



**ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

**Permanent International Secretariat**

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**STATEMENT BY**  
**H.E. AMBASSADOR TUGAY ULUÇEVİK**  
**FIRST DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL**  
**OF THE**  
**BSEC PERMANENT INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT**  
**AT THE**

**BIENNIAL MEETING OF STATES TO CONSIDER THE**  
**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN PROGRAMME OF ACTION ON SMALL**  
**ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS**

**NEW YORK, 12 JULY 2005**

Mr. Chairman,

I congratulate you upon your election as the Chairman of this important meeting. I wish you every success in the pursuit of the common goals of the international community.

Mr. Chairman,

The Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, otherwise known by its acronym as BSEC, is an intergovernmental regional economic cooperation organization, encompassing the Balkans, Caucasus and the territories of the Black Sea littoral States. BSEC aims at contributing to regional and international peace, security, stability and welfare by means of developing economic and trade relations between its member states as well as the implementation of the so-called "soft security" measures.

The members of the BSEC are Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, the Hellenic Republic, Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro, Turkey and Ukraine.

The BSEC Member States consider organized crime, in all its kinds, including terrorism as an impediment on the way of establishing an economic environment attractive to international cooperation and foreign private investment. Hence, one of the areas of cooperation enumerated in "the BSEC Charter" is combating organized crime, illicit trafficking of drugs, weapons and radioactive materials as well as all acts of terrorism.

BSEC launched in 1997 the process of regular meetings of the Ministers of Interior of the Member States. The process resulted in the signing in 1998 "the Agreement on Cooperation in combating crime, in particular in its organized forms." The Agreement entered into force in 1999 which was later complemented by its two Additional Protocols including the one on terrorism.

Under these international instruments the Member States of BSEC have undertaken to cooperate and exchange information also with the purpose of preventing, suppressing, detecting, disclosing and investigating of crimes, including, inter alia, illegal trafficking in weapons, ammunition and explosives, as well as biological, chemical and radiological weapons and nuclear and radioactive materials.

The BSEC Member States have also addressed themselves to illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as well as to criminal activities related to immigration.

In this context, the objectives of the 2001 UN Programme of Action and their full implementation will definitely complement and further strengthen the regional efforts and cooperation envisaged in the BSEC Charter and BSEC international instruments.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.