

RECOMMENDATION 149/2016¹

«Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons and Irregular Migrants in the BSEC Member States – Economic Aspects»

1. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) expresses its deep concern about the increasing number of refugees and displaced persons in the countries of the Black Sea region, noting that this challenge has complex a complex impact on the economies of host countries. In recent years, the problem of refugees and the attendant social, economic and political developments have gained importance in both national and international agendas.
2. The PABSEC stresses that the states harboring the refugees are responsible for their protection and for the provision of all necessary assistance within their jurisdiction. It is equally incumbent upon host states to mobilize the necessary support and resources to identify urgent solutions to the refugee challenge, keeping in mind that the host state's policies and political will is the essential framework for sustainable solutions.
3. The PABSEC is mindful that the Member States harboring a massive number of refugees face many challenges, including significant economic problems associated with the need to accommodate refugees and ensure their integration at their host societies. The unceasing flow of refugees leads to a corresponding increase in social and economic tensions. Moreover, addressing complex economic issues such as support and protection of competition, employment, wages, rents, price policy, inflation, investment and trade, becomes further complicated.

¹ Assembly debate on 30 June 2016 (see Doc.: GA47/EC46/REP/16, Report of the Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee “Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons and Irregular Migrants in the BSEC Member States – Economic Aspects” discussed in Yerevan on 16-17 March 2017; Rapporteur: Mr. Sabri OZTURK – Turkey)

Text adopted by the Assembly in Moscow on 29 June 2016

4. The PABSEC appreciates the efforts of the Member States aiming to better the conditions of refugees and internally displaced persons. The Assembly stresses the importance of adopting all necessary measures to meet the needs of refugees in order to protect them and facilitate their resettlement and rehabilitation, while also supporting vulnerable local communities.
5. The PABSEC emphasizes the importance of international cooperation in solving refugee problem. It appreciates the special role of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHRC) in strengthening solidarity, local capacity-building and humanitarian action for the refugees in the region, within its core mandate of international protection. Concerted efforts from all members of the international community promote corresponding compliance by the states to fulfill their obligations, which ensure protection of refugees in a spirit of shared responsibility.
6. The PABSEC calls upon the Member States to take all necessary measures to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection, and urges them to make every possible effort to address the root causes of all forms of forced displacement of population and to contribute to peace, stability and prosperity in the Black Sea region.
7. **Therefore, the Assembly recommends** that the Parliaments and the Governments of the BSEC Member States:
 - i. *review* existing policies, rules and regulations relating to the management of refugee issues at the national and international levels, with the aim of bringing national legislation of the BSEC member states closer to international standards before harmonizing feasible legal measures;
 - ii. *consider* better and more effective cooperation between the Member States in providing asylum to refugees, including more efficient mechanisms for information exchange and knowledge sharing;
 - iii. *discuss* signing of the BSEC memorandum of understanding on cooperation, with the aim of developing the necessary mechanisms to address the existing refugee problems in accordance with international standards, with due regard to the rights of refugees under international law, to the principles of human rights, and to international refugee law;
 - iv. *organize* meetings and debates on topical issues in the region, and to exchange views on the refugee issues in order to develop a comprehensive strategy based on regional cooperation;

- v. *encourage* the adoption of measures to ensure coordinated operational cooperation between the civil society bodies, national and regional agencies, and local authorities on the problems of refugees and their economic implications;
 - vi. *develop and implement* the programs that ensure refugees have access employment, housing, health care and education within the legal framework;
 - vii. *consider* developing programs aimed at implementation of specialized professional training, encouraging maximum participation of the migrant population;
 - viii. *explore* the establishment of the Council of Migration Bodies of the BSEC Member States as a potential body for sectoral cooperation between migration authorities in the region, which could facilitate exchange of information and best practices for working with refugees;
 - ix. *access* suitable mechanisms for strengthening inter-agency cooperation between the competent bodies of the BSEC Member States in providing asylum and reducing statelessness;
 - x. *organize* a comprehensive information campaign that provides refugees with the relevant information about the situation, employment and integration opportunities, and their rights and obligations, as well as about potential economic challenges in the destination countries;
 - xi. *support* the establishment and operation of “hot line” services designed to provide prompt and timely information and assistance to refugees and asylum seekers;
 - xii. *strengthen* cooperation between international and regional organizations and share experience of countries who have successfully managed the integration of migrants into local communities.
8. **The Assembly invites** the BSEC Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs to consider this Recommendation.