

RECOMMENDATION 151/2016¹

«Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons and Irregular Migrants in the BSEC Member States – Social Aspects»

1. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) is fully aware of the fact that the time has come for a progressive development of a global approach to the refugee problem, an approach which takes due cognizance of the basic human rights of refugees and interests of the asylum countries and the international community, and secures the cooperation of all parties in seeking a solution to the problem.
2. The PABSEC emphasizes the significant role of the international cooperation and coordination in The Black Sea Region, with the support and assistance of international actors such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the European Union.
3. The PABSEC expresses its concerns about the increasing number of refugees in the Black Sea Region, leading to many challenges, social tension and economic instabilities. Moreover the urgent need of solving the problem of the refugees becomes in strong collaboration with the protection of all human rights, fundamental freedoms, as well as of economic, social and cultural rights, in promoting political and social stability.
4. The PABSEC Member countries should encourage and facilitate the involvement at the local, national and international levels, of non-government organisations which provide humanitarian aid, provide legal and other assistance to refugees and migrants, mobilise public opinion, thus contributing to finding solutions to population displacement problems. In this regard the BSEC States are obliged to mobilize the necessary support and resources to identify urgent solutions to the refugee challenge, keeping in mind that the host state's policies and political will are the essential framework for sustainable solutions.

¹ Assembly debate on 30 June 2016 (see Doc.: GA47/CC46/REP/16, Report of the Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee “Problems of Refugees, displaced persons and irregular migrants in the BSEC Member States – Social Aspects” discussed in Istanbul on 11 May 2016; Rapporteur: Mr. Stefan Vlas – Moldova)

Text adopted by the 47th General Assembly in Moscow on 30 June 2016

5. The PABSEC emphasizes the importance to adopt all necessary measures and strategies to meet the humanitarian need and to take into account the consequences of these unprecedented migration flows. It is a priority to foster cooperation at the regional level in order to guarantee, to the peoples of the region, an adequate access to food supply, potable water and energy resources through a sustainable development strategy, because these issues undermine the well being of the citizens, as well as the political and social stability of the region.
6. The PABSEC appreciates the establishment of a Refugee Social Assistance Network in the BSEC States with the aim to the evaluation of potential beneficiaries, the development of individualized care plans, providing basic social services, and referring the cases to specialised social services.
7. The Assembly stresses the importance of regional and international cooperation in managing migratory flows effectively. In this respect, it appreciates the activities carried out by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHRC) in strengthening solidarity, and the concerted efforts of all members of the international community, which ensure protection of refugees in a spirit of shared responsibility.
8. The Assembly also encourages interaction with other international actors in the field of migration management and acknowledges the opportunities created within the Black Sea Region.
9. **Therefore, the Assembly recommends** that the Parliaments and the Governments of the BSEC Member States:
 - i. *ensure* that all refugees, regardless of nationality, are free from all forms of exploitation and abuse and have the right to seek asylum and international protection across all countries impacted by the crisis;
 - ii. *aim to protect* the human rights of the refugees in its co-operation with third countries, and support these countries in promoting access to protection and basic needs and developing a comprehensive integration policy;
 - iii. *preserve* the human rights, safety and dignity of all refugees, regardless of nationality, across all countries impacted by the crisis;
 - iv. *develop* a legal framework, ensuring the access of the refugees to social services, employment, housing, health care and education, as well as adequate policies to encourage the active participation of refugees in the social, cultural, economic and political life of the host country;
 - v. *establish* the necessary mechanisms to ensure the identification, nationality screening, registration, fingerprinting, security checks, and respective follow-up procedures of the refugees;

- vi. *organize* joint events with representatives of the migration agencies in the BSEC countries in order to exchange views on the refugee issues for the development of a common strategy based on regional cooperation;
- vii. *support the establishment* of mechanisms and measures aiming to achieve the adequate social integration of the refugees in the host countries;
- viii. *strengthen* cooperation between international and regional organizations and share experience of countries who have successfully managed the integration of mixed migratory flows into local communities;
- ix. *provide* child protection assistance to uphold the best interests of unaccompanied and separated children from the moment of their arrival;
- x. *undertake* mass information campaigns, including through social media, to provide information on the dangers of engaging with smugglers and traffickers and taking risky journeys;
- xi. *establish* Registration Controls in the main countries of arrival and transit countries, where the refugees to be identified, registered, fingerprinted, checked against security databases, and given the opportunity to make an asylum application;
- xii. *increase* the child protection services, such as counselling, mental health support, gender-based violence prevention and interventions;
- xiii. *take further steps* to expand the implementation of all possible tools for safe entry into Europe, including resettlement, as well as mechanisms like family reunification and humanitarian visas;
- xiv. *consider to establish* a Refugees Social Assistance System, aiming to mobilize the community potential to the support of persons in need by involving volunteers and creating groups of support;
- xv. *strengthen* the cooperation with the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) and provide access of BSEC member countries to this organisation;
- xvi. *further enhance* of cooperation among BSEC countries regarding the asylum-related issues by signing a Memorandum of Understanding and creating common discussion panel for the problematic issues in the region;
- xvii. *examine* the possibility of establishing a Council of Migration among the BSEC Member States, aiming to exchange information and best practices in the refugee field;
- xviii. *take further steps* to coordinate the efforts of the competent authorities in BSEC Member States of performing validation of migrants belonging to criminal and extremist organizations.

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

