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Press release

Between December 16th and 18th, 2014, the delegation of the Black Sea Universities Network consisting of Acad. Jorgaq Kacani, President and Prof. Eden Mamut, Secretary General, had an official visit to Azerbaijan. The purpose of the visit was to evaluate the current status of the projects developed in partnership with the universities in Azerbaijan and the participation to the events organized on the occasion of 95th Anniversary of the Baku State University.

The ongoing Projects that were analysed are referring to the Master Program in the field of Renewable Energy Resources, offshore interdisciplinary research and inter-university cooperation platform in the Caspian Sea and the research, training and innovation polygon in the field of solar energy, from Nakchivan.

The analysis meetings were attended by representatives of involved institutions from Azerbaijan such as Baku State University, Azerbaijan Technical University, Institute for Higher Education in the field of Oil of Baku, State University of Nakchivan and National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan. The meetings were attended by representatives of the Ministry of Education of Azerbaijan and from the Renewable Energy Agency.

The partners from Azerbaijan have expressed great interest in the mentioned projects, there were assessed the steps taken until now and there were established activities to be undertaken in the next period.

At the ceremonies organized on the occasion of 95 years of activity of Baku State University, Acad. Jorgaq Kacani presented his high consideration for the outstanding achievements of the professors and students of this prestigious educational institution. Established in 1919, only a year after the establishment of the first Azerbaijani state, after the collapse of the Tsarist Empire, in order to support with specialists the development of this nation, Baku State University has become over the years a reference higher education institution in the Caucasus Region and in the future Soviet Union. Currently, the university offers programs in leading areas in Azerbaijani language, Russian and English.

In the speech of Prof. Mamut, were evoked the excellent relations between Azerbaijan and Romanian people that have a long history and that in the recent

decades have been developed in multiple areas. For example, in 2004, during the visit of President Ilham Aliyev in Romania, an agreement was signed for collaboration in the field of nanotechnology, and based on that agreement were established research groups in Romania and Azerbaijan that have developed joint research with outstanding achievements. Prof. Mamut pointed out that currently, there are new challenges in the region. Thus the problem of frozen conflicts tends to be the norm, with unprecedented aggravation such as the situation in Crimea and eastern Ukraine. The situation tends to lead to fracturing and splitting of the region with imminent danger of armed confrontation and an unprecedented arms race. The consequences are already evident with thousands of dead in case of Ukraine or incredible pressure on the population, with "blacklists" were appear even academics and rectors such as acad. Bagrov, rector of Taurida University from Simferopol or prof. Fevzi Yakubov, rector of Technical and Pedagogical University of Crimea. For these reasons, he appealed to the rectors of universities attending the event, the academic community in the Black Sea area, to start a concerted approach by promoting cooperation and peace in the region.

Within the conference, the BSUN delegation had a meeting with the delegation of the Eurasian Association of Universities, led by Acad. Viktor Sadovnic, Rector of Moscow State University "MV Lomonosov". Between the two organizations there is an old cooperation and on this occasion there were evaluated the possibilities to expand this cooperation. The parties agreed on a plan of activities that could contribute to re-launch the cooperation between the universities in the region. In April 2015, there is intended to be organized in Belgrade, a forum for cooperation and sustainable development in the Black Sea Region.

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