

**BSEC DECLARATION ON COOPERATION WITH THE EU
IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY**

KYIV, UKRAINE, 9 APRIL 2008

We, the Ministers of Energy of the BSEC Member States, having gathered in Kyiv on the 9th of April 2008, to discuss the state of cooperation in the field of energy and also the directions of interaction between BSEC and EU in the above-mentioned field:

Reaffirming our commitment to the provisions of the BSEC Declarations on cooperation in energy adopted in Baku (19 September 2003), Alexandroupolis (4 March 2005) and the Joint Statement, adopted in Sochi (27 September 2006), and emphasising the need for their expeditious practical implementation;

Guided by the provisions of the BSEC Summit Declaration adopted by the Heads of State and Government on the occasion of 15th Anniversary of BSEC on 25 June 2007 in Istanbul, in particular, by their call for deepening cooperation in priority areas with particular prominence given, amongst others, to energy;

Conscious of the call by the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to explore on the possibilities of developing legally binding instruments in energy in the framework of BSEC;

Sharing the conclusions of the Final Document of the G-8 Summit on Global Energy Security held on 16 July 2006 in St. Petersburg and the objectives of the Plan of Action for Global Energy Security;

Being concerned about the current trends in the global energy markets and, in particular, high and volatile prices on hydrocarbon resources;

Recognising that the issue of stability and security of energy supplies is an immediate priority for the BSEC Member States in the development of comprehensive regional cooperation in energy;

Cognizant of the growing interdependency of BSEC Member States in energy and the increasing role of the latter in the sustainable development of the BSEC Member States;

Acknowledging, in this regard, the necessity for more committed, consolidated, coordinated and result-oriented efforts of the BSEC Member States in the development of cooperation in the field of energy, aiming at the development of stable, and integrated regional energy market;

Cognizant of the increasing importance and significance of the Black Sea region in global and European energy security in terms of providing access to new alternative sources of energy supplies, as well as diversification of routes of energy supplies and energy transportation to BSEC Member States and to international markets;

Recognising that the growing interdependence between energy producing, consuming and transiting countries requires a strengthened partnership between all stakeholders to enhance energy security in the region;

Recognising the EU as an important regional stakeholder and its significant role in the promotion and development of cooperation in the field of energy between EU and BSEC Member States;

Being encouraged by the new initiatives in BSEC-EU interaction, in particular, the provisions of the Declaration of the Special Meeting of the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs adopted on 14 February 2008 in Kyiv, and opportunities and prospects for cooperation in the field of energy offered by the EU in the document “Black Sea Synergy - A New Regional Cooperation Initiative”, as well as the ongoing projects in the region;

Being confident that enhanced energy cooperation between BSEC and the EU will further facilitate the formation of a stable regional energy market and its convergence with the European energy market;

Being encouraged by the positive development of the process in the framework of the Energy Community Treaty, as a model for the development of an integrated energy market;

Emphasising the important role of the BSEC as a regional organisation in promotion and development of comprehensive cooperation in energy among BSEC Member States and between BSEC Member States and the EU;

Commending the contribution of the ICBSS to the facilitation of cooperation in energy among BSEC Member States, as well as to the BSEC-EU interaction through the preparation of studies;

Taking note of the Evaluation Report of the activities of the Working Group on Energy for the period 2005-2007, prepared by the Republic of Azerbaijan in its capacity as Country-Coordinator of the Working Group on Energy;

Have agreed to:

Explore on the possibility of developing a BSEC regional energy strategy based on the provisions of the BSEC Declarations on cooperation in energy, as well as results of BSEC studies and reports in the field of energy;

Expedite, in this connection, the completion of the Compendium of National Energy Strategies of the BSEC Member States;

Explore on the possibilities for the beginning of a coordinated process of harmonization of legislation and regulation in the field of energy between BSEC Member States and the European Union;

Strengthen relations with international organisations in order to enhance energy cooperation in the BSEC region, in particular, with the UNECE, the Energy Charter Conference, the IEA, the ECT Secretariat, as well as market players with long-term strategic interests in the development of energy;

Develop practical, purpose-oriented cooperation with the European Commission to enhance synergies of the EU and BSEC regional initiatives in the field of energy;

Invite the EU to support BSEC efforts in ensuring energy security in the region;

Consider the possibility of improvement of modalities of cooperation in the field of energy in the framework of BSEC, based on the recommendations of the reports of the Working Group on Energy, in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of cooperation in this field;

Explore on the possibilities of the elaboration of joint BSEC-EU Action Plan in the field of energy;

Explore on the possibilities of developing of multilateral legal instruments that would facilitate purpose-oriented activities in energy in the framework of BSEC;

Enhance the cooperation and coordination of the activities in the field of energy with the BSEC Related Bodies;

Develop the exchange of information, expertise and best practices, as well as training programmes between BSEC and the EU.

We express our gratitude to the Government of Ukraine, Ministry of Fuel and Energy of Ukraine and the people of Ukraine for warm hospitality and excellent organisation of the meeting.