

RECOMMENDATION 107/2009*

“Development of the Sea Transport in the BSEC Member States: problems and prospects”

1. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation reaffirms that cooperation in the field of transport is a priority issues, and lays special emphasis on a large-scale infra-structural and institutional rehabilitation of transport system in the BSEC region and the development of appropriate links to the Trans-European and Pan-European Networks, as well as to the Central Asian countries.
2. The PABSEC realizes the vital role of the sea transport in the region taking into account the geographical location of the BSEC area and its role in the world trade and economic links functioning thereby as the initial and terminate point for distant oceanic transportation connecting countries of the region with other continents.
3. The Assembly welcomes new developments in the field of sea transport observed in the member countries in terms of infrastructure, services sector and legislation. Development of maritime policy at the national level contributes positively toward effective cooperation at the regional level, as well as to the realization of large-scale infrastructural projects.

* *Rapporteur: Mr. Gagik Minasyan, Chairman of the Committee (Armenia)*

Assembly debate on 12 June 2009 (see Doc.: GA33/EC32/REP/09, Report of the Economic, Commercial Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee “Development of the sea transport in the BSEC member states: problems and prospects” discussed in Belgrade, on 18 March 2009; Rapporteur: Mr. Reşat Dođru – Turkey)

Text adopted by the Assembly in Bucharest on 12 June 2009.

4. The Parliamentary Assembly appreciates the activities of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation in the field of transport that focus on supporting the extension of the Trans-European Networks along with the development of Euro-Asian transport links. In this regard, cooperation in the area of sea transport gains particular significance in the light of entering into force of the Memoranda of Understanding on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea in the Black Sea region (MoS). Furthermore, Assembly supports the new initiatives forwarded by the member states that aim at strengthening cooperation in the field of sea transport in the region.

5. The Assembly takes into consideration the BSEC declarations and statements adopted at the ministerial level, including joint declarations on Cooperation in the Sphere of Transport in the BSEC region adopted in Sochi on 27 September 2006 and in Odessa on 10 April 2008, Joint Declaration on the Connection of the Black Sea Transport Network with the Trans-European Transport Network within the framework of the Euro-Asian Transport Links adopted on 28 January 2005 in Thessaloniki and Yerevan Declaration on Prospects of Cooperation in the field of Transportation in the BSEC Region adopted on 27 March 2009.

6. The PABSEC expresses its particular interest in strengthening cooperation with the European Union in the field of maritime transport. The exchange of experience between the BSEC and EU in this sphere may significantly contribute to the development of maritime transport in the region.

7. The Assembly recalls its Recommendations 13/1996 on “Cooperation in transportation among the BSEC member countries”, 29/1998 on “Transport technology and integration in Europe” and Recommendation 84/2005 on “Development of transport infrastructure in the Black Sea region”, acknowledging the significance to speed up the establishment of a modern transportation network between the BSEC member states networks in accordance with the principles of inter-modality.

8. Therefore, the Assembly recommends the Parliaments and the Governments of the BSEC Member States:

i) *to identify* ways to resolve institutional and infrastructural problems existing in the field of sea transport in order to establish a sustainable and long-term strategy for the development of maritime transport;

ii) *to improve* the regulatory framework of sea transport by implementing reforms in the liberalization of the logistic sector, in order to enhance the capacity utilization of existing infrastructure and promote active involvement of the private sector to increase efficiency and be more responsive to user needs;

iii) *to harmonize* technical and administrative standards of sea ports by ensuring interoperability and interconnectivity between information systems, including streamlining of administrative procedures and standardization of loading units, as well

as to *simplify* customs procedures with the view of ensuring operational transport of goods and shipment;

iv) *to strengthen* cooperation in the field of sea transport among the member states focusing on the aspects of the maritime industry, including shipbuilding, renovation of fleets, observance of international environmental standards, improvement of services, safety and security.

v) *to initiate* installation of modern information and communication technologies and electronic data interchange at all ports of the region aiming at increasing productivity and efficiency in cargo handling operations and vessels control;

vi) on the mutual advantage basis *to enhance* cooperation with the European Union, and to *share* experience with the EU on research & development programs in the field of maritime transport;

vii) in order to provide more effective application of the EU “motorways of the sea” concept, *to search* the means and the cooperation possibilities and *to harmonize* the motorways of sea in the Black Sea Region with the ones of the EU;

viii) *to initiate* a process of implementation of the MoU on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea in the Black Sea region, as well as to take all necessary measures to promote efficient activity of the Ad Hoc Working Group on MoU;

ix) *to consider* the possibility of establishing the regional center concerning information exchange on shipping in the Black Sea with the view to increasing the navigation safety;

x) *to urge* the BSEC member states, which have not yet joined the basic IMO (International Maritime Organization) conventions, to facilitate a work on acceding to these conventions.

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