

THE TWENTY THIRD PLENARY SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

*Doc: GA23/LC23/REC76/04*

**RECOMMENDATION 76/2004<sup>1</sup>**

Framework of Cooperation between the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea  
Economic Cooperation and the European Parliament

1. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation states the will of the parliaments and parliamentarians of the BSEC member countries to provide fuller support to the Black Sea cooperation process constituting major tool towards achievement of prosperity and stability in the region, promoting cohesion through intensified regional and cross-border cooperation and significantly contributing to the integration processes on the European continent.
2. The Assembly reaffirms its commitment to establish a true partnership and to forge closer cooperation and deeper interaction with the European institutions for expanding international framework for solving mutual problems of political, economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character being conscious that any efforts in the field of economy will be incomplete without similar progress in building a society based on democratic values, the rule of law, respect for human rights and mutual understanding.
3. The Assembly notes the high expectations of the peoples and governments in the region for the enlarged European Union and encourages the countries of the region to exploit their full potential as they advance towards the European integration. Given the important role of the European Parliament in the enlargement process of the European Union, the Assembly restates its conviction to strengthen its cooperative relations with the European Parliament based upon the bilateral consultations, appropriation of respective mandates and realization of shared objectives.

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<sup>1</sup> *Rapporteur*: Mr. Borislav Ralchev, Chairman of the Committee – Bulgaria

The Assembly debate on 2 June 2004 (see Doc.: GA23/LC23/REP/04, Report of the Legal and Political Affairs Committee “Framework of Cooperation between the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the European Parliament” discussed in Duress, on 7 April 2004; Rapporteur: Mr. Michael Yemelianov, member of the Committee, Russia )

*Text adopted by the Assembly in St. Petersburg on 2 June 2004.*

4. The Assembly emphasises the role parliamentarians can play in strengthening partnership for prosperity in the Black Sea region and stresses that the parliaments or parliamentary organisations, accredited to gauge the desires of society and serving as a link between citizens and the key players in integration processes, have to become more effective in pursuing parliamentary diplomacy with their counterparts in the region and beyond it in mobilizing necessary public support.
5. The Assembly is confident that the active interaction of all dimensions of the BSEC with relevant institutions of the European Union shall undoubtedly pave the way towards constructive contribution to joint efforts and undertakings for enforcing the relations between the BSEC and the EU. In this respect the Assembly welcomes the BSEC efforts in activating the BSEC-EU interaction within the framework of the Platform of Cooperation between the BSEC and the EU elaborated in 1999 and following the adoption of the Resolution by the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs on the BSEC-EU relationship in Yerevan on 18 April 2003.
6. The Assembly highly appreciates the ongoing cooperation between the PABSEC and the European Parliament and calls on for further steps to enrich and enhance the existing cooperation framework seeking for more comprehensive interaction based upon a solid pattern.
7. **Therefore, the Assembly recommends** the parliaments and the governments of the PABSEC Member Countries:
  - i. *to take every effort* to further promote the high level dialogue between the PABSEC and the European Parliament on the issues of vital regional priority aimed at developing higher degree of integration into the common European space;
  - ii. *to expand and reinforce* cooperation framework with the European Parliament through outlining the structured and programmed cooperation mechanism within the provisions of the applicable rules of procedure;
  - iii. *to facilitate* effective exercise of mutually complementary activities through participation of the representatives of the two structures to each others' meetings;
  - iv. *to secure* constructive cooperation at the level of the counterpart committees of the two organizations
  - v. *to pursue* regular consultations and initiate joint projects and programmes in the sphere of the specific expertise;
  - vi. *to establish* more effective working contacts between the secretariats of the two organizations through arranging exchange of information and documentation relating to specific matters or activities;
  - vii. *to take advantage* of the experience of the European Parliament in working with the national parliaments in enacting and upgrading legislation facilitating cooperation in the region as part of the European integration process;

- viii. *to promote* materialisation of the study visits for parliamentarians to the European Parliament and traineeship programmes for PABSEC Secretariat staff and staff from the national parliaments of the PABSEC member countries
  - ix. *to intensify* relations with the European Parliament in order to seek new ways and means for international support for the initiatives within the BSEC framework.
  - x. *to discuss* ways on how to contemplate the actions to consolidate progress in cooperation between the BSEC and the EU.
  - xi. *to coordinate* the actions between the all the BSEC dimensions for seeking the due recognition of the BSEC by the European Union and institutionalisation of the relations between the BSEC and the EU.
8. **The Parliamentary Assembly** invites the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to consider this Recommendation.
9. The Assembly instructs the Legal and Political Affairs Committee to follow-up the progress in PABSEC-EP relations and to report on the further developments in this respect at the Committee Meeting in autumn 2004.