

RECOMMENDATION 124/2011¹

Implementation of the Agreements among the BSEC Member States on Combating Organised Crime

1. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) expresses the deep concern over the negative economic and social implications related to organized criminal activities and is convinced to strengthen cooperation to prevent and combat such activities more effectively at the national, regional and international levels.
2. The PABSEC notes the resolve of the BSEC Member States to support endeavours in the sphere of combating organised crime. In this context, the Assembly recalls the *Declaration on the Occasion of the Fifteenth Anniversary Summit of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation* of 25 June 2007, in which the BSEC Heads of State and Government emphasize that “deepening cooperation in the priority areas of common interest such as environmental protection, trade, transport, tourism, energy, telecommunications, science and technology and combating terrorism, and all forms of organized crime, which would yield tangible outcomes to improve the quality of the daily lives of our peoples”.
3. The PABSEC further recalls the Joint Declaration of The Ministers of Interior/Public Order of the Member States of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) on Strengthening Cooperation in the Fight against Organized Crime, Corruption and Terrorism adopted in Bucharest on 24 March 2006, which stresses the importance of “strengthening the framework for further cooperation and developing coordinated and effective activities for combating crime, in particular in its organized forms as well as corruption and terrorism” and states “the readiness to cooperate in the fight against organized crime, corruption and terrorism and, in this respect, to enhance the cooperation with international and regional specialized organizations”.

¹ *Rapporteur*: Mr. Michael Yemelianov, Chairman of the Committee – Russia.

Assembly debate on 22 November 2011 (see Doc.: GA38/LC38/REP/11, Report of the Legal and Political Affairs Committee on *Implementation of the Agreements among the BSEC Member States on Combating Organised Crime*, discussed in Burgas on 14 September 2011; Rapporteur: Mr. Stoyan Gyuzelev, member of the Committee, Bulgaria).

Text adopted by the Thirty-Eighth General Assembly in Tirana on 22 November 2011.

4. The PABSEC is aware that organised crime represents a major threat to human security, impeding the social, economic, political and cultural development of societies. It is a multi-faceted phenomenon and also has multi-fold consequences.
5. The PABSEC welcomes the implementation of the Agreement among the Governments of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in particular in its Organized Forms (Kerkyra, Greece, 2 October, 1998) and the two additional protocols: The Additional Protocol to the Agreement among the Governments of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in particular in its organized forms (Kiev, 15 March, 2002) and the Additional Protocol on combating terrorism to the Agreement among the Governments of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in particular in its organized forms (Athens, 3 December, 2004).
6. The PABSEC highly evaluates the activities of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Combating Crime for its role in elaborating the BSEC Action Plan on Cooperation in Combating Crime, organisation of the BSEC Network of Liaison Officers and launching of multilateral projects on human trafficking and migration management.
7. The PABSEC recalls its Recommendation 15/1996 on *Cooperation among the PABSEC Member Countries in Combating Organized Crime*; Recommendation 17/1996 on *Basic Principles of the Black Sea Convention in Organized Crime and Terrorism* and the Recommendation 43/2000 on *Legislative Framework for Cooperation among the Law-Enforcing, Customs and Migration Authorities*; and reaffirms its commitment to combat organised crime through enhancing regional cooperation at political and operational level.
8. The PABSEC supports increased international cooperation in combating organised crime and is strongly convinced that the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime constitutes an effective tool and the necessary legal framework for international cooperation in combating transnational organized crime.
9. **Therefore, the Assembly recommends** that the Parliaments and the Governments of the BSEC Member States:
 - i. mobilise support of the national parliaments in strengthening inter-parliamentary regional and international cooperation to improve national and international legal framework to prevent and combat organised crime;
 - ii. put every effort to complete the legislative steps for efficiently implementing the Agreement among the Governments of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in particular in its Organized Forms and its Protocols;
 - iii. facilitate mutual legal assistance and judicial cooperation by signing, ratifying and implementing, where necessary, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols;
 - iv. ensure efficient use of all forms and methods of cooperation in combating organised crime by signing and implementing bilateral and multilateral agreements and protocols;
 - v. provide support to strengthening direct cooperation between judicial authorities and law enforcement agencies, based on concluded memoranda of understanding;

- vi. foster regional cooperation in combating organised crime through conclusion of agreements and by strongly encouraging adoption of national legislation in conformity with international norms and standards;
- vii. enhance regional cooperation to combat organized crime by inviting the existing mechanisms in the region to increase their efforts to achieve tangible results in compliance with international standards;
- viii. take appropriate measures to strengthen law enforcement agencies where needed and promote the effective functioning and mutual cooperation of the national agencies involved in combating organized crime;
- ix. facilitate organisation of training courses for the law enforcement agencies personnel as well as the personnel of the judicial authorities on matters of organized crime and negative consequences of such actions to societies;
- x. take necessary steps to raise public awareness and inform civil society on policies and measures taken to fight organized crime in the Black Sea region and to seek public support for such policies;
- xi. enhance information exchange on national legislation related to prevention and combating terrorism and other interrelated crimes, as well as monitoring its implementation;
- xii. ensure coordination and cooperation between and among the specialized national agencies under the supervision of the respective ministries in order to promote partnerships between states, business and civil society to combat organized crime
- xiii. provide the necessary support for implementation of the BSEC Action Plan on Cooperation in Combating Crime elaborated by the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Combating Crime;

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