

RECOMMENDATION 83/2005*
on “Cooperation in the sphere of Cultural Tourism in the Black Sea Region”

1. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation is fully aware of the significance of the development of cultural tourism. It recognizes the fact that contemporary cultural activities and expressions rest upon, among other elements, on the rich cultural heritage and traditions of member-states.
2. The Assembly reaffirms that culture in the broad sense associated with human development is an essential resource capable of improving the quality of life and ensuring sustainable development and all notions contained in that term, lead to the use and expression of cultural tourism.
3. The Parliamentary Assembly acknowledges the potential role of Cultural Tourism as a vehicle for development, a platform for peace and stability in the world contributing to mutual understanding, goodwill and close relations among people.
4. The Assembly notes that rich traditional culture in the Black Sea region, is threatened by the fast pace of modernization and globalization. Therefore, the Assembly must undertake the twofold task of preserving and reviving the traditional cultural expressions.
5. The Parliamentary Assembly believes that the exchange of information between local, national and intergovernmental bodies and organization is important for the better understanding of Cultural Tourism, which will lead to the development and harmonization of coexistence in the area.

* *Rapporteur: Mr. Jan HUSARIK, Chairman of the Committee (Serbia and Montenegro)*
The Assembly debate on 9th June 2005 (see Doc. GA25/CC24/REP/05 – Report on “Cooperation in the sphere of Cultural Tourism in the Black Sea Region”
Discussed by the Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee at its Twenty Forth Meeting in İzmir on 16 May 2005 – Rapporteur: Mr. Tevhit KARAKAYA- Turkey)

6. The Assembly underlines that the SMEs form the backbone of BSEC tourist industry and can help to the development of Cultural Tourism, the search for financial support from domestic and international sources and in particular from the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank (BSTDB) will be in the focus of future work.
7. The Parliamentary Assembly welcomes the adoption by the PABSEC member countries of relevant policies and strategies and the exchange of expertise and materials necessary for the development and enhancement of Cultural Tourism.
8. The Assembly noted that resort and medical tourism is no less important than other forms of tourism. It is necessary to popularize tourism and, in this direction, develop the infrastructure of the resort and medical tourism zones at the level of modern requirements.
9. **Therefore the Parliamentary Assembly** recommends the Parliaments and Governments of the BSEC Member States:

A. In the field of legislation and cultural policy:

i. to improve legislation on the protection of cultural expression at the local level while safeguarding the demands of the cultural tourists. Moreover, legislation should clearly state the main principles, objectives and responsibilities of each state's cultural policy;

ii. to harmonize whenever necessary national legislation in the field of culture with international and European standards and to bring the national cultural policy in line with European principles;

iii. to adopt policies concerning cultural tourism activities according to the actual conditions in each country by broadening the objectives of national cultural policy and seeking to solve existing problems;

iv. to consider holding a BSEC Tourism Forum including representatives of the private tourist sector as well as of the national and regional authorities responsible for Tourism and Culture;

B. In the field of social and economic development.

v. to increase investments from the private, public and international sector with further utilization of a percentage of government budget for the purposes of sustainable development;

vi. to encourage the creation of job opportunities as well as the training of professionals in the fields that need to be developed;

vii. to design and implement advanced systems of visitor flow management by the innovative use of new information technologies for the purpose of managing effectively both heritage conservation and tourism development;

viii. to establish systematic cooperative relations with representatives of the tourism industry as a means to strengthen the effectiveness and comprehensiveness of policy making for sustainable tourism at the local and regional level;

ix. to provide broader access to culture for all sectors of the population, combating exclusion and marginalization, with a view to facilitate democratization and social integration;

x. to enhance the participation of local communities in the decision making process; access to cultural resources and facilities should be an integral part of any objective concerning the field of Cultural Tourism;

xi. to provide the funds for the construction of infrastructure within and between the member states so that remote rural areas where more traditional cultural expressions take place, can be more accessible to a wider public coming from and to urban centers;

xii. to exchange necessary information through the Web by the creation of a regional forum on the Internet so that each member state and body could have access to the relevant information;

xiii. to organize workshops and seminars on at the local, national and regional levels for the adequate discussion and exchange of opinions among the member states;

xiv. to take efforts towards conflict regulation, especially those, which are related to violation of territorial integrity preventing development and realization of cognitive tourism.

10. The Parliamentary Assembly invites the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to consider its Recommendation.