



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION
P A B S E C

THE TWENTY-FIRST PLENARY SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Doc.: GA21/LC21/REC69/03

RECOMMENDATION 69/2003¹

Cooperation among the PABSEC Member Countries in Strengthening Good Governance

1. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation shares the approach that good governance is a formal instrument of orderly change in society playing increasingly important role in the process of sustainable development. In this respect, the Assembly is convinced that discussion of the essential element of democratic society such as strengthening of good and effective governance adds political dimension to the regional economic cooperation and is a prerequisite for smooth integration of the countries in the Black Sea region and taking adequate place within the European architecture.
2. In truly democratic societies the governance as a process of decision-making and decision implementation has to be efficient and accountable encouraging formation of the rules and institutions, which provide predictable and transparent framework for cooperation and development. Therefore, good governance fosters benefits of regional cooperation, promotes prosperity through the economic development and streamlines legislative framework for more vigorous interaction and improvement of living standards of the Black Sea peoples.
3. Parliaments and parliamentarians, fully acknowledging that strengthening of good governance is part of their crucial role and responsibility, are convinced to spare no effort in promotion of the rule of law, transparency and accountability, just and fair civil society, independent and impartial judiciary, honest law-enforcement and truly democratic institutions, thus, preparing solid legislative and institutional foundation for regional economic cooperation, creating favourable conditions fostering fully-fledged market economies and elevating the Black Sea countries to the European and universal standards and requirements.

¹ *Rapporteur*: Mr. Eugeni Chachev, member of the Committee – Bulgaria

The Assembly debate on 11 June 2003 (see Doc.: GA21/LC21/REP/03, Report of the Legal and Political Affairs Committee “Cooperation among the PABSEC Member Countries in Strengthening Good Governance” discussed in Yerevan, on 2 April 2003; *Rapporteur*: Mr. Victor Dallakyan – Armenia;)

Text adopted by the Assembly in Chisinau on 11 June 2003.

4. Effective outcome of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation process depends to a large extent upon progressive elimination of obstacles and addressing problem areas jeopardising sustainable development. Therefore, the Assembly, restates its commitment to the provisions of the recommendations in the priority fields, particularly: Recommendations 1/1994 and 20/1997 on the Improvement of customs regulations; Recommendation 9/1995 on Development of cooperation in banking and finance; Recommendation 15/1996 on Cooperation in combating organised crime; Recommendation 16/1996 on Development of cooperation in the field of trade and business; Recommendation 23/1997 on Harmonisation of foreign trade regimes; Recommendation 38/1999 on Promotion and protection of the investments; Recommendation 43/2000 on Legislative framework for cooperation among the law-enforcing, customs and migration authorities; Recommendation 46/2000 on Legislative framework for combating corruption; and Recommendation 50/2001 on Cooperation in Strengthening the Rule of Law.
5. The Assembly notes, therefore, that it is vital to concert the efforts on the part of the countries to boost the dynamics in the region through deeper and more consistent country-by-country reforms in the key civil, political, economic and social spheres.
6. The Assembly believes that the parliamentarians, representing countries' supreme political authority, together with their counterparts through partnership at national, regional and international levels will do their utmost to further strengthen democracies, good governance and the rule of law for solidarity, lasting economic and social development as well as peace, stability and prosperity in the region.
7. The Assembly appreciates the role by the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and its Related Bodies, especially that of the International Centre for Black Sea Studies in promoting good governance in the countries of the region and stresses that yet considerable efforts are required for achieving fully democratic governance securing that justice is not endangered.
8. **Therefore, the Assembly recommends** the parliaments and the governments of the PABSEC Member Countries:
 - i. *to take necessary measures* for promoting overall respect to democratic values, political accountability, adherence to the principle of rule of law and good governance and adding democratic dimension to decision-making;
 - ii. *to secure* the parliamentary oversight over transparency of the administration and the legislative process as a means to increase citizens' confidence in the activities of public institutions and to eliminate bureaucratic sources of corruption;
 - iii. *to safeguard* the principle of objectivity within the state and society and to take every effort to secure that responsibility, honesty and accountability governs executive and legislative branches of government.
 - iv. *to contribute more substantively* to improvement of institutional and procedural strategies and upgrade, where necessary, streamline laws, rules, regulations as well as administrative procedures in order to increase effectiveness and efficiency;

- v. *to provide framework* for best and effective use of legislative system responding to the genuine social needs with clearly drafted rules complementing each other in a harmonious way covering adequately all spheres of life including those of social, economic, commercial, financial, criminal, etc.
- vi. *to support and facilitate* adoption, improvement or implementation of legislation promoting good governance and other basic democratic principles with due regard to the body of the European Law (*acquis communautaire*) and directed towards bringing the Black Sea region closer to the European integration;
- vii. *to put every effort* to follow the process of harmonization and approximation of laws to international democratic standards, requirements and norms along with necessary regulatory reforms and institutional transformation;
- viii. *to strengthen* legal framework by well-functioning public institutions and secure that they are staffed by trained high professional individuals respecting the principle of good governance through efficient and honest civil service;
- ix. *to take resolute measures* for proper administration of justice through effective law enforcement scheme and judiciary in which impartial police and judges apply the law in a fair and predictable manner in the name of supremacy of law;
- x. *to further enhance* general awareness and understanding by the public at large of the importance of the good governance and internalisation of such concepts as transparency, predictability, accountability, fairness and legal certainty to generate trust between the state and its people creating necessary preconditions for establishing a just and fair civil society;
- xi. *to encourage* the involvement of the non-governmental organisations and mass media in the activities aimed at impartial flow of information raising public awareness and eliminating uncertainties;
- xii. *to increase* the role of the elective representatives in establishing direct contacts with their counterparts for exchanges of views on consolidating democracy evaluating national and regional responsibilities and policies in order to ensure elaboration of practical solutions for meeting the expectations of their peoples;

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