

Doc.: GA27/EC26/REC87/06

RECOMMENDATION 87/2006*
“Cooperation in the fight against economic crime in the Black Sea region”

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation:

1. **Aware** that peace and stability in the region directly depend on consequent economic development of the Member States, and economic safety is the first prerequisite for this development and prosperity;
2. **Realizing** that economic crime dimension has risen during last decades in the region undermining economic stability of member countries, as well as the principles of sustainable development;
3. **Recalling** its Recommendations 15/96 *“On cooperation among the PABSEC Member Countries in Combating Crimes”*, 46/2000 on *“Legislative Framework for Combating Corruption”*, 69/2003 *“Cooperation among PABSEC Member Countries in Strengthening Good Governance”*, 79/2004 *“Regional Dimension of Stability and Security – Perspective of the BSEC Region”*;
4. **Emphasizing** the progress made by the BSEC, including *Agreement among the Governments of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in particular in its Organized Forms*, adopted in Kerkyra on 2 October 1998 and its Additional Protocols done in Kyiv, on 15 March 2002 and in Athens, on 4 December 2004; the *Statement of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States on the BSEC Contribution*

* *Rapporteur: Prof. Fillippos Tsalidis, member of the Committee (Greece)*

The Assembly debate on 7 June 2006 (see Doc.: GA27/EC26/REP/06, Report of the Economic, Commercial Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee “Cooperation in the fight against economic crime in the Black Sea region” discussed in Bucharest, on 22 March 2006; Rapporteur: Mr. Adrian Sirojea-Mihei – Romania)

Text adopted by the Assembly in Yerevan on 7 June 2006.

to the Security and Stability adopted in Istanbul on 25 June 2004; *Declarations of the Ministers of Interior/Public Order of the BSEC Member States* signed in Yerevan (19 October 1996), in Kyiv (15 April 2002) and in Athens (4 December 2004);

5. **Appreciating** adoption of the *Joint Declaration of the Heads of Competent Authorities for Preventing and Combating Economic Frauds from BSEC Member States* on 19 September 2005 in Chisinau;

6. **Taking into consideration** the experience of the international organizations on the fight against economic crimes (activities of FATF, GRECO, MONEYVAL and PACO) and Stability Pact for South-East Europe defining elimination of the organized crimes, as one of the core objectives;

7. **Welcoming** developments in the BSEC Member States concerning adjustment of national legislation in combating economic crimes to international standards, and also application of anti-corruption and anti-money laundering measures;

8. **Stressing** that multilateral and bilateral agreements between the Member States give significant impetus to strengthening cooperation in combating economic frauds, particular such forms, as money-laundering, tax evasion, smuggling of goods and financing terrorism.

9. **Therefore, the Assembly recommends** the Parliaments and the Governments of the BSEC Member States:

i) *to enhance* a practical cooperation with other regional initiatives and international organizations for the fight against economic crimes in order to ensure efficiency and transparency of this process at national level and to harmonize national legislation with international standards;

ii) *to support* all activities aiming at the improvement of the principles of good governance of state bodies at national level, which can include holding of annual seminars, trainings and regular meetings of experts;

iii) *to strengthen* further activities on prevention and suppression of corruption by the following means:

a) mobilization of all efforts for improvement of economical well-being and social quality of life of peoples;

b) structural reforming of law-enforcement and judicial bodies, clear and fair mechanism of the election and appointment of the high official authorities, adoption of the comprehensive tax legislation;

c) ensuring of fair and competition-based conditions for business activities and climate investment, transparent civil monitoring of private sector activities (especially those enterprises involved in energy sector);

iv) *to contribute* to the cooperation in the field of exchanging legal information on economic frauds in their organized forms, as well as trans-border crimes of trafficking of human beings, drugs and arms;

v) *to elaborate* effective principles for the fight against comparatively new forms of economic crimes such, as cyber-crime, theft of telecommunication systems and counterfeiting of modern technical equipment;

vi) *to promote* elaboration of reliable and common methods for collecting, accounting and recording of the information on the economic crimes with the view of forming correct and exact statistical data over the region;

vii) *to intensify* cooperation at regional level and to take necessary measures at the national level in disrupting the financing of terrorist organizations using legal or illegal business through close links with organized crime groups, in order to preserve security, stability and prosperity in the Black Sea region;

viii) *to establish* unified approach at regional level in the fight against funding of terrorism by close cooperation between the national security agencies, ministries of interior/public order, FIU's and relevant research institutions;

ix) *to promote* seeking of peaceful means of the settlement of the "sensitive zones" issue in the region;

x) *to stimulate* active participation of non-governmental sector in the fight against economic frauds through involvement of NGO's in different projects.

10. The Parliamentary Assembly invites the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to consider this Recommendation.