



Annex II to BS/EN/WG/R(2006)3

**Statement of Ministers of Energy of the  
Member States of the  
Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)**

**Sochi, 27 September 2006**

Ministers of Energy of the Member States of the BSEC Organization met in Sochi, Russian Federation on September 26-27, 2006 in order to discuss the issues of mutual interest in the energy sector in particular energy security in the BSEC region.

Ministers support the basic principles of safeguarding and enhancing energy security stipulated in the G8 St. Petersburg Summit final declaration.

Ministers stress the strategic significance of the Black Sea region in the further development of the energy infrastructure in Eurasia and note the importance of deepening the cooperation between the BSEC Member States with the purposes of interconnection of the BSEC states energy systems in accordance with their national legislation and international commitments.

The Ministers believe that the reliability of access to energy, subject at this stage to challenges and threats both of short-term and long-term nature has a direct impact on the standards of living of the whole global community, including the BSEC region. Therefore, formation of an energy system capable to provide people in the region and on a global level with secure and uninterrupted supply of energy resources at cost-reflective prices, to maintain long-term stability at both regional and global energy markets, and to ensure environmental safety, is one of the priority tasks.

Ministers note the recent developments in the energy markets and ever increasing potential risks of political and commercial nature and threat of terrorism to the energy infrastructure. Therefore, in order to further strengthen energy security they stress the need to coordinate their energy policies.

Common understanding of mutual interests and purposes of energy strategies as well as the ways to achieve them are key factors to effectively mitigate risks and in the long run to ensure the energy security in the Black Sea Region. The national energy strategies and resulting energy policies of the countries must be transparent.

The Ministers express their intention to take further steps for the purposes of coordination and increase of compatibility of the energy strategies, taking into account the main goals of the BSEC region countries energy policies.

Ministers believe that in process of synchronization of the energy strategies of the BSEC region countries, some justified corrections in the sharing of risks must be sought as the concentration of all risks on the side of either the supplier, or consumer or transiter of resources does not facilitate the energy security of the BSEC region in the long run.

Ministers also agree that the diversification taking into consideration mutual economic interests, which covers both sources of energy and their supply routes, will allow to increase security of energy supply and to mitigate risks, related to ensuring the energy security.

The issue of the diversification is closely connected with the issue of enhancing the energy transportation and transmission infrastructure and its efficient use in order to develop further stable, favorable, objective, nondiscriminatory and transparent market conditions. In this connection, the Ministers confirm that one of the conditions to achieve this objective is the establishment of the effective mechanisms of the further development of appropriate systems for transportation of hydrocarbons as well as interstate lines of power transmission. They welcome new projects in the BSEC region in this respect.

Ministers take into consideration endeavors of Member States to diversify as much as possible the transmission lines and to increase the reliability of electricity supply to customers of the Black Sea region and with the purpose of the regional electricity market development in accordance with their national legislation and international commitments. Ministers underline the importance of adequate measures in order to establish a closer cooperation between Member States power systems and to promote experience exchange with neighboring regions and respective international organizations.

Ministers are also interested in the outcomes of studies and activities in the BSEC countries in the field of synchronization and integration of their national energy systems in UCTE, that may be considered in the projects of the Black Sea Electric Energy Ring.

The Ministers express their support to study the issues of the gas market development in the BSEC Member States as well as issues related to the preparation of program of use of natural gas as a motor fuel.

Ministers stress the importance of deepening cooperation between Member States to effectively explore the hydrocarbon potential, efficiently develop resources and promote environmentally manageable exploration activities in the Black Sea. Ministers recommend the establishment of an Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts for studying this issue.

Ministers reiterated their commitments to the provisions of Baky and Alexandroupolis Declarations adopted at their Meetings in October 2003 and March 2005 respectively, and stressed the need to accelerate their implementation.

Ministers acknowledge the role of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation as an important regional framework to facilitate cooperation in the field of energy among the BSEC Member States.