopted at the margins of BSEC CMFA

- Not OSCE
- Not BlackSeaFor

Scope of cooperation

- Activities in the Black Sea:
 - territorial waters of the coastal states
 - Activities 'beyond these territorial waters, when relevant'
 - Black Sea naval or auxiliary naval bases
- Not applicable to naval activities, which PS conduct jointly with third States
- Compliance with 1936 Montreux Convention
- Respect of freedom of navigation

Areas of cooperation

- *(a) general cooperation in the naval field*
- *(b) contacts in the naval field*
- *(c) invitations to naval bases*
- *(d) exchange of naval information, and*
- *(e) Confidence Annual Naval Exercises (CANEs)*

Cooperation in the naval field

- establish communication channels between the navy commanders of the participating states
- exchange various types of information (navigational, hydrological, meteorological, ecological, etc.)
- conduct educational activities for navy staff
- promote cooperation in combatting terrorism and other security risks and challenges
- further cooperation in search-and-rescue operations
- take into account areas where there are extensive fishing and shipping activities when planning naval exercises, in order to avoid interfering with shipping and air traffic
- avoid actions which may be perceived to pose a risk or to be threatening or hazardous to the other participating states

Contacts in the naval field

- exchange of visits between naval experts and officers
- contacts between naval institutions
- invitations of ships to ports or naval bases
- exchange programmes for naval and petty officers,
- sports and cultural events for naval personnel

Invitations to naval bases

- Each participating state will invite, every six years, representatives of all other states to one of its naval bases or to an auxiliary naval base, in order to familiarize with functions and activities of the inviting State's Navy
- Procedure for these invitations and the participation of the guest personnel

Exchange of naval information

- Exchange of information on aggregate numbers of surface combat ships and submarines with specific features (surface combat ships with fully loaded displacement of 400 tonnes or more, submarines with submerged displacement of 50 tonnes or more), on amphibious ships and on peacetime authorized naval personnel strength in the zone of application of the Document
- Submission of information (no later than on 1 January of each year) on the two largest annually planned national naval activities within the zone of application

Confidence Annual Naval Exercises

- Each participating state, on a rotating basis, designates one of its naval exercises as a Confidence Annual Naval Exercise and invites naval representatives and/or units from all other participating states to take part in it or in related activities.
- A CANE may last up to six days and can be at the operational or tactical level.
- Participation of invited states in the CANE is limited to a maximum of two to three ships and/or one to two senior officers.
- The other modalities of the CANE (general purpose, type, dates, and level and size of participation of each state) should be communicated by the host state to the other states at least two months in advance

Consultations among PS

- Regular consultations are held annually
 - to discuss the implementation of the document on naval CSBMs in the Black Sea and
 - to consider amendments to it.
- Consultations on December, chaired on a rotational basis (English)
- Decisions are taken by consensus
- Ukrainian request, with regard to naval activities in Crimea – 7 March 2014

Future of the Document

- “the Document must be adapted to new realities in light of the deteriorated security situation in the Black Sea region.” (UKRAINE in 2015)
- “Although the security situation in the Black Sea region remains fragile and complex and, consequently, the Document is not implemented in its full capacity, the Participating States continue to believe in its value, relevance and contribution to regional security and stability and they will continue to act in that regard.” (RUSSIA, Chair in 2016)