



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION  
**PABSEC**

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

Doc.: GA52/CC51/REC166/18

**RECOMMENDATION 166/2018<sup>1</sup>**

**“Current and Future Perspectives in the Development of Tourism in the BSEC Region”**

1. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) reaffirms its commitment to strengthen the cooperation in the field of Tourism among the BSEC Member States and promote the BSEC Region as one of the leading tourist destinations of the world. Given the rich cultural and historic heritage of the BSEC countries, the development of tourism is one of the most promising fields of cooperation in the BSEC countries.
2. The Assembly recalls its numerous Recommendations, such as REC 32/1999 on „Development of Tourism in the Black Sea Region“, REC 75/2004 on “Sustainable Development of the Tourism Industry”, REC 83/2005 on “Cooperation in the sphere of Cultural Tourism in the Black Sea Region”, where the BSEC Member States stressed that the Black Sea Region has a vast potential to become one of the main tourist destinations of the 21st century.
3. The PABSEC fully supports the activities of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism, guided by the “BSEC Economic Agenda: Towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership”, adopted in 2012, in particular its Goal 8 “Development of Tourism and Protection of Cultural Heritage”, whereas the BSEC Member States should further strengthen the cooperation and ensure a sustainable tourism development by adopting green growth strategies, which will enable economic expansion while preserving natural and cultural heritage.

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<sup>1</sup> Assembly debate on 28<sup>th</sup> November (see Doc.: GA52/CC51/REP/18, Report of the Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee on *Current and Future Perspectives in the Development of Tourism in the BSEC Region*, discussed in Sofia, on 2 October 2018; Rapporteur: Mr. Ioan VULPESCU, Member of the Committee, Romania).

4. The Assembly welcomes the adoption of the Joint Varna Declaration of the Ministers in Charge of Tourism of the BSEC Member States (Varna, Republic of Bulgaria, 14 June 2018) and reaffirms the commitment of the BSEC Member States to strengthen their ties in the field of Tourism, as a significant area of cooperation among the BSEC Member States since the very inception of the BSEC.
5. The PABSEC recognizes that the tourism has become a very important and dynamic sector in the world economy. Its growth affects not only the activities directly linked to the tourism (mainly in the private sector) but also other sectors such as transport, environment, employment, culture and youth cooperation.
6. The Assembly notes that the sector opportunities presented by the tourism development must be seized. However, it must also be ensured that this sector does not develop in an uncontrolled manner, threatening the natural environment and the social and cultural life of the countries.
7. The PABSEC stresses that the national Parliaments should encourage the National Authorities in charge of Tourism in the BSEC Member States, to better coordinate their actions in order to position the BSEC Region as an attractive multi-destination area and to work for the promotion of new tourist packages and joint programmes so that to attract the tourists within the Region.
8. The PABSEC takes into consideration the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Organization of the BSEC and the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) in Athens, in 2014 and affirms its commitment to maximize the efforts of the BSEC Member States for the effective implementation of the MoU, with a view to promote the collaboration on concrete projects between the two Organizations.
9. The Assembly reaffirms its commitment to strengthen the cooperation and develop the synergies between international and regional organizations and initiatives as well as with non-governmental organizations, as such partnerships offer additional value and strength to the Organization and increase the potential of the BSEC Region in the field of Tourism.
10. The Parliamentary Assembly believes that the exchange of information between local, national and intergovernmental bodies and organizations is important for a better understanding the field of Tourism, which will lead to the development and the harmonization of coexistence in the area.
11. The Parliamentary Assembly welcomes the adoption, by the PABSEC member countries, of relevant policies and strategies and the exchange of expertise and materials necessary for the development and enhancement of Tourism.
12. **Therefore, the PABSEC recommends** that the parliaments and the governments of the BSEC Member States:
  - i. *continue* working together within the BSEC framework in order to further strengthen the cooperation in the field of tourism among the BSEC Member States, by adopting national strategies that will enable the economic expansion in the sector;

