

Distinguished Mr. Asaf Hajiyeu, PABSEC Secretary General,

Your Excellency Ambassador Michael Christides, BSEC PERMIS Secretary General

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to express my most gratitude for the invitation to join this meeting which has been organized on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the PABSEC.

This year is an important jubilee for PABSEC which is marking an important achievement in a very difficult period, with complex and complicated challenges, to keep the representatives of the 12 Parliaments of the region still together. They may have different opinions, different interests but sitting together and listening each other there is still a chance for solutions.

This achievement was possible also due to the contribution of the specialized units in organizing, facilitating and coordinating the activities of such a regional Assembly. In any kind of organization, the secretariat is by definition the “hidden part of the iceberg” that is planning, allocating the required resources, structuring the logistics, coordinating and dynamically adjusting the needs for properly running of the activities. And this is not only common sense, it has been demonstrated scientifically by the Constructal Theory that was proposed by a Romanian origin scientist, prof. Adrian Bejan from the Duke University in the USA. The constructal law is the law of physics that accounts for the phenomenon of evolution (configuration, forms of organization, design shapes) throughout nature, inanimate flow systems and animate systems together. According to the Constructal Law, *“For a finite-size system to persist in time (to live), it must evolve in such a way that it provides easier access to the imposed currents (processes) that flow through it.”* (Adrian Bejan, 1996).

So, here is a reference principle for the way in which a Secretary general has to plan future activities and has to evaluate the ones which passed. We always have to evaluate critically the processes, methodologies, codes and management standards that we apply in our offices, if these are supporting/facilitating or harming/blocking the regional cooperation initiatives. More or less we are doing this but, sometimes the things are going so well or so bad and we do not know why.

As an example, two weeks ago we have organized in Bucharest an International Workshop on: *„Current Status and Perspectives in the Field of Policies Addressing Social Cohesion in the Black Sea Region”*. The Workshop was organized by the

Black Sea Universities Network in collaboration with the Delegation of the Romanian Parliament to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) and Parliamentary Group of National Minorities in the format of an open debate with international participation.

The event was motivated by the evolutions that took place in recent years in several countries in Europe and neighboring areas, consisting on actions taken by or on behalf of certain groups or communities grouped on political, ethnic, regional or other interests that have led to a segregation and confrontation tendency. The complexity of the issues at the European and regional political scales amplifies the effects of these actions and it is often directed towards confrontations, claims or even open conflicts.

It is generally agreed that from a conceptual point of view, considerable effort is needed both from the scientific community, experts, civil society, as well as from the legislative, executive and other institutions of the rule of law for developing a systemic approach to the problems related to the administration of human rights, of the relationships between minority and majority, governance among the minority groups that have been established on different criteria, to promote social cohesion and a climate of understanding, mutual respect and cooperation.

The event offered a framework for free debates facilitating the exchange of ideas and knowledge in order to identify new directions to be followed for conceiving the policies addressing social cohesion in the Black Sea area..

At the event, participated academics, students, members of parliament, representatives of local authorities, representatives of national minorities, experts in the field, ambassadors and representatives of diplomatic missions of BSEC member countries and other international organizations, journalists. And we had even an exhibition with traditional food from the Dobrogea Region well-known for its cultural and ethnic diversity.

In the opening session, HE Mr. Asaf Hajiyevev gave a speech to the audience presenting the importance of the topic and the general priorities of PABSEC. During the works there were emphasized the importance of promoting social cohesion in a systemic and even strategic way by identifying those values that are broadly accepted in the society and building on them such as cultural heritage, traditions and languages.

Such an event wouldn't be possible without the support of the Standing Committee of the Chamber of Deputies of the Romanian Parliament and the support of PABSEC PERMIS. We worked excellent together like a team starting about 4 months before, exchanging opinions, analyzing points of view and reconsidering several times the concept and the plan of the event. At present, a selected group of outstanding scholars are preparing a special issue of the BSUN Int. Journal 'Letters from the Black Sea' that shall include the presented positions and papers.

Another example is the Student Essay Competition that we are organizing in cooperation with PABSEC. The topic proposed for the competition is: *"Twenty-five years of the Parliamentary Cooperation in the BSEC Region – Views and Perspectives for the Future"*.

The objectives of the Contest are as followings:

- To provide a unique opportunity for young students throughout the Black Sea Region to take part in a regional educational project;
- To promote a sense of regional belonging among young students from the 12 BSEC Member States through their participation in a competition on a topic of mutual interest;
- To give young students from various backgrounds a platform to express their views about our region and their dreams for the future.

Such an activity has been also prepared based on broad cooperation and is underlining the need for a bolder involvement of the national delegations and the Parliaments bringing closer the universities from each country. And probably, in this way, the regional cooperation will take more substance.

So, I shall conclude by stating that in the coming decades, the inter-Parliamentary cooperation in the region shall be effective as long as the General Secretaries shall secure the *"easier access to the imposed cooperation processes, initiatives and synergies that flow through it"*.

Istanbul, March 6th 2018

Prof. Dr. Eden Mamut
BSUN Secretary General