

RESOLUTION OF THE SECOND CONFERENCE OF THE BLACK SEA UNIVERSITIES RECTORS

We, the heads of University administrations of the universities of the Black Sea nations and the participants of the Second Conference of the Black Sea Universities Rectors which was held in the Constantza town on 9 - 12 July, 1998,

stressing the leading role of the Universities which they can play in the development of mutually beneficial cooperation of the countries of the Black Sea Region and of other regions.

attaching great importance to scientific research of academic level and to student and professor exchanges,

stating that the Conference gives to its participants an opportunity to conduct a fruitful exchange of opinions and views on a number of important issues concerning the development of truly international university courses with relevance for the countries in the Black Sea Region

expressing confidence that the Black Sea Universities Network as an institutional framework for the exchange of experience fully justifies its purpose and serves towards attaining its overall objectives

highly appreciating the role of the UNESCO/CEPES, PABSEC and the BSEC in the development of educational cooperation in the Black Sea Region.

reaffirming their allegiance to the ideas put forward in the Memorandum of the First Black Sea Universities Rectors' Conference which was held in Mangalia last year,

have adopted the following Resolution:

1. The universities are not merely large educational entities, but they represent their whole countries. In the eyes of the world community they are the face and the brain of a country. This view on Universities requires innovative approaches and solutions for their development which are also necessitated by the demands of the coming 21st century.
2. Proceeding from this fact, the BSUN authorities should concentrate their efforts on solving a wide range of issues concerning University teaching and research process, 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, everything that makes the University a friendly study and research environment;

It is natural that the solution of all the spectrum of Universities' problems is closely linked to the overall political and economic progress in each country. However, heads of University administrations should under any circumstances remember that the education exerts a major influence on the general development of other institutions and environments in the country.

3. Bearing in mind that today's Black Sea Region is a cradle of the European civilisation and being aware that our regional association of universities is not a closed local formation, the Universities' leaders and authorities will always contribute to the establishment of a lasting peace on the continent and will do everything within their power to solve conflicts by political means and not by force because the logic of force is a logic of political impasse.
4. Steering the course of development of our universities towards the 21st century, we must do our best for their informational and cultural openness. The universities of the future should become a kind of informational and cultural crossroads where the green light is on for everybody. This course of action of University authorities is important not only for University dwellers, but also for all the citizens of a country.

We, the participants of the Second Conference of the Black Sea Universities Rectors, realise that the solution of the problems of the development of University environment will depend to great extent on the universities' mutual cooperation and mutual assistance the readiness and willingness for which have been so vividly demonstrated by our meeting, discussions and exchange of views.

The participants of the Conference have agreed to consider the possibility of setting up an organisational structure uniting the universities of the Black Sea countries. The Network shall become effective after it is

approved by the relevant authorities of the universities participating in the Conference.

Therefore, we will not only contribute by all means to the cooperation among our universities ourselves, but also appeal to the authorities and leaders of other universities of the world to support this Resolution and take part in the materialisation of its ideas on a mutually beneficial and mutually useful basis.

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