- ii. *encourage* the national authorities in charge of tourism, in the BSEC Member States, to contribute to the development of the sustainable tourism, as one of the major vehicles for the socio-economic development and promote the BSEC Region as one of the leading tourism destinations of the world tourism and an attractive region for the investments in the tourism sector;
- iii. *further support and promote* regional and cross-border cooperation in the field of tourism by stimulating the national associations of travel and tourism agencies to encourage their members to create innovative, customized, thematic tourism products or packages addressed to special interest tourists from within and outside the BSEC Region, who seek authentic, meaningful and personalized experiences;
- iv. *focus on the development* of maritime and cruise tourism in the Black Sea basin, to develop proposals for the construction, reconstruction and modernization of the relevant infrastructure of the cruise fleet;
- v. *maximize the efforts* in order to strengthen and promote the Black Sea Region as a modern and competitive tourist destination, providing wide opportunities for satisfying the local and the foreign tourists, also providing a variety of different tourist services;
- vi. *use* the potential of the region through the development of joint innovative projects and the organization of international tourism events that will facilitate further tourist exchanges among the countries of the region;
- vii. *enhance* the dialogue on facilitation of visa procedures and undertake joint efforts to improve connectivity in the Black Sea Region, particularly concerning the air, land and maritime transport, highlighting the importance of a closer coordination between Tourism and the transport policies;
- viii. *consider* holding a BSEC Tourism Forum including representatives of the private tourist sector and of the national and regional authorities responsible for Tourism and Culture;
- ix. *ensure* sustainable tourism development by developing green growth strategies;
- x. *promote* new tourism packages and joint marketing campaigns of the BSEC Member States by participating in international tourism fairs, exhibitions and conferences;
- xi. *develop and implement* joint projects in the field of maritime, cruise, rural, cultural, wellness and spa tourism in the Black Sea Region;
- xii. *enhance* the cooperation in the development of film-induced Tourism and gastronomic, wine festival Tourism, in a sustainable way, including the creation of a BSEC website for the promotion of the Wine Tourism in all the interested Member States;
- xiii. *further support* the possibility of the development of joint educational and training programmes and projects in the overall Tourism sector;
- xiv. *consider* organizing workshops and seminars at local, national and regional levels, for adequate discussions and for an exchange of opinions among the member states, by broadening the objectives of the national cultural policies and seeking to solve the existing problems in the field;

- xv. *examine* the option for creating the web portal of internship possibilities in the BSEC Member States, for the students and graduates who are interested to pursue their careers in the tourism and hospitality sectors;
- xvi. *establish* a network among the tourism professionals, travel agencies and associations of the Member States;
- xvii. *support the development of* the infrastructure of the ports which are located at potential destinations, in the context of sea tourism, with a view to bring them to a competitive level in terms of quality and standards;
- xviii. *maximize* valuable cultural and environmental resources of the BSEC Member States by investing in the development of multi-destination Tourism products and routes, focusing on experiences rather than places;
- xix. *explore* the possibilities for future cooperation, particularly by exchanging the best practices and by sharing experiences on the key aspects of travel Tourism among the BSEC Member States, particularly between mature destinations and emerging ones;
- xx. *consider* greater use of the current technology advances and the rise of Digital Tourism, modern marketing tools, such as social media and mobile technologies;
- xxi. *encourage* the implementation of the Cultural Tourism/Cultural Routes projects in the BSEC Region and, in this context, support the proposal on the establishment of an institution called the "Cultural Port of the Black Sea" and the development of new Silk Road projects;
- xxii. *create* a general favourable information background for the countries working towards increasing the entry tourist flow;
- xxiii. *resume* the work for the simplification and, in the long-term perspective, the elimination of visa barriers for the citizens of some BSEC Member States;
- xxiv. *put forward and solve* at the intergovernmental level the task of diversification of the transport infrastructure between the BSEC Member States, including specialized forms of transport;
- xxv. *resume* the activities of the affordable tourist rapid water transport, especially between the BSEC Member States having common maritime borders;
- xxvi. *establish* closer cooperation between tourism companies of the BSEC Member States by means of creating a regional Association of tour operators and travel agents, which will coordinate this work;
- xxvii. *develop* information technologies in tourism sector;

- xxviii. *explore* the possibility of creating a unified tourist information system with the integrated systems of reservation, tourist resource information, possibilities for booking tickets, accommodation, excursions and other related services.

13. **The PABSEC invites** the BSEC Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs to consider this Recommendation.