

RECOMMENDATION 111/2009*

“Water resources management in the Black Sea region”

1. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation realizes that preservation and management of water resources is of utmost importance, as the contemporary environmental challenges urge all the countries to enhance cooperation aiming at sustainable development and implementation of the principles of Agenda 21 and Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, as well as the Millennium Development Declaration Goals.
2. The Parliamentary Assembly of the BSEC recognizes that the Black Sea region suffers from a number of environmental problems that include such negative trends, as pollution, biodiversity degradation, irrational land use and climate change. The Assembly, in particular, is aware that climate change has a deteriorative impact on water resources, natural hydrological processes and ecosystems.
3. The PABSEC takes into consideration the conclusions and recommendations of the 5th World Water Forum held on 16-22 March in Istanbul expressing its readiness to cooperate on the issues placed on the agenda of Forum. The Assembly fully supports the activities of the international institutions and UN specialized agencies dealing with water-related issues, in particular Organization of the Economic Development and Cooperation (OECD), World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
4. PABSEC considers close cooperation with the European Parliament in the light of improvement of regulatory framework in addressing water resources issues both at the European-wide and regional level, welcoming the contribution of the European Union and its specialized bodies in the field of protection and management of water resources, as well as the Water Initiative and Water Framework Directive, as the basic EU water-related legal instrument.

* *Rapporteur: Mr. Gagik Minasyan, Chairman of the Committee (Armenia)*

The Assembly debate on 24 November 2009 (see Doc.: GA34/EC33/REP/09, Report of the Economic, Commercial Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee “Water resources management in the Black Sea region” discussed in Thessaloniki, on 21 October 2009; Rapporteur: Mr. Areg Gukhasyan – Armenia)

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

5. PABSEC reaffirms its commitment to the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution (Bucharest Convention 1992) and its protocols and Strategic Action Plan, as well as relevant ministerial declarations - Odessa Declaration of 1993 and Sofia Declaration of 2002. Assembly welcomes the latest activities of member states on cooperation with regard to water-related issues, which have resulted in the adoption of significant documents – Declaration of the Ministers in charge of Water Management of the Contracting Parties to the Danube River Protection Convention and the Bucharest Black Sea Protection Convention on Enhancement of Cooperation adopted on 23 February 2007 in Bucharest and Ministerial Declaration on Water Supply and Sanitation in Small Rural Settlements in the Black Sea region adopted on 27 May 2009 in Sofia.

6. The Assembly recalls its Recommendation 5/1994 on “Black Sea Environmental Health”; the Recommendation 49/2001 on “The Black Sea Environmental Protection: New Challenges”, Recommendation 81/2005 on “Economic Aspects of Resolving Environmental Problems in the BSEC Member States”, as well as on the Recommendation 99/2007 on “Global Climate Change: Consequences for the BSEC Member States.

7. Therefore, the Assembly recommends that the Parliaments and the Governments of the BSEC Member States:

i) *further strengthen* the institutional and legal framework dealing with protection and management of water resources and issues related to water supply and sanitation, with subsequent harmonization with international environmental standards;

ii) *facilitate* the elaboration of concrete programmes and strategies aiming at the mitigation of consequences of climate change that has a negative impact on water resources, seeking also new mechanisms of cooperation in this direction;

iii) *cooperate* in the exchange of information and best practices on water resources issues and their exploitation with possible establishment of the regional data base with efficient monitoring and reporting systems available for all parties concerned;

iv) *apply* in the national water policies a principle of the integrated water resources management with a view to achieving considerable improvement of quality in water supply and sanitation;

v) *cooperate* closely with non-governmental organizations, private sector, local and regional authorities, as well as to promote active participation of media community in order to raise public awareness through educational programs and covering most crucial aspects;

vi) *urge* the BSEC member states, which have not yet ratified the Helsinki Convention on the protection and use of trans-boundary watercourses and international lakes and Protocol on water and health to convention, to undertake steps to ratify and implement these international regulations;

vii) *consider* a possibility to incorporate the recommendations of the WHO, FAO and Black Sea Commission on pollution prevention and safe re-use of human waste and wastewater into national legislation of the BSEC member states;

viii) *effectively use* the additional financial resources of interested international organizations, financial institutions and private donors to complement the efforts to develop sustainable water resources and their management;

ix) *intensify* trans-border cooperation in water and sanitation bearing in mind the following aspects:

- a) assessing current state of the outstanding issues in water supply in the basins of trans-border water flow.
- b) holding consultations on a regular basis among neighboring countries for defining the key problems and agreeing on measures to be undertaken on the territory of each country.

8. The Parliamentary Assembly invites the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to consider this Recommendation.