

Doc.: GA29/EC28/REC94/07

RECOMMENDATION 94/2007*
“State and prospects of fisheries in the Black Sea countries”

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation:

1. **Recognizing** the role of the living water resources as an important natural renewable source of food and the traditional and important role of the fisheries in socio-economic life of the BSEC member states;
2. **Emphasizing** that effective and integrated fisheries management policies will result in long-term gain in food supply and food security, as well as in economic growth;
3. **Affirming** that the concept of sustainable development should be applied in the fisheries sector, including environmental protection of the fishing areas, rational use of fishing resources and development of aquaculture;
4. **Aware** of the fact that aquaculture has a significant role in the development of the fishery sector and it needs appropriate institutional and legal frameworks for the realization of its potential in accordance with the principles of sustainable development;
5. **Recognizing** the importance of inland fisheries and freshwater aquaculture in the region, in particular for land-locked countries, where freshwater fish is important for food security;

* *Rapporteur: Mr. Ali Temur, Chairman of the Committee (Turkey)*

The Assembly debate on 13 June 2007 (see Doc.: GA29/EC28/REP/07, Report of the Economic, Commercial Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee “State and perspectives of the fishery in the Black Sea countries” discussed in Athens, on 14 March 2007; Rapporteur: Mr. David Saganelidze – Georgia)

Text adopted by the Assembly in Varna on 13 June 2007.

6. **Recalling** its Recommendations 54/2001 on “Promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development, and 49/2001 on “Black Sea environmental protection: new challenges”;

7. **Taking into consideration** basic international legal documents, such as the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, Rio Declaration and Agenda 21, Kyoto and Bangkok Declarations on Aquaculture and Cancun Declaration on Responsible fishing and **appreciating** the role and huge experience of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

8. **Stressing** the significance of the Maritime Policy of the European Union and adoption of the Green Paper on the relevant issue;

9. **Welcoming** the activities of the Black Sea Commission and the establishment of the Advisory Group on Fisheries and other Marine Living Resources (AG FOMLR), as well as other regional initiatives and projects, such as the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River;

10. **Taking into consideration** the Black Sea Environmental Program, Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution and the Danube River Protection Convention;

11. **Therefore, the Assembly recommends** the Parliaments and the Governments of the BSEC Member States:

i) *to improve* legislation framework in the field of fisheries and, if necessary, to *adopt* additional regulations and laws focusing on the environmental and social aspects of this sector;

ii) *to accelerate* institutional reforms in the fishing sector with the view of clear regulation of access to fisheries, legal status of stocks and privatization processes;

iii) *to define* long-term strategies in the fight against poaching, plundering of stocks and over-fishing;

iv) *to provide* an appropriate framework for the development of aquaculture with the involvement of competent national research centres to initiate studies with the view to demonstrating the ecological and technical feasibility of aquaculture as well as its economic advantages;

v) *to adjust* fishing fleets to the generally accepted standards with the view of proper exploitation of fishing resources;

vi) *to develop* national policies on professional trainings for fishermen with the view of gaining knowledge on effective management of fishing resources, including the training of qualified workers specialized in aquaculture;

vii) *to establish* more effective and close cooperation with international organizations, in particular with FAO, and to *speed up* the ratification of the relevant conventions;

viii) *to promote* the creation of independent agencies, which could cooperate with public authorities in monitoring the state of the fishing resources, their conservation and rational management;

ix) *to intensify* cooperation with the European Union taking into consideration the EU Green Paper on Maritime Policy;

x) *to increase* the level of cooperation in the field of fisheries between the member states on the basis of bilateral or multilateral agreements;

xi) *to facilitate* elaboration and adoption of an international convention, which will regulate fishery in the Black Sea.

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