



***STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR TACAN İLDEM,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY***

***In Response to the Statement of Ambassador Dr. Victor Tvircun
Secretary General of BSEC***

***941st PERMANENT COUNCIL
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Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to warmly welcome Secretary General, Ambassador Dr. Victor Tvircun to the Permanent Council and thank him for his comprehensive presentation regarding the activities of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC). Ambassador Tvircun, is not unknown to us, as in his distinguished career he served twice in Ankara and devoted much of his effort to develop our bilateral relations with his country in all possible areas.

Let me also thank the Ukrainian Chairmanship for this initiative to pursue the practice of inviting representatives of pertinent international and regional organizations to the Permanent Council. We see BSEC as an organization whose work is very much relevant to our endeavours in the OSCE.

The Black Sea region, located at the crossroads of three major continents, as well as at the merging point of strategic transport and trade routes and energy corridors in Eurasia, allows sound mutually beneficial practical cooperation in many different areas.

Economic and human factors are at the basis of the dynamism emanating from the region. The principles of mutual respect, regional ownership and inclusiveness that are fully upheld by the participating States of BSEC also contribute in enhancing peace, stability and prosperity in the region. The effective foundation and maintenance of democratic systems of government and society, is a factor as well at the basis of the success of the BSEC effort.

Mr. Chairperson,

We live in an era of ever growing interdependence. This requires us to increase our interaction with those that are tackling the same threats and challenges. In this regard and it was clearly put forward by the Secretary General, there are today many overlapping areas of activity between the OSCE and BSEC. Apart from all the work carried out in the main area of activities of BSEC which is the economic sphere, we note that environmental protection, trade facilitation, transport, energy, migration management, fight against corruption are also on our common agenda.

Transnational threats such as trafficking in human beings and organized crime are also areas of common concern to both our organizations. We support further enhancing cooperation in those areas, with a view to increasing efficiency in our respective efforts.

In this vein, there is ground for enhanced cooperation between the OSCE and BSEC on the basis of the 1999 Platform for Cooperative Security. Cooperation between Secretariats could be a first step in this direction. Ukraine's simultaneous holding of the Chairmanship of both of the Organizations is an opportunity that we should avail.

Mr. Chairperson,

Recently, the 27th Meeting of the Council of BSEC Foreign Ministers was held under the chairmanship of Turkey in Istanbul on 15 December 2012. An Action Plan for the implementation of the new Economic Agenda was adopted during this meeting. The Action Plan will accelerate the project-oriented process within BSEC and help us to open up new avenues of cooperation. The Council Meeting concluded the Turkish Chairmanship-in-Office whose objective was to ensure a comprehensive vision to activate the region's potential for achieving closer cooperation, greater stability and prosperity in the BSEC region.

The high participation in the Council Meeting was a reflection of the political will and support of the Member States, as well as the strong credibility of BSEC. As the region's most institutionalized and comprehensive multilateral platform, we believe that this credibility of BSEC presents sufficient reasoning for all participating states to be optimistic regarding the future ahead.

Let me also remind that in addition to BSEC, there are other mechanisms that directly relate to the security of the Black Sea littoral states. As a matter of coincidence, Ukraine also assumed the Chairmanship of one of them, the Document on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in the Naval Field in the Black Sea, this year.

I take this opportunity to express our best wishes of success to Ukraine in conducting the responsibilities as the Chairman in Office of the BSEC.

In conclusion, let me to thank again Secretary General Tvircun and the Chairmanship for allowing us to dwell on these important regional issues that are useful to the whole OSCE area.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson.