



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION
PABSEC

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

Doc.: GA52/LC52/REC165/18

Recommendation 165/2018¹

“The Role of Trade Unions in Strengthening Economic Cooperation in the BSEC Region”

1. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) confirms its intention to devote all possible efforts to enhancement of the regional cooperation and expresses confidence that the participation of trade unions and trade union associations in the process of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation will give a new impetus to strengthening and deepening economic, political and social integration, contributing to the growth of welfare and social cohesion in the region.
2. The PABSEC stresses the importance of the effective functioning of trade unions in the BSEC Member States as a mechanism for strengthening the system of protecting human rights and ensuring successful social and economic development. Trade unions bring significant contribution to enhancing social partnership and economic progress, promote solution of topical economic problems and protect the legitimate interests of workers, paving the way towards improvement of the living standard of peoples.
3. The PABSEC is convinced that closer partnership at all levels, including the participation of trade unions and trade union associations, is an important factor for ensuring effective cooperation in the region. Trade union organizations can maintain and multiply the qualitative labour and intellectual potential. Therefore, the role of trade unions is important in terms of their contribution to stimulating the overall progress of the process of the economic cooperation.
4. The Assembly acknowledges that the increased globalization, which along with progress brings about some acute problems, requires more active involvement of trade unions. The

¹ Assembly debate on 27 November 2018 (see Doc.: GA52/LC52/REP/18, Report of the Legal and Political Affairs Committee on *the Role of Trade Unions in Strengthening Economic Cooperation in the BSEC Region*, discussed in Kavala on 17-18 October 2018; Rapporteur: Mr. Konstantinos Morfidis, Member of the Committee, Greece).

Text adopted by the Fifty Second General Assembly in Yerevan on 27 November 2018

impact of globalization on socio-economic processes varies in the rapidly changing conditions of the global economy and trade unions and trade union associations can contribute to the solution of topical issues. Pluralism of views is necessary for conducting effective dialogue on the issues related to economic and social and labour relations.

5. The Assembly welcomes the progress achieved by the BSEC Member States, both individually and working in concert, towards reinforcing national legislation and strategies aiming at attaining the goals of stability, prosperity and cooperation. To this end, the Assembly notes with satisfaction the fact that trade unions become increasingly efficient in carrying out their activities in addressing the pressing economic challenges.
6. The Assembly appreciates the efforts of Member States to improve living standards and stresses the need to give new impetus to the process of regional integration through new initiatives involving trade unions. The creation of a new partnership framework in the region will help to maintain constructive links between various civil society sectors and promote economic cooperation and development.
7. The implementation of common policy for economic growth and improvement of social conditions at the regional level requires the involvement of local initiatives and, therefore, it is important that trade unions become more active players in the region, channel their efforts to best mobilization of their resources and strengthen the consultative role in process of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation.
8. The PABSEC recognises that practical progress in solving priority socio-economic problems, as well as the maximum benefits from the regional integration process can be reached by the effective interaction of trade unions and trade union associations, by means of applying holistic and multidimensional approach in the framework of multilateral cooperation.
9. Given the fact that only together countries can meet the challenges of tomorrow's world and that the solidarity and unity of trade union activities will promote effective counteraction to contemporary challenges, the Assembly calls on the national parliaments to adopt the necessary laws for strengthening social dialogue within the framework of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation.
10. The Assembly believes that the concept of sustainable socio-economic development defines a strategic goal for dynamic improvement of well-being for present and future generations. The joint activities of trade unions, creating fair and just societies, will achieve their goals and add the necessary social content to the economic globalization. That is why the strengthening of the role of trade unions in the BSEC process is an important mechanism.
11. **Therefore, the Assembly recommends** that the Parliaments and the Governments of the BSEC Member States:
 - i. *use wider* the economic integration in the Black Sea region with the aim to strengthen interaction between countries, taking into account the role of trade unions in successful achievement of the common goals and objectives of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation;
 - ii. *take decisive measures* to stimulate the integration process in the Black Sea region, to elaborate an appropriate legal framework for strengthening the activities of trade unions, given the fact that they are an integral part of the national structure of each state;

- iii. *pay special attention* to the improvement of the regulatory framework with a view to applying systematic and effective methods of citizen participation and the development of a strong and efficient society;
- iv. *assist in* harmonizing the national labour legislation in the BSEC Member States in accordance with the provisions of the conventions and recommendations of the International Labour Organization in order to ensure a consolidated approach to the implementation of labour relations;
- v. *consider* the possibilities of practical implementation of international labour standards, as well as the issues of improving the level of social protection of workers and the achievement of maximum employment (including youth employment);
- vi. *promote* the development of a dialogue between trade unions representing joint ventures of the BSEC Member States on the issues related to economic, social and labour relations;
- vii. *stimulate* examination and application of the positive experience of the BSEC Member States in the enhancing social partnership and creation of favourable conditions for the interaction of trade unions, employers and public authorities;
- viii. *attribute due attention* to the discussion of the establishment of mechanisms to promote investment in the development of human capital, the formation of new economic standards in the BSEC Member States;
- ix. *encourage* new initiatives at the regional level, developing common approaches by uniting people and raising their awareness and mobilizing public support;
- x. *promote* the creation of a network of information and analytical centres at the national and regional levels with the aim of strengthening interaction between trade unions;
- xi. *provide necessary assistance* in the development of various initiatives at the local and regional levels for raising public awareness of the activities of trade unions and their role in the cooperation process;
- xii. *mobilize* public support for the implementation of multilateral projects adopted within the framework of the BSEC, which contribute to accelerating economic integration in the region;
- xiii. *ensure participation* in regional and interregional forums for sharing experience and enriching the Black Sea regional cooperation with new concepts and elements developed at the global level;
- xiv. *take steps* to ensure the dissemination of information through the organization of events on the role of trade unions in strengthening regional cooperation;
- xv. *promote* the establishment of a mechanism for regional cooperation between the trade unions of the BSEC Member States with a view to establishing direct links and developing social dialogue.

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