

THE TWENTY EIGHTH PLENARY SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

*Doc. GA28/CC27/REC93/06*

**RECOMMENDATION 93/2006\***

**ON**

**The Process of Globalization and the Potential Threats for Cultural Diversity**

1. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation is fully aware of the significance of globalization process and the potential threats that this process can have on cultural diversity among the nations of the BSEC region. Cultural diversity forms a common heritage within the BSEC countries and should be cherished and preserved for the benefit of all.
2. The PABSEC acknowledges that cultural diversity flourishing within a framework of democracy, tolerance, social justice and mutual respect between peoples and cultures among the BSEC states, is indispensable for peace and security.
3. The Assembly considers that tolerance is a fundamental value common to all civilizations and that this includes respect for others, regardless of diversity of belief, culture and language. National culture and values which are under major threat by globalization shall be scrutinized, cultural programs and education policies shall be revised and improved.
4. To broaden cultural liberties in the era of globalisation is possible only when all people develop diversified and complementary identities as world citizens and at the same time as citizens of particular states and as members of particular cultural groups.
5. The Assembly recognizes that linguistic diversity is a fundamental element of cultural diversity and reaffirms the important role that education plays in the protection and promotion of cultural expressions in understanding other cultures among the BSEC region and recalls its

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\* *Rapporteur: Mr. Anastasios SPILIOPOULOS, Chairman of the Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee (Greece)*

The Assembly debate on 23rd November 2006 ( see Doc. GA28/CC27/REP/06 – Report on “The process of globalization and the potential threats for cultural diversity”, discussed by the Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee at its Twenty Seventh Meeting in Moscow on 27 September 2006 – *Rapporteur: Mrs. Olga SELIVERSTOVA (Russia)*)

*Text adopted by the Twenty Eight General Assembly in Baku on 23 November 2006.*

Recommendations 10/1995 on “*Cooperation among the PABSEC Member Countries of the Improvement of Education*”, 24/1997, on “*Cooperation of the Academic Communities of the BSEC Member States and its Legal Framework*”, 31/1998 on “*Mutual Recognition of of Higher Education Diplomas by the PABSEC Member Countries*” and 56/2001 on “*Black Sea Universities Network: contribution to the Academic Cooperation*”.

6. The Assembly also affirms that the respect for the diversity of cultures, the protection and promotion of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, the values of tolerance and mutual understanding are fostered through multi-civilisational discourse, and in this connection recalls its Recommendation 4/1994 on “*The Joint Research Programme on the History of the Black Sea Basin*”, 6/1994 on “*Protection of the Cultural Heritage of the PABSEC Member Countries*”, 18/1996 on “*Guidelines for the Program of the Protection of the Cultural Heritage in the Black Sea Region*”, 70/2003 on “*The Role of Culture in the Development of the BSEC Region*” and 80/2004 “*Preservation and Enhancement of Cultural Heritage in the BSEC Member States*”.

7. The Assembly fully recognizes that cultural diversity is strengthened by the free flow of ideas and reaffirms that the freedom of thought, expression and information as well as diversity of the media, enable cultural expressions to flourish within societies and particularly among BSEC countries. At the same time it underlines the importance of the Mass Media as an intercultural instrument and recalls Recommendation 47/2000 on “*The Role of Mass Media in Promoting Cooperation in the Black Sea Region*”.

8. The Assembly welcomes the process of the European Union enlargement- within the framework of globalization process- realizing the benefits of the European integration for the BSEC Member States but at the same time expresses the belief that each BSEC Member State should seek to protect their identity. It recalls Recommendation 86/2005 on “*Cultural, Educational and Social Aspects of the European Enlargement: consequences for the Black Sea Region*”.

9. The Assembly recalls also that the issue of bilateral and multilateral cultural cooperation among the BSEC member states lies within the scope of the 1993 *Black Sea Convention on Cooperation in the Fields of Culture, Education, Science and Information*.

10. The Assembly welcomes the activities of the International Centre for the Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) in promoting cooperation, exchange and scientific researches in the field of culture and supports the proposal of the Hellenic Republic at the 14th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, held in Bucharest in April 2006, that a new area of cooperation in the field of culture could be initiated.

11. **Therefore, the Parliamentary Assembly recommends** the Parliaments and Governments of the BSEC member states:

**i) to encourage** dialogue among different cultures with a view to ensuring wider and balanced cultural exchanges within BSEC region in favour of intercultural respect and a culture of peace;

**ii) to welcome** the contribution of education for the better understanding of other cultures and civilizations;

**iii) to promote** respect for the diversity of cultural expressions and raise awareness of its value at the local, national and international levels;

**iv) to take** the necessary measures in order for all people of the BSEC region to have access to diverse cultural expressions;

**v) to foster**, while fully respecting human rights, and with a particular focus on the local and regional level, the development of tolerant and equitable relations between BSEC member states and between all culturally diverse groups in the BSEC region of each State;

**vi) to provide** appropriate information on measures taken to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions within the BSEC region;

**vii) to create** a structure responsible for information sharing and exchange related to the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultures;

**viii) to encourage** in every way social advertising related to healthy life style;

**ix) to disseminate** information on health protection measures in each PABSEC Member Country, promotion of healthy life style and best family traditions;

**x) to support** the organization, on regular basis, of several joint cultural events within the BSEC region;

**xi) to encourage** and strengthen production capacities by setting up educational, training and exchange programmes in the field of cultural industries;

**xii) to invite** the BSEC Member States, which have not done so, to accede to *the 1993 Black Sea Convention on Cooperation in the Fields of Culture, Education, Science and Information*;

**11. The Parliamentary Assembly** invites the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to consider its Recommendation.