



**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION
PABSEC**

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

Doc.: GA51/EC50/REC161/18

RECOMMENDATION 161/2018 *

“The Prospects of the Development of Digital Economy in the BSEC Member States ”

1. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) stresses that at present the development of global economy, innovations in the field of information and communication technologies (ICT) involved in the sphere of economy, are one of the key drivers of comprehensive economic growth and development. Integration of new technologies in all its manifestation in socio-political and economic spheres form a new sector of the international economy – digital.
2. The PABSEC stresses that the digital economy is growing rapidly leading to an accelerated introduction of innovations and their wide application in other sectors of economy. It becomes an important factor in global economic growth and plays an important role in accelerating economic development, increasing efficiency and productivity in the industrial sector, as well as establishing new markets and industries, and in ensuring comprehensive, sustainable growth. The digital economy is not limited only to electronic commerce and services. It also affects many other spheres including healthcare, education, social issues, etc.
3. The PABSEC believes that for the effective functioning of the digital economy it is necessary to create favourable organizational and regulatory conditions, to develop digital economy institutions with the participation of the state, the national business community and civil society, as well as to ensure rapid growth of the national economy through qualitative transformation of national economic structure and assets management system.
4. The PABSEC attaches great importance to the creation and development of e-government, which is a key concept for the digital economy. The introduction of e-government is aimed at

* The Assembly debate on 20 June 2018 (see Doc.: GA51/EC50/REP/18, Report of the Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee “The Prospects of the Development of Digital Economy in the BSEC Member States” discussed in Bucharest on 28 March 2018; Rapporteur: Mrs. Sofia Voultepsi – Greece)

Text adopted by the Assembly in Tirana on 20 June 2018

improving the quality of life of people, increasing the effectiveness of public administration, reducing budget expenditures, developing civil initiatives and entrepreneurial activities through the application of information technology. E-government also provides information and public services to citizens, business, various branches of government and government officials, in which personal interaction between the state and the applicant is minimized and uses information technologies to a maximum extent.

5. The PABSEC underlines that in the contemporary world, the level of development of digital technologies plays a decisive role in competitiveness of countries and economic unions. The transition to a digital economy is being considered by the BSEC as a key driver of economic growth. In recent years, tangible progress has been traced in the BSEC Member States in many areas of digital development.
6. The Assembly recognizes the important role of the private sector in the development of the digital economy, as well as the favourable and transparent legal, regulatory and policy environments that stimulate open competitive markets. It also recognizes the importance of ensuring competition and consumer protection laws in the sphere of digital economy that facilitate penetration of new technologies into the market.
7. At the same time, the PABSEC notes that the applicable framework for ensuring the confidentiality and protection of personal data, as well as intellectual property rights, have to be respected, since they are important for building confidence in the digital economy.
8. **Therefore, the Assembly recommends** that the Parliaments and the Governments of the PABSEC Member States:
 - i. *promote* the formation of policies to harmonize approaches to laws and regulations that promote the development of the digital economy in the Black Sea region;
 - ii. *pay attention* to the creation and development of e-government in order to improve the quality and accessibility of public services provided to organizations and citizens, simplify the procedure and shorten their delivery time, reduce administrative costs for citizens and organizations for public services, and introduce uniform standards for services provided for citizens;
 - iii. *facilitate* adoption of normative acts in the field of digital economy in the framework of dialogue with users, developers, service providers;
 - iv. *form* a comprehensive legislative framework for regulating the relations in the context of the digital economy development;
 - v. *develop* national programs for development of a new generation of economy, including issues of technology development and integration, as well as analysis of “large data” and forecasting, introduction of new management methods;
 - vi. *elaborate and implement* open, transparent, comprehensive measures in the digital economy that involve all public and private stakeholders;
 - vii. *support* the development and application of international standards for technology products and services;

- viii. *strengthen* cooperation in the field of consumer rights protection and develop approaches to resolve disputes, provide opportunities for consumers that are adapted to the peculiarities of electronic commerce within the national system of laws and regulations;
- ix. *promote* the use of technologies in the system of primary and secondary education, as well as in the field of non-formal education;
- x. *enhance* policies that support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to use information and communication technologies to develop innovation, improve competitiveness and new channels of market access;
- xi. *facilitate* establishment of accessible digital infrastructures that are necessary for digitalization of SME operations;
- xii. *take measures* to create a business environment by developing framework concepts conducive to research, development and innovation, as well as investments in the digital economy;
- xiii. *provide* necessary support for establishing links between the technological infrastructures of the countries in the BSEC region in order to stimulate innovation and implementation of joint projects with participation of scientific organizations and technology companies;
- xiv. *promote* exchange of educational experience between the leading educational centres of the countries in the region, organization of joint educational programs and seminars to train high-tech professionals;
- xv. *support* the implementation of public projects involving private capital and commercial investment funds, as well as social funds for investing in the infrastructure of information and communication technologies (ICT) and in the area of ICT usage.

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