

THE THIRTY-SIXTH PLENARY SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Doc.: GA36/LC36/REC118/10

RECOMMENDATION 118/2010¹

Enhancing Cooperation between the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the European Parliament

1. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) states the resolve of the parliaments of the BSEC member countries to enhance cooperation with the European Parliament (EP) as a significant impetus toward promoting cohesion in the Black Sea region within the framework of integration processes on the European continent.
2. The PABSEC recalls its Recommendation 74/2004 on the *Framework of Cooperation between the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the European Parliament* adopted in June 2004, and reaffirms its commitment “to establish a true partnership and to forge closer cooperation and deeper interaction with the European institutions for expanding international framework for solving mutual problems of political, economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, being conscious that any efforts in the field of economy will be incomplete without similar progress in building a society based on democratic values, the rule of law, respect for human rights, and mutual understanding”.
3. The PABSEC acknowledges the role parliamentarians can play in strengthening regional partnership. It stresses that parliaments and parliamentary organizations, accredited to serve as a link between citizens and the key players in integration processes, have to become more effective in pursuing parliamentary diplomacy in order to mobilize the necessary public support.
4. The PABSEC notes the high expectations of the peoples and governments in the Black Sea region for the enlarged European Union (EU). Within the infrastructure of the existing cooperation frameworks and EU initiatives the PABSEC encourages the countries of the region to enhance cooperation with the European structures based on bilateral consultations, adoption of respective mandates, and realization of shared objectives.

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

Assembly debate on 3 November 2010 (see Doc.: GA36/LC36/REP/10, Report of the Legal and Political Affairs Committee on *Enhancing Cooperation between the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the European Parliament*, discussed in Brussels on 13 October 2010; *Rapporteur*: Mr. Asaf Hajoyev, member of the Committee, Azerbaijan).

Text adopted by the Thirty-Sixth General Assembly in Trabzon on 3 November 2010.

5. The Assembly is confident that the active interaction among all concerned institutions of the BSEC with their counterparts in the EU will result in a constructive contribution to joint efforts and undertakings to promote the relations between the BSEC and the EU.
6. The PABSEC endorses the need for an enhanced role for parliamentary diplomacy and cooperation, as referred to in the *Joint Statement of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Countries of the European Union and of the Wider Black Sea Area* (Kyiv, 14 February 2008) and in the *BSEC–EU Interaction: The BSEC Approach* (Istanbul, 17 January 2007).
7. The PABSEC greatly appreciates the ongoing cooperation between the PABSEC and the EP, and the regular participation of high-level EP representatives in PABSEC meetings. It calls for further steps to enhance the existing cooperative framework through robust interaction between the Permanent Delegation for Cooperation between the PABSEC and the EP and its respective structure of the European Parliament.
8. **Therefore, the PABSEC recommends** that the parliaments and the governments of the PABSEC Member Countries:
 - i. *strive* to promote further dialog with the EP on issues of regional priority;
 - ii. *reinforce* the cooperative framework with the EP by speeding up the decision-making process for establishing an adequate infrastructure for mutual collaboration between the PABSEC Permanent Delegation and the EP;
 - iii. *ensure* that the meetings of the Permanent Delegation take place as determined by the Terms of Reference of the *Permanent Delegation for Cooperation between the PABSEC and the European Parliament*;
 - iv. *pursue* regular consultations and initiate joint projects and programs; *secure* constructive cooperation at the level of the counterpart committees of the PABSEC and the EP.
 - v. *further continue* working contacts between the secretariats of the PABSEC and the EP by arranging exchange of information and documentation;
 - vi. *intensify* relations with the EP in order to seek new mechanisms for international support for the initiatives within the BSEC framework;
 - vii. *coordinate* actions between all the BSEC bodies in order to achieve due recognition of the BSEC by the EU.
9. **The PABSEC invites** the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to consider this Recommendation.
10. **The PABSEC instructs** the Legal and Political Affairs Committee to follow up progress in PABSEC-EP relations and to report on further developments in this respect at the meetings of the Standing Committee.