

**ALEXANDROUPOLIS DECLARATION ON ENERGY  
COOPERATION IN THE BSEC REGION**

**ALEXANDROUPOLIS, GREECE, 4 MARCH 2005**

**The Ministers in charge of Energy of the BSEC Member States having gathered in Alexandroupolis on the 4th of March 2005,**

*Underlining* the role of energy in the sustainable development of the BSEC Member States;

*Taking into account* the strategic importance of the Black Sea region in the further development of energy infrastructure in Eurasia;

*Emphasizing* the role of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation as the instrumental mechanism for development of multilateral cooperation in the region;

*Noting* the importance of coordination of national energy networks in enhancing the vital bridging role of the Black Sea region between Europe and Asia;

*Stressing* that cooperation at all times shall be based on the respect and adherence to the principles and norms of international law;

*Stressing* the importance of unhindered exercise of sovereign rights to exploitation, development and transportation of energy resources in accordance with international law;

*Aiming* to further expand their current cooperation and establish more advanced modes;

*Conscious* of the great potential for further cooperation in the energy field;

*Stressing* the importance of environmental sustainability issues in the BSEC region;

*Stressing* the provisions of the Baky Declaration on Energy Cooperation in the BSEC Region adopted by the Ministers of Energy of the BSEC Member States in Baky on September 2003;

*Stressing* the provisions of the “BSEC Economic Agenda for the Future” adopted by the Moscow Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States in April 2001, which emphasised the strengthening of close cooperation in the energy sector, as well as relevant resolutions and decisions of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs;

*Emphasizing* the role of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, the BSEC Business Council, the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank and the International Centre for Black Sea Studies as additional important mechanisms for multilateral cooperation;

*Recognising* the importance of the BSEC Project Development Fund;

*Further stressing* the need to develop a balanced, mutually beneficial cooperation with the EU;

*Noting* the importance of establishment of the Energy Community in South East Europe;

*Recalling* the BSEC Observer Status to the Energy Charter Treaty;

*Taking into consideration* the progress achieved so far in bilateral and multilateral cooperation among BSEC Member States;

*Conscious* of the significant role of the private sector in the development of energy infrastructure and energy markets in the Region;

*Also conscious* of the need of the private sector for a favourable business and investment environment;

*Recognizing* the beneficial effects FDI can have on the Region's economies through transfer of management and technical know-how and the creation of linkages with local SMEs;

**Have affirmed their readiness:**

- *To intensify* cooperation towards improving energy efficiency and promoting the use of renewable energy sources;

- *To strengthen* the rule of law on energy-related issues by ensuring a level playing field of rules for all BSEC Member States;

- *To enhance* freedom and security of all modes of hydrocarbon transport, also taking into account the environmental concerns and the international commitments of BSEC Member States;

- *To enhance* further security of energy supplies through the diversification of energy transport routes as well as energy resources;

- *To work* for the creation of a regionally integrated energy market for electricity and natural gas networks in the context of the European markets;

- *To establish* compatible energy action plans aiming at improving and interconnecting their electricity, oil and gas pipeline networks and linking them in particular to the Trans-European energy networks;

- *To work* closer on the issues of interconnection of Electric Power Systems in the BSEC region taking into account the ongoing studies and achievements of some Member States to join the UCTE;
- *To welcome* the soonest start of the feasibility study for UCTE-IPS/UPS synchronous interconnection with the aim of completing a conceptual study within 2006;
- *To enhance* the dialogue between the BSEC Member States with regard to technical aspects in generation, transmission and distribution of electricity;
- *To intensify* work towards further diversification of electricity, oil and gas export routes from the broader Caspian and Black Sea regions to the European and international market;
- *To develop* initiatives ensuring the physical safety and security of transport and energy supply networks;
- *To realize* effective and environmentally sustainable energy projects in the Region;
- *To continue* active cooperation with the relevant General Directorates of the European Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe on energy-related issues and with other energy related international institutions;
- *To explore* the possibilities of cooperation between the BSEC Member States and the future Energy Community in South East Europe, Mediterranean countries and regional initiatives;
- *To further* promote objectives stipulated in the Energy Charter Treaty and the Energy Charter Protocol on Energy Efficiency and Related Environmental Aspects;
- *To invite* the Country-Coordinator to lead the activities of the Joint Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Electrical Networks and of the Working Group on Energy in order to fully implement the provisions of the present Declaration.

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