

*Extraordinary Session of the Conference of Rectors
from the Black Sea Region dedicated to the 10th Anniversary
of the Black Sea Universities Network*

18-20 September, 2008, Eforie Nord, Romania

Between 18-21 September, 2008, was organized the 8th Conference of Rectors from the Black Sea Region, dedicated to the 10th anniversary of the Black Sea Universities Network, in Eforie Nord, Romania.

At the Congress participated rectors from Albania, Armenia, Bulgaria, Turkey, Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Romania.

The Conference started with the welcoming speech of Prof. Dr. Victor Ciupina, Rector of “Ovidius” University of Constanta.

Following, Mrs. Madalina Dinu, Presidential Counselor, presented the message of His Excellency, Mr. Traian Basescu, the President of Romania, who underlined the role of the Black Sea Universities Network in promoting the cooperation in the area, and the fact that education could become a common point for stability and prosperity.

Ambassador Aliosha Nedelchev, Deputy Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS, underlined the main objectives of the organization he represents in the field of Higher Education: promoting joint research programs and projects and greater valorization of the educational potential, encouraging student’s mobility and exchange among the universities of the area; the establishment of the European Higher Education Area is in concordance with the objectives set by the Bologna Process and is considered as one of the most important issues of cooperation. BSEC appreciates the prominent role that BSUN is playing in the development of regional academic cooperation.

PABSEC was represented at the Conference by Mr. Mircea Ciopraga, Head of the Romanian Delegation, who congratulated the Network for the 10th anniversary and expressed their conviction that BSUN will continue the efforts of development of an academic cooperation in the region, as part of the process of cooperation at the Black Sea, bringing in this way its contribution at the common aim – to transform the Black Sea Region in a area of peace, stability and prosperity.

The message of Mr. Remus Pricopie, Secretary of State of the Romanian Ministry of Education Research and Youth, presented by Prof. Mihai Korca, underlined the importance of the BSUN for the academic cooperation from the Black Sea Region.

At the end of the first session Prof. Mychailo Zgurovsky, BSUN President, presented the “Kiev Declaration of Rectors from the Black Sea Region”.

In the second part of the Conference there were presented the country reports in which the speakers included the following aspects:

- the structure of higher education in your country;
- legal framework for higher education in your country;
- governmental structures of higher education in your country;
- management and financing of higher education institutions in your country;
- national strategic plans for the development of higher education in your country;
- current status of implementation of the Bologna Process in your country;
- proposals for the participation of the universities of your country in the BSUN Program.

The country reports were presented by the followings:

- *Albania* - Prof. Dr. Jorgaq KACANI, Rector of Polytechnic University of Tirana
- *Armenia* - Prof. Dr. Suren ZOLYAN, Rector of Yerevan State Linguistic University
- *Azerbaijan* - Prof. Dr. Siyavush GARAYEV, Rector of Azerbaijan State Oil Academy
- *Bulgaria* - Prof. Dr. Oved FARHI, Rector of Varna Technical University
- *Georgia* - Prof. Dr. Manana KIRTBAIA, Rector of Tbilisi Public University "Metekhi"
- *Romania* - Prof. Dr. Victor CIUPINA, Rector of “Ovidius” University of Constanta
- *Turkey* - Prof. Dr. Mehmet DURMAN, Rector of Sakarya University
- *Ukraine* - Prof. Dr. Sergiy BYELIKOV, Rector of Zaporizhzhia National Technical University

The third part of the Conference was dedicated to the future challenges for the Higher Education in the Black Sea Region, and were appreciated the speeches of Acad. Abel Maharramov (BSUN President between 2002-2004), Prof. Stefan Barudov (BSUN President between 2006-2008), Prof. Mychailo Zgurovsky (President in office) and Prof. Haroutune Armenian.

The last part of the Conference occasioned the approval of the application forms for becoming members of BSUN. The universities that were accepted are the followings:

- Kremenchuk Mykhailo Ostrohradskiy State Polytechnic University
- Odessa National Academy of Food Technologies
- The University of Banking of the National Bank of Ukraine
- Sevastopol National University
- Erzincan University
- Gori University

Also at the end of the meeting, the participants agreed on the future activities of the Network.