

BSEC

Committee of Senior Officials and three working groups meet at regular intervals. In Oct. 1999 ministers of energy of the CBSS member states agreed to achieve the goal of creating effective, economically and environmentally sound and more integrated energy systems in the Baltic Sea region. Four summits at the level of heads of government of CBSS member states and the President of the European Commission have taken place; in 1996, 1998, 2000 and 2002. The Baltic Sea Region Energy Cooperation (BASREC) is made up of energy ministers from the region and is chaired by the energy minister from the chair country of the CBSS.

Official language: English.

CBSS Secretariat: Strömsborg, PO Box 2010, S-103 11 Stockholm, Sweden.

Website: <http://www.cbss.st>

Director of the Secretariat: Hannu Halinen (Finland).

EUROPEAN BROADCASTING UNION (EBU)

The EBU is the world's largest professional association of national broadcasters, with 71 active members in 52 European and Mediterranean countries and 47 associate members in 29 countries elsewhere in Africa, the Americas and Asia. One of the EBU's best-known television activities is Eurovision which has a permanent network comprising up to 30 digital satellite channels, and two satellite channels relay radio concerts and operas, sports fixtures and major news events for Euroradio.

Headquarters: 17A Ancienne Route, CP 45, CH-1218 Grand Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland.

Website: <http://www.ebu.ch>

BLACK SEA ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION GROUP (BSEC)

Founded in 1992 to promote economic co-operation in the Black Sea region. Priority areas of interest include: trade and economic development; banking and finance; communications; energy; transport; agriculture and agro-industry; healthcare and pharmaceuticals; environmental protection; tourism; science and technology; exchange of statistical data and economic information; combating organized crime, illicit trafficking of drugs, weapons and radioactive materials, all acts of terrorism and illegal immigration.

Members. Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine.

Observers. Austria, Egypt, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Poland, Slovakia, Tunisia.

The *Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Co-operation* is the BSEC parliamentary dimension. The *BSEC Business Council* is composed of representatives from the business circles of the member states. The *Black Sea Trade and Development Bank* is considered as the financial pillar of the BSEC. There is also an *International Center for Black Sea Studies* and a *Coordination Center for the Exchange of Statistical Data and Economic Information*.

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Website: <http://www.bsec.gov.tr>

Secretary-General: Valeri Chechelashvili (Georgia).