

## THE FOURTEENTH PLENARY SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Doc.: GA 6540/99

### RECOMMENDATION 40/1999<sup>1</sup>

#### Legal and Political Aspects of the Transport Systems Integration Process in the Black Sea Region

- a. **The Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation:**
  - b. **recognises** the vital role of the transport systems integration in the process of regional economic development constituting the major tool for boosting bilateral relations within the region and beyond it preparing the foundation for the BSEC countries to step in the next millennium as an important actor both on the European and world arena;
  - c. **recalls the proposals** contained in the Recommendation 13/1996 on “Cooperation in Transportation among the BSEC Member Countries” (adopted by the Seventh Plenary Session in Baku in June 1996) and the Recommendation 29/1998 on “Transportation in the Black Sea Region” (adopted by the Twelfth Plenary Session in St. Petersburg in December 1998) stating its commitment for further contribution to the development of the transport systems integration in the Black Sea region;
  - d. **appreciates** the recent initiatives of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation within the framework of the transport systems integration through the *Platform for cooperation between the BSEC and the EU* adopted by the Thirteenth Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Tbilisi on 30 April 1999 and the *Memorandum of Understanding of the development of the Black Sea Pan-European Transport Area*, signed by the BSEC Ministers of Transport and the European Commission in Tbilisi on 1 July 1999;
  - e. **commends** the actions undertaken by the national parliaments and governments of the BSEC member countries in harmonisation of legislation in the transport and transport-related fields, in particular, the simplification of

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<sup>1</sup> Assembly debate on 9 December 1999 (see Doc.: GA 6539/99, Report of the Legal and Political Affairs Committee “Legal and Political aspects of Transport Systems Integration Process in the Black Sea Region” discussed in Bucharest on 13-14 October 1999; Rapporteur: Mr. Alexander Lilov – Bulgaria)

*Text adopted by the Assembly in Kyiv on 9 December 1999.*

customs regulations and border crossing formalities and stresses further need for more efforts to bring them to the European standards;

- f. **re-affirms** its stand that transportation policy should be pursued within the framework of the existing bilateral and multilateral instruments consistent to the regional and global demands, with due regard to the national interest of the individual countries and their responsibilities and obligations towards the regional and international organisations they are party to, for the purpose of ensuring full participation of the BSEC countries in the economic integration processes;
- g. **welcomes** increasing actions undertaken by the BSEC countries towards establishment of peace, political stability, friendship and good neighbourly relations in the Black Sea region which constitutes one of the main goals of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and is a prerequisite for attainment of prosperity of the Black Sea peoples;
- h. **underlines** the importance of integration of the Black Sea region into the European economic space and promotion of its transport systems inter-connection with the Trans-European transport networks through the European Union's PHARE and TACIS multi-country programmes and the TRACECA project.

**2. The Assembly recommends** the Parliaments and the Governments of the PABSEC Member Countries:

- i. *to improve* the legal framework conducive to development transport systems integration meeting the requirements of a free market economy and international transport standards;
- ii. *to take measures* for reduction and gradual elimination of the obstacles hindering the process of the transport systems integration in the Black Sea region, including measures to harmonise railway infrastructure of the PABSEC member countries in transition and make them compatible with the European standards;
- iii. *to pay particular attention* to harmonisation of institutional and regulatory framework in the are of transportation according to the EU standards;
- iv. *to promote* adherence to the transport and transport-related regional and international agreements including transit treaties, border crossing agreements, customs conventions, harmonisation of frontier control of goods, tariffs, international multi-modal transport, etc., keeping in line with national interests and commitments towards the integration processes in Europe and in the world at large;
- v. *to accelerate* ratification process of the multilateral instruments on transport systems integration covering the Black Sea region, particularly, the Memorandum of Understanding of the development of the Black Sea Pan-European Transport Area (PETrA) and the Basic Agreement of the Baku TRACECA Conference;
- vi. *to conclude* new bilateral and multilateral agreements between the member countries in the priority transport and transport-related fields for the development of the common transport network in the region;

- vii. *to ensure* that transport systems integration occupies an adequate place within the comprehensive economic reforms on-going in the PABSEC countries with due attention to liberalisation and privatisation in this area as well as encouraging and supporting the involvement of the private sector in this process;
  - viii. *to facilitate* exchange of legal information on national transport legislation for the benefit of further development of integrated use of all modes of transport;
  - ix. *to provide* full support undertaken by the BSEC in establishing close cooperation with the main European structures that shape the next millennium European transport policy;
  - x. *to create* sound legal and political environment at national level ensuring full participation in the multilateral projects designed by the EU with financial support of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and European Investment Bank;
  - xi. *to fully involve* the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank, BSEC Business Council and the private sector in the process of transport systems development including attracting finances for transport integration projects within the BSEC region;
  - xii. *to make broader use* of economic cooperation of the BSEC process with the view of consolidating the process of establishing peace, security and political stability in the Black Sea region as one of the main precondition for the successful realisation of common objectives of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation.
- 3. The Assembly** invites the BSEC Ministers of Foreign Affairs to consider this Recommendation.