



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION  
**PABSEC**

*Doc.: GA53/EC52/REC167/19*

**RECOMMENDATION 167/2019 \***  
**“GREEN ECONOMY. BLUE GROWTH”**

1. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) confirms that green economy stimulates economic progress and creates new jobs, as well as reduces risks from global threats such as climate change, loss of ecosystem services and water scarcity.
2. The Assembly recognizes that green economy is the means to achieve sustainable development, to protect and preserve natural resources, to provide economic values of ecosystem goods and services, and to promote low-carbon development in the Black Sea region.
3. The Assembly notes that the transition to green economy is an important tool for responding to the environmental challenges in the current century. Green economy also contributes to efficient solution of such topical global problems as poverty and inequality.
4. The PABSEC believes that the transition to green economy requires coordination of inter-sectoral policies, capacity building, regional cross-border cooperation, development and transfer of technology, as well as additional financial resources.
5. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation attaches great importance to the protection and preservation of the environment for the present and future generations, aiming at achieving the sustainable development in the BSEC Member States.
6. The Assembly stresses the need for close cooperation among the BSEC Member States, based on a regional approach to the protection of the marine environment, since this aspect plays a significant role for the countries of the region in terms of trade and economic relations.

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\* Assembly debate on 20 June 2019 (see Doc.: GA53/EC52/REP/19, Report of the Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee “Green Economy. Blue Growth” discussed in Batumi on 15 May 2019; Rapporteur: Mr. George Gabriel VISAN - Romania)

*Text adopted at the General Assembly in Baku on 20 June 2019*

7. The Assembly commends the European Commission's initiative to create a "Blue Growth Fund in the Black Sea", which aims to support maritime cooperation among the participating countries for sustainable blue growth in the Black Sea and to identify sources and political approaches for sustainable blue economy.
8. The PABSEC states that such cooperation is aimed at overall growth, protection of the marine and coastal environment, exchange of knowledge, technology transfer, improvement of professional qualification, creation of jobs and access to sustainable financing.
9. The PABSEC notes that the BSEC Economic Agenda: Towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership (adopted in Istanbul on 26 June 2012) attaches great importance to the green economy and environmental protection, as well as to the preservation of natural resources.
10. The Assembly recalls its Recommendation 5/1994 "Black Sea Environmental Health", Recommendation 49/2001 "The Black Sea Environmental Protection: New Challenges", Recommendation 81/2005 "Economic Aspects of Resolving Environmental Problems in the BSEC Member States", Recommendation 94/2007 "State and Prospects of Fisheries in the BSEC Member States", Recommendations 111/2009 "Water Resources Management in the Black Sea Region", Recommendations 117/2010 "Condition of Marine Environment in the Black Sea Region".
11. **Therefore, the Assembly** recommends that the Parliaments and Governments of the BSEC Member States:
  - i. *develop* joint initiatives to support the achievement of the objectives of the Paris Climate Agreement;
  - ii. *join* efforts to enhance cooperation in the field of exploration and potential for extracting alternative energy from the Black Sea (ex. methane, hydrogen);
  - iii. *encourage* research and innovation through improved partnerships between academic and industrial communities;
  - iv. *combine* efforts to create innovative infrastructures in the form of technology parks and business incubators to attract investors to the green economy sector;
  - v. *contribute* to providing conditions for realization of promising innovative ideas available on the market through formation of marine clusters;
  - vi. *take steps* to attract investment in innovative solutions to support the development of small and medium businesses and micro enterprises in blue economy sector;

- vii. *update* database on shipping and marine activities, especially with regard to available environmentally friendly, resource-saving and energy-efficient methods, assessment and mapping of ecosystem, water quality;
- viii. *promote* optimization of port infrastructure and further development of regional and trans-European transport networks, motorways of the sea and relevant port connections;
- ix. *take* necessary measures to prevent and reduce marine ecosystem pollution, to implement concrete controlling actions towards sources of pollution, including transport, in order to reduce their adverse effects on marine ecosystems and human health, as well as possible risks;
- x. *create* specialized forums and platforms for interaction, synchronization of actions and exchange of experience, knowledge and best practices between government agencies, scientific and educational centres and institutions in the Black Sea region;
- xi. *deepen* cooperation between the BSEC and the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution in order to avoid duplication of efforts; and strengthen cooperation with programs and initiatives operating in the Mediterranean and Caspian Seas and the Danube River Basin, with a view to developing projects of common interest that are region-oriented.

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