

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION
PABSEC

Doc. GA 3978/98

THE ELEVENTH PLENARY SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDATION 27/1998¹

on

**Cooperation of the Academic Communities of the BSEC Member Countries and
Its Legal Framework**

1. The multilateral and bilateral cooperation among the academic communities of the Black Sea countries, which aims to apply the achievements of science and technology to concrete fields of economic cooperation, plays an important role in achieving the BSEC goals.
2. The Assembly highly appreciates the efforts undertaken by the BSEC and its subsidiary bodies, as well as by researchers, scholars and scientists to promote cooperation among the academic communities of the member countries.
3. The First Conference of Representatives of the Academic Communities of the member countries held in Athens in December 1996 effectively launched a new and very significant academic dimension of the BSEC, outlining its priorities and institutional structure.
4. The Assembly welcomes the First Meeting of the BSEC Standing Academic Committee in Sinaia, Romania on 26-27 February 1998 which marked the beginning of the activities of this major body that will elaborate cooperation strategies and coordinate joint projects and programmes of scientific cooperation among the BSEC countries.
5. The Assembly also welcomes the opening in 1998 of the International Centre for Black Sea Studies in Athens. The Centre is called upon to function as a locomotive for promoting cooperation among researchers, academics, entrepreneurs, managers, government agencies and the media from Black Sea countries, as well as from other parts of the world, particularly from the European Union countries.
6. The Assembly notes with satisfaction that in accordance with the provisions of its Recommendation 10/1995 on Cooperation among the PABSEC Member Countries for the Improvement of Education and Decision 4/1995 "The Framework of Cooperation between the PABSEC and the Black Sea University", the Black Sea Universities Network was initiated in 1997. The BSUN has already been joined by several dozen universities from the Black Sea countries. In this context, the Assembly recalls its proposal contained in Decision 4/1995 concerning the organisation of a workshop for young parliamentarians of the PABSEC on regional cooperation, including the cultural one.

¹ *The Assembly debate on 25 June, 1998 (See Doc. GA 3976/98 - Report on Cooperation of the Academic Communities of the BSEC Member Countries and its Legal Framework, adopted by the Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee at its Tenth Meeting in Tirana on 1-2 April 1998; Rapporteur: Mr. Blagovest Sendov)*

Text adopted by the Assembly on 25 June, 1998 in Bucharest

7. Now that the main bodies dealing with the coordination of the cooperation among the academic communities have been formed, emphasis should be placed on the elaboration and implementation of concrete projects and programmes of regional scientific cooperation.

8. There is a need for a more comprehensive legal framework, including bilateral and multilateral agreement at various levels, which would facilitate regional scientific cooperation.

9. At the national level more efforts are needed to continue legislative reform in the field of higher education, research and related fields with a view to creating more favourable conditions for cooperation among the academic communities.

10. The Assembly recommends to the Parliaments and Governments of the BSEC Member Countries:

i. to encourage stronger bilateral and multilateral scientific ties among the BSEC Member Countries through elaborating and implementing national scientific and technological policies facilitating international scientific cooperation;

ii. to this end, priority should be given to the elaboration and renewal of the relevant legislation harmonising it among the member countries in accordance with European and international standards;

iii. to contribute to the establishment of a more comprehensive legal framework by concluding bilateral and multilateral agreements at various levels, with a view to facilitating the cooperation among the scientific communities of the BSEC countries;

iv. to this end, in particular, to promote the conclusion of bilateral and multilateral agreements promoting academic mobility in the Black Sea region through the mutual recognition of qualifications related to higher education; to consider the accession to the relevant Council of Europe and UNESCO conventions; pending the conclusion of such agreements, to promote the exchange of information concerning the recognition of diplomas and degrees;

v. to support the activities of the BSEC Standing Academic Committee and the International Centre for Black Sea Studies as the pivotal institutions of the BSEC academic dimension;

vi. to support convening at regular intervals of the BSEC Conference of Representatives of the Academic Communities in order to review the progress achieved in the regional academic cooperation and make proposals for future cooperation;

vii. to encourage new scientific cooperation projects initiated by universities, research centres, scientists' unions, students' associations and non-government organisations; in this framework, to support the activities of the Black Sea Universities Network initiated by the Black Sea University Foundation of Romania;

viii. in order to ensure co-ordination among all the components and actors of the academic cooperation, effective use of available resources and avoid duplication of work, to consider elaborating and adopting a framework programme of academic cooperation which would outline the priorities of cooperation for given periods of time, modalities of such cooperation, the scope of action of various bodies and mechanisms of interaction among them;

ix. to consider financing, possibly through the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank, of most important, mutually beneficial scientific cooperation projects; to provide incentives to the business communities to enhance their support to scientific and technological development;

x. to encourage scientific cooperation at the European and international level in order to attract resources, advanced technology and know how to the BSEC countries.

11. The Assembly invites the Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Participating States to consider this Recommendation.