

THE TWENTY NINTH PLENARY SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Doc.: GA29/LC29/REC96/07

RECOMMENDATION 96/2007¹

Partnership and Cooperation agreements with the BSEC member states in the context of the enlargement of the European Union

1. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation notes with satisfaction that the Partnership and Cooperation Agreements between the European Union and the six BSEC member states (the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine) have established viable partnership based on shared common values with regard to democracy, the rule of law and respect for human and civil rights.
2. The Assembly stresses that the extension of the European Union standards and norms paves the way towards peaceful, secure and prosperous coexistence meeting the common challenges. The cooperation founded on the principles of mutual advantage, mutual responsibility and mutual support provide an appropriate framework for the gradual integration of a number of BSEC states into a wider area of European cooperation.
3. A lot has already been done in the BSEC states in complex process of transition and restructuring. Comprehensive measures have been taken towards transformation into the market-led democracies, open political systems, strong civil society and efficient institutional infrastructure. Yet, the BSEC states can benefit much from adapting international experience in many spheres of life.
4. The Assembly believes that the active involvement of the European Union in the BSEC region shall reinforce further integration of the BSEC states within the European architecture and serve the aim to eliminate possible dividing lines on the European continent.
5. In this respect, the Assembly welcomes the efforts by the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the International Centre for Black Sea Studies in elaborating “the BSEC-EU Interaction: the BSEC approach” which stresses necessity for the “development of a balanced, mutually beneficial and result-oriented relationship between BSEC and EU institutions based on complementarity, partnership and coordination”.

¹ Assembly debate on 14 June 2007 (see Doc.: GA29/LC29/REP/07, Report of the Legal and Political Affairs Committee “Partnership and Cooperation agreements between the European Union and the BSEC Member States” discussed in Bucharest on 25-26 April 2007; Rapporteur: Mr. Borislav Ralchev – Bulgaria)

6. The Assembly also welcomes elaboration by the EU of the Black Sea Synergy as a new regional cooperation initiative implying development of cooperation within the Black Sea region and also between the region as a whole and the European Union also taking advantage of the useful contacts already existing between the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of BSEC.
7. The Assembly recalls its Recommendation 73/2003 on “The Black Sea region within the context of the Enlargement of the European Union” and reiterates the need for increased mutual cooperation and support of all dimensions of the BSEC towards constructive contribution enforcing the relations between the BSEC and the EU.
8. The Parliamentary Assembly encourages the new impetus for increased relationship between the EU and the BSEC member states in all existing formats including the Partnership and Cooperation Agreements and calls on the parliaments and governments of the BSEC member states to further enhance the cooperation frameworks.
9. **Therefore, the Assembly recommends** the Parliaments and the Governments of the BSEC Member States:
 - i. *to take adequate measures* to further harmonise national legislation of the BSEC Member States with the norms of the European law.
 - ii. *to work jointly* to make full and appropriate use of existing bilateral and multilateral instruments reinforcing relations between the BSEC states and the EU in order to attain the objective of further integration into the European structures;
 - iii. *to make resolute efforts* towards promoting economic prosperity and political stability in the region and contribute to peaceful settlement of prevailing conflicts in the Black Sea region;
 - iv. *to safeguard* that the priorities agreed at the high political level underpinning political and economic reform enjoy support of the public at large;
 - v. *to facilitate elaboration*, where necessary, of national strategies and comprehensive action plans ensuring efficient institutional framework for deepening cooperation in the Black Sea region and the EU;
 - vi. *to coordinate* the actions between the all the BSEC dimensions for institutionalisation of the relations between the BSEC and the EU;
 - vii. *to further* encourage enhancement of dialogue and cooperation with the European Parliament in order to strengthen communication and secure more viable contacts between the PABSEC and the European Parliament;
 - viii. *to exploit the possibilities at the utmost* to broader use economic cooperation in the Black Sea region with a view of greater synergy between the member countries for further realisation of common objectives of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation
10. **The Assembly invites** the BSEC Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs to consider this Recommendation.