

**Declaration by The Association of the Balkan
Chambers (ABC)
- GOAL - SUSTAINABLE, SELF-FINANSING AND
PROFICIENT ASSOCIATION**

Adopted in Istanbul, 26th March 2008

The Unions and/of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, members of the Association of Balkan Chambers, gathered in Istanbul on 26th March 2008, on the occasion of the General Assembly,

Considering the future of ABC as a permanent Association, with the target of promoting economic co-operation in the Balkan region, as well as with third parties,

Recognizing the need to develop the investment climate in the region and to encourage the sectoral and inter-regional partnerships,

Committing themselves to cooperate with ABC`s regional counterparts, with the goal of achieving prosperity in the region, based on the huge economic potential,

DECIDED

To continue paying efforts to enhance regional co-operation, with a focus on the potential cooperation fields of common interests, through benefiting from the experiences of member Chambers and regional counterparts.

To adopt a long-term strategy intended for shaping ABC as a sustainable, self-financing and proficient association, along with the completion of the ABC-DIHK Partnership Project.

To continue exploring the initiative of setting ABC as a wide-known international entity for gaining recognition among the business circles in Europe, with positive reflection on credibility in front of the governmental circles of ABC Member Chambers` respective countries.

To propose the signing of a Cooperation Agreement between ABC and ASCAME, with a view to further strengthening ABC by cooperation with its regional counterparts and enlarging networks.

To promote the tourism activities between ABC and ASCAME, together with assigning a representative as a key speaker in related events, on behalf of ABC.

To enhance collaboration between ABC and ASCAME, with forming a networking for further cooperation and determining a contact person from both associations, in any related tourism activities.

To organize meetings that will create synergy and partnerships among ABC Member Countries, with a focus on common interest and benefits, bringing together not only Member Chambers but representatives from Governments of the Member Chambers` Countries.

To encourage solidarity within the Balkan Region, aiming to support the full membership process of the non-EU ABC members to the European Union.

To address EU member countries for fully implementing the signed agreements on visa facilitation with Western Balkan countries.