

THE EIGHTEENTH PLENARY SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Doc.: GA18/LC18/REC55/01

RECOMMENDATION 55/2001¹

Cooperation among the PABSEC Member Countries
in Promoting Political Stability through Economic Integration

1. The Members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation reaffirm their commitment to fully unlock the possibilities of the member nations and work further together to give a new impetus to the regional economic cooperation for establishing genuine partnership and good-neighbourly relations in the name of promoting political stability and betterment in the region and the world at large.
2. Based on the shared geographical, historical and cultural values, the Black Sea economic cooperation process provides instrumental framework for dialogue on a range of economic policies and initiatives to support achievement of the ambitious goals of turning the Black Sea into the sea of peace, stability and prosperity, thus, contributing to consolidation of political stability and economic growth. The economic prospects in the BSEC region are strong and as stated in the Yalta Summit Declaration of 5 June 1998 “in the twenty-first century the role of the Black Sea region, both in the world politics and the global economy will grow substantially due to its strategic location and vast economic potential”.
3. The Parliamentary Assembly welcomes concrete results achieved by the member countries towards democratisation, human rights and fundamental freedoms, social justice, rule of law, sustainable development and efficient market economy and notes that the individual actions as well as mutually supportive efforts further enhance integration process of the member states into a wider European and global space. Increasing interconnectedness of the countries in the region along with the prospect of accession to the European Union reinforces economic policies, encourages speeding up of commitments to the regulatory and market reforms.
4. Greater synergy between the countries towards attaining the BSEC goals opened up the opportunity to use the momentum by PABSEC and address the urgent and complex issues of strengthening political stability through economic integration. Partnership enhances prosperity, progress enriches and fosters the spirit of the BSEC community, integration promotes stability and sustainable development, which, in turn, enhances

¹ *Rapporteur*: Mr. Boris Ralchev, Vice-Chairman of the Committee – Bulgaria

The Assembly debate on 6 December 2001 (see Doc.: GA18/LC18/REP/01, Report of the Legal and Political Affairs Committee “Cooperation among the PABSEC Member Countries in Promoting Political Stability through Economic Integration” discussed in Tbilisi on 27 September 2001; *Rapporteur*: Mr. Mircea Teodor Iustian – Romania)

Text adopted by the Assembly in Sofia on 6 December 2001

stable and coherent political environment with comprehensive concept of stability and security in the region and beyond. Moreover, mutual interaction between and among the national parliaments within the PABSEC framework paves the way towards rapprochement of the countries, reinforces parliamentary diplomacy and gradually creates the milieu of reconciliation, trust and stability in the region.

5. The Assembly expresses its deep concern that unstable political climate and ethnic tensions still hamper the progress of democratic development and undermine the establishment of lasting stability in the region. The parliamentarians of the Black Sea countries believe that exercise of the human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as intensification of economic cooperation improves political stability in the region replacing confrontation by solidarity and tolerance.
6. The PABSEC states its confidence that interaction of the BSEC member countries with various international, regional and sub-regional structures will multiply the links and create the milieu of trust, partnership and understanding. In this respect, PABSEC underlines the significance of active involvement at all levels in the work of United Nations, European Union, Council of Europe, OSCE, NATO, WEU, CIS, etc., as well as with the regional and sub-regional structures and initiatives such as SECI, SEECF, CEI and Royaumont Process and the Stability Pact for SEE, in order to bring more positive elements in promotion of joint policies for improvement of socio-economic situation and enforcement of peace, stability and prosperity.
7. The Assembly appreciates the immense role of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe in shaping the new era of peace and security through cooperation on the basis of the principles laid down in the Helsinki Final Act, Charter of Paris for a New Europe and the Charter for European Security. It also stresses the crucial and constructive contribution of the European Parliament and the EU bodies in the integration processes on the European continent. It welcomes the undertakings by the United Nations structures and other regional and sub-regional organisations in promoting stability and integration and notes the efforts of the international economic and financial institutions engaged in the Black Sea region for the support and assistance in the smooth flow of political and economic reforms necessary for sustainable development and effective integration into the world economy.
8. **Therefore, the Assembly recommends** the Parliaments and the Governments of the PABSEC Member Countries:
 - i. *to make broader use* of economic integration in the Black Sea region with a view of consolidating the process of establishing peace, security and political stability through greater synergy between the member countries for the successful realisation of common objectives of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation;
 - ii. *to implement* the provisions embodied in the BSEC Summit Declarations, Resolutions and Recommendations of the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs related to strengthening regional cooperation, establishment of the BSEC Free Trade Area and further integration into the wider European and global spaces;
 - iii. *to continue* intensive partnership with the BSEC and its Related Bodies for efficient implementation of the “BSEC Economic Agenda for the Future Towards a More Consolidated, Effective and Viable BSEC Partnership” boosting dynamics of regional integration and promoting political, economic and social stability;

- iv. *to follow-up* the implementation of the Assembly's Recommendations conducive to strengthening political stability and consolidation of regional integration, in particular, on "Cooperation of the PABSEC member countries in strengthening the rule of law", "Legislative framework for combating corruption", "Legislative framework for Cooperation among the law-enforcement, customs and migration authorities", "Rights and social protection of refugees and displaced persons in the Black Sea region", "Harmonisation of foreign trade regimes" and "Legislative harmonisation";
- v. *to develop, further formulate and implement* necessary stability policies in a new sense of partnership and cooperation, based on trust, confidence and a higher level of political and economic collaboration as a main contribution to the new European architecture;
- vi. *to undertake resolute steps* towards speeding up the process of peaceful settlement of prevailing disputes in the region fully applying the international norms and legal instruments, thus consolidating economic integration and political stability in the region as a main building block of new European architecture;
- vii. *to reinforce* economic cooperation in the BSEC region on the basis of equal partnership, shared responsibilities, mutual respect and common interest to meet the ambitious challenges of the new millennium;
- viii. *to enhance stability* and democratic legitimacy of political institutions, and to adapt the efficiency and accountability of public administrations to the needs of a functioning market economy;
- ix. *to further improve* institutional framework necessary for the wide-ranging cooperation in the Black Sea region;
- x. *to place* more emphasis on regulatory convergence, i.e. the approximation if not harmonisation of essential regulatory mechanisms in order to enhance the efficiency of implementation of the joint projects and programmes for supporting sustainable economic and social betterment in the region;
- xi. *to foster support* to the necessary country-by-country reforms pertinent to development of transparent and stable legal and regulatory mechanism facilitating integration process and promoting political stability in the region;
- xii. *to further facilitate* adoption or improvement of legislation promoting economic and development of democratic institutions with due regard to European acquis;
- xiii. *to intensify* coordination between the countries in order to help each other to narrow the gap in the stages of development and economic progress in order to enhance regional integration and democratic development;
- xiv. *to make all possible measures* to increase trade and economic cooperation within the region in order to realise full economic potential of the countries participating in the regional integration process;
- xv. *to pursue* the policy of consolidation of peace and stability through sustainable development and implementation of the necessary stability policies;
- xvi. *to make full and appropriate use* of existing bilateral and multilateral instruments and to conclude new ones in the priority fields related to enhancing regional integration and political stability;
- xvii. *to act jointly* for implementation of the Stability Pact for the South-East Europe in order to ensure that it brings concrete and tangible results;

xviii. *to establish* more effective relations and working contacts with the European, regional or sub-regional structures with a view to share experience on reciprocal basis through providing information on joint BSEC activities and, at the same time, to enrich the Black Sea regional cooperation with new concepts;

9. **The Assembly invites** the BSEC Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs to consider this Recommendation.