

RECOMMENDATION 112/2009¹

Rational Management of Natural Resources in the Black Sea Region: Enhancement of Legislative Framework

1. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation acknowledges that in the context of depletion and scarcity of natural resources their rational management is an essential prerequisite to sustainable socioeconomic progress.
2. Given the fact that natural resources are being consumed at an alarmingly high rate, and that renewable resources are equally threatened by the pernicious effects of aggressive, imbalanced and mismanaged use, the Assembly stresses that the enhancement of the legislative framework with the aim to arrive at optimal solutions for careful and appropriate use of natural resources is vital for averting serious consequences of natural resources uncontrolled consumption in the future.
3. The BSEC region is rich in natural resources due to its highly varied climatic, geologic, and hydrologic conditions. However, the increased consumption of individual natural resources over the course of time, as well as consequent rearrangement of ecosystems made environmental challenges in the region a multidimensional concern. Individual states face different principal challenges in natural resources management, and the respective government policies to address these issues also differ. Each country makes autonomous decisions as to what constitutes rational use of natural resources depending on that country's particular features and ecosystems, as well as on its history, economics, socio-political values.

¹ The Assembly debate on 24 November 2009 (see Doc.: GA34/LC34/REP/09, Report of the Legal and Political Affairs Committee "Rational Management of Natural Resources in the Black Sea Region: Enhancement of Legislative Framework" discussed in Kyiv on 13 October 2009; Rapporteur: Mr. Serhiy Podhorny – Ukraine)

Text adopted by the General Assembly in Moscow on 24 November 2009

4. Rational use of natural resources is directly related to the efficient enforcement of environmental policies and the effective short- and long-term measures for overcoming possible pitfalls. Therefore, the Assembly notes with satisfaction that the environmental legislation, sectoral strategies and national action plans correspond to practical problems that have arisen, and are in accordance with the pace of development of individual member states. Where necessary, legislative frameworks are complemented by institutional reforms, and constitute an important step towards sustainable development. Adequate legislation, well-defined competences and a viable institutional framework play an important role in the efficient and rational management of natural resources.
5. The Assembly emphasizes the utmost importance of collective efforts of member states at transnational, regional and local levels to efficiently and effectively address challenges and threats to natural resources. In this respect, Assembly welcomes the active engagement of the United Nations institutions and the European Union in placing increasing emphasis on the rational use of natural resources through sustainable development strategies and environment action programmes. It supports the integrated approach implying sectoral policies and programmes involving the spheres of energy, transport, agriculture, forestry, industry and research sectors.
6. The parliamentarians of the BSEC Member States advocate the use of innovative means to contribute to rational management of natural resource bases and to achieve healthier landscapes and long-term economic prosperity with due regard to common and different responsibilities and capabilities, as well as to specific national and regional development priorities.
7. The Assembly recognizes that natural resources are to be preserved, developed and managed through strengthened regional, national and local capacities. It further acknowledges that rational and sustainable use of natural resources is a critical part of ensuring a high standard of living for the peoples in the region and beyond.
8. **Therefore, the Assembly recommends** that the Parliaments and the Governments of the BSEC Member States:
 - i. *further work through* bilateral, regional and global partnerships towards achieving a balance between different uses of natural resources along with protection and conservation of resources quality and quantity for the future generations;
 - ii. *reinforce* regulatory framework to align with the principles and objectives of the multilateral conventions and agreements elaborated within the framework of the UN institutions.
 - iii. *oversee* the development and implementation of national natural resource management programmes including action plans and other agreed programmes;
 - iv. *facilitate* the strengthening of national strategies, policies, guidelines and frameworks that advocate the rational use of natural resources;

- v. *prioritize* policies and programmes that achieve a better balance between development and environmental concerns;
 - vi. *promote* a deeper understanding of and engagement with the key challenges associated with rational management of resources and contribute to facilitating more informed decision-making;
 - vii. *further improve* the institutional framework and capacity-building that are necessary for wide-ranging cooperation in addressing the rational use of natural resources;
 - viii. *monitor and evaluate* the outcomes of policies, strategies and programmes in natural resources management, with the aim of addressing pressing natural resources challenges in a timely manner;
 - ix. *define and delineate* the rights, duties and responsibilities of the resource users within the general framework of rational use of natural resources;
 - x. *coordinate* the actions undertaken by the governmental bodies with relevant international institutions and specialized agencies;
 - xi. *conclude*, where necessary, intergovernmental agreements on projects regarding the rational management of natural resources;
 - xii. *take active measures* to facilitate joint research, development, deployment and transfer of environmentally-friendly technologies in respect of key sectors of the economy: energy, transport, industry, agriculture, forestry, and water management;
 - xiii. *stimulate and promote* public discussion about rational management of natural resource use and also motivate civil society organizations to get involved in the initiative to confront ecological challenges.
 - xiv. *promote* action to reverse the decline in the native ecosystems and to secure the viability of healthy ecosystems and ensure sustainable development.
9. **The Assembly invites** the BSEC Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs to consider this Recommendation.