

Recommendation 64/2002*
on the Second Meeting of the Public Broadcasters
from the BSEC Member-States

1. The Second Meeting of the Public Broadcasters of the participating states of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation held in Chalkidiki, Greece on 16-17 May 2002 under the auspices of the Parliamentary Assembly and upon the invitation of the Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation, has demonstrated that the public broadcasters are determined to build up a pragmatic and comprehensive cooperation as an important dimension of the multilateral cooperation in the Black Sea region, aimed to promoting friendship and understanding, stability and peace in the area and at raising public awareness about the challenges of the BSEC Organisation.
2. Reaffirming their commitment to the Bucharest Declaration adopted in May 2001, the participants made a substantial exchange of views on ways and modalities of fostering their cooperation taking up the subjects of the public broadcasters in the new stage of the BSEC, the content and the goal of the programme, international co-productions, training courses, exchanges of news programmes, cooperation in the field of radio, institutional framework of cooperation, participation in the EU programmes, common policy in international gatherings, interaction on the international arena, activity of the Coordination Group. Presentation of the “profile” of the countries represented the most successful experience of this kind paving the way for thematic multinational co-productions.

It is to be mentioned that following the recommendation by the Sofia PABSEC General Assembly, the Radio Broadcasters attended for the first time the meeting becoming the part and parcel of the future cooperation.

Mr. George Papandreou, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic addressed a message to the participants in the Meeting, while the Minister of Macedonia and Thrace made a special intervention during the Meeting.

3. Mr. Georgios Kirkos, Member of the Hellenic PABSEC delegation, Member of the PABSEC Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee and Mr. George Petricu, PABSEC Secretary General, addressed the Meeting stressing the scope of

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the Parliamentary Assembly's initiative in making possible the setting up of a special framework of cooperation between the public broadcasters as a new, dynamic and very important dimension of the multilateral cooperation in the region, given the paramount role and responsibility of the public television and radio of the member states in providing valuable information on the main activities and subjects of the BSEC, PABSEC and other Related Bodies.

Within this context, the participants appreciated the participation by the BSEC, the BSTDB and the ICBSS in the Meeting.

4. **The Parliamentary Assembly:**

- i. **welcomes** the outcome of the Second Meeting of the Public Broadcasters of the BSEC member states and the adoption of the Chalkidiki Declaration, highlighting the consistent support provided by the Parliamentary Assembly and the positive stance by the BSEC Council of Ministers as a recognition of the contribution by the mass media, particularly public televisions and radio, as the most powerful and influential medium of mass communication and the most important source of information for the majority of population of the Black Sea region in promoting the values of democracy, climate of understanding and cooperation;
 - ii. **expresses** the appreciation for the attention given to the BSEC Tenth Anniversary by producing a joint documentary on the main activities carried out by the member countries over the past ten years to be presented to the Summit of the Heads of State and Government in Istanbul on 25 June 2002 and to be broadcasted in the member states on that very day, which illustrates the fact that in only one year's time the public broadcasters have started to put in place significant common projects of interest for the whole community in the region;
 - iii. **supports** concrete steps undertaken by the public broadcasters to boost their cooperation in exchanging television and radio programmes and news materials, realising co-productions, organising training courses and sharing technical know how;
 - iv. **attaches** special attention to the decision agreed upon to set up an appropriate institutional framework, flexible and efficient, in order to safeguard their successful functioning and ensure a solid foundation for their cooperation, to be submitted for the approval of the Third Meeting to be held in Turkey in May 2003;
 - v. **underlines** the positive impact of the participation in various programmes of the European Union and the European Broadcasters' Union, within the framework of fostering the BSEC-EU cooperation as a contribution to a free and undivided Europe.
5. **The Parliamentary Assembly**, therefore, calls upon the national parliaments and the governments of the BSEC member states to provide full support to the endeavours undertaken by the public broadcasters by enacting and/or updating legislation ensuring their enhanced role at the national level and their irreplaceable place within the Black Sea family.
6. **The Assembly** invites the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to consider this Recommendation.