

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC
COOPERATION

PABSEC

DOC.: EC 1777/96

THE SEVENTH PLENARY SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDATION 13/1996

ON

**"COOPERATION IN
TRANSPORTATION AMONG THE
BSEC MEMBER COUNTRIES"**

I. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation:

1. **Reaffirms** its strong determination to make the best use of all possibilities and opportunities for expanding cooperation among the BSEC Member Countries in all aspects of transportation in order to achieve utmost mutual benefits with the full acknowledgment that a large-scale infrastructural and institutional rehabilitation of the transport system in the Black Sea Economic Cooperation area would induce direct and positive impact on a substantial increase in commercial activities and socio-economic advancement as well as political stability in the region.
2. **Puts special emphasis** on the crucial significance of generating and achieving joint projects in the field of transport while **commending** the initiatives and activities undertaken by BSEC and the Participating States as well as **fully supporting** the decisions taken and **sharing** the views and proposals presented at the *High Level Meeting of the BSEC Participating States* held on 30 June 1995 in Bucharest and the *Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs* held in Chisinau on 1 November 1995 regarding concrete projects of multilateral cooperation in the field of transport conducive to a closer integration and development of a more efficient transport system in the BSEC region.

The Assembly debate on 12 June 1996 (See Doc.: EC 1776/96 - Report on "Cooperation in Transportation among the BSEC Member Countries" - adopted by the Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee at its Sixth Meeting on 75 February 1996 in Athens. Rapporteur: Mr. Valentin Landik, Member of the Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee).

Text adopted by the Assembly on 12 June 1996 in Baku.

3. **Recognizes fully** the need to ensure competitive conditions for all modes of transport which would induce the expansion of mutual trade through the progressive elimination of existing obstacles while adhering to the principle of free and fair competition among the BSEC Member Countries and not contravening their obligations towards third parties.
4. **Advocates strongly** the creation of an effective mechanism to actively communicate on the means and modalities of exchanging information on the existing national legal framework in all modes of transportation among the BSEC Member Countries, while, at the same time, **promotes** the adoption of a common legislative measures for creating an effective transportation system in the region.
5. **Expresses its strong conviction** that the development of cooperation in transport in the BSEC region calls for active interaction with neighboring regions such as *Central and Northern Europe, the Baltic Sea, the Mediterranean Sea, the Middle East and Central Asia*. To that end, **acknowledges** the necessity for the interconnection of the existing prospective *BSEC Transport Networks* with the *Trans-European Networks and the Crete Transport Corridors*, in particular, while ensuring the harmonization of transport network development strategies and operating standards of the BSEC Member Countries to those of the *European Union/Western Europe*.

II. **Recommends, Invites and Calls upon the National Parliaments and Governments of the BSEC Member Countries:**

1. **To activate their best efforts** towards the harmonization of their legislation in the field of transport, particularly the simplification and harmonization of customs and border crossing formalities on the basis of contemporary international agreements and practices in order for the development of efficient and mutually beneficial transport networks in the BSEC region as well as facilitating the elaboration and implementation of joint projects.
2. **To create** a favorable legislative and administrative medium for encouraging *Foreign Direct Investments* (FDI's) induced by individual and collective initiatives of the business environment as well as **to stimulate** the interest of the private sector for the implementation of specific projects, especially in the field of maritime transportation, while ensuring, via bilateral negotiations, the prompt entry, stay and free movement of business people in their respective territories and the establishment of direct contacts among enterprises and firms.
3. **To sign, ratify and enforce** bilateral and multilateral agreements for the development of cooperation in the field of transport as well as **to adopt** international agreements and conventions and particularly the agreements of the *European Union* suitable to the interests of the BSEC Member Countries with a view to contribute to harmonizing with international standards and procedures.
4. **To work out** transit agreements among the BSEC Member Countries as well as between BSEC and non-BSEC Countries within the framework of generally accepted BSEC transport policies and principles.
5. **To develop** effective and mutually beneficial shipping policies as well as **to promote** bilateral shipping agreements based on the principle of free and fair competition.
6. **To generate** possible solutions to the practical problems and difficulties faced by the ships of the BSEC Member Countries in each other's ports through the investigation of

common denominators on a bilateral and multilateral basis, soliciting and applying infrastructural, institutional, procedural and other relevant measures as well as in the *Straits* with due regard to the *1936 Montreux Convention*.

7. **To pay particular attention** to securing the utmost safety measures with due regard to the international law during the conduct of all modes of transportation activities in the BSEC region, based on the international conventions, in order for the avoidance of potential adverse and detrimental social, economic and environmental consequences.
8. **To dedicate their best efforts** in order to ensure the effectiveness and safety of the transport system in the BSEC region while developing national infrastructures and networks with appropriate links to the *Irons-European Transport System* as well as to its transport corridors including the establishment of electronic information systems for the follow-up of cargo flow, with the utmost attention paid to the provision of taking proper measures to ensure the security of dangerous cargo transportation according to the relevant international agreements in force.
9. **To consider** the environmental impact and consequences of transport development in the BSEC region and, therefore, with due regard to the international law and internationally accepted standards **to undertake** and **to enforce** the internationally accepted measures against pollution and for maximum environmental protection while generating transport policies and developing transport infrastructures.
10. **To take necessary steps** through bilateral and multilateral agreements in order to contribute to combating illegal border crossings as well as illicit traffic or arms, radioactive materials, etc.
11. **To seek** necessary financial means and sources through the private and government sectors of the BSEC and non-BSEC Countries as well as through the collaboration of relevant international organizations such as the *European Union*, the *European Investment Bank*, etc., while following closely the developments through the programs and projects like *TACIS* and *PHARE* for the *Newly Independent States* and *Central and Eastern Europe* which also support the *BSEC Transport System*
12. **To involve** the specialized committees of the National Parliaments in the activities seeking promotion of cooperation in the field of transport among the BSEC Member Countries.
13. **To consider** participating actively in the *Third Pan-European Transport Conference* to be held in 1997.

III. The Assembly invites the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Participating States "to consider" this Recommendation.