

DECLARATION OF THE SECOND CONFERENCE OF THE BLACK SEA UNIVERSITIES RECTORS

We, heads of the University Administrations of the Universities of the Black Sea nations, participating in the Second Conference of the Black Sea Universities Rectors held in Constantza on 9 -12 July, 1998, under the auspices of the UNESCO, Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, Black Sea Economic Cooperation, and at the invitation of the Romanian Ministry of National Education, of the 'Ovidius' University Rector, and of the Black Sea University Foundation President,

emphasize the importance of a NETWORK for science, culture and education in the Black Sea area as a basis for a new regional cooperation process aiming to bring peace, stability and economic prosperity to the Black Sea area,

stress the major role that the universities can play in developing mutually advantageous cooperation in the region and therefore in furthering the aims of the Black Sea Scientific and Educational Cooperation,

acknowledge that scientific, cultural and educational problems existing in our universities are to a great degree of common nature and can be better resolved in joint action,

appreciate that the Conference has provided a good opportunity for the exchange of views, experiences and ideas thus facilitating the identification of specific fields of cooperation.

Therefore,

We are determined to make the best use of the results of the exchange of information and experience in order to jointly concentrate on projects aimed at improving the educational premises in our countries.

We have decided to give priority to the following fields of our cooperation and joint action:

- safeguarding freedom and democratic values, social and human rights in the region;
- providing adequate infrastructure, scientific, educational and cultural facilities;
- facilitating relations in getting known and respected and working together;
- identifying and enhancing the intellectual resources of the region which are badly needed in the process of modernization and sustainable development
- planning common research and training projects aimed at increasing the efficiency of joint activities as compared to working single-handed

- presenting internationally the new cooperation unit of the states and peoples of the region
- better representing the intellectual production of the region in a competitive world and a era of knowledge

In this spirit we believe that setting up the Black Sea Network will contribute to speeding up the scientific and educational cooperation among the member countries and we request the concerned authorities of the Participating States to consider this proposal.

We have agreed to intensify our bilateral relations at the Rectors' level, as well as at that of various specialized departments of the universities' administrations, and in this framework, to encourage twin-University relationship among our universities.

We call on our parliaments and governments, as well as the UNESCO, UNO, PABSEC and the BSEC to facilitate the implementation of joint projects undertaken by the universities of the Black Sea Participating States.

Taking into account the positive and useful results of the First Black Sea Universities Rectors Conference we believe that similar Conferences should be held on a regular basis.

We express gratitude to the Romanian Ministry of National Education, to the 'Ovidius' University, to the Black Sea University Foundation, and our Romanian hosts for their warm hospitality.

Adopted by the heads of University administrations of the Universities of the Black Sea Universities Network in Constantza on 11 July 1998.