

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

**THE FOURTH PLENARY SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Doc. CC 500/94

**RECOMMENDATION 6/1994<sup>1</sup>**

on

**Protection of the Cultural Heritage of the PABSEC Member Countries**

**I. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation**

1. Expresses its firm conviction that the cultural heritage is among the priceless and irreplaceable possessions not only of each nation, but of mankind as a whole,
2. Wishes to make the most efficient use of the spiritual wealth of the millenia-old traditions and the cultural heritage of the Black Sea cultural area,
3. Emphasizes the fundamental importance of the international and European conventions in this field, such as the UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the European Cultural Convention, the European Convention for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Architectural Heritage of Europe, the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and the Venice Charter, which in their entirety set out the universally accepted international standards and principles of the protection of the cultural heritage,
4. Pledges its allegiance to the principles and provisions of the Black Sea Convention on Cooperation in the Fields of Culture, Education, Science and Information which was signed by all the PABSEC member countries and which stresses the need for cooperation aiming at the preservation of historical and cultural values and historical and cultural monument protection,

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<sup>1</sup>The Assembly debate on 13 December, 1994 (See Doc.CC 499/94 - Report on the Protection of the Cultural Heritage of the PABSEC Member Countries adopted by the Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee at its Third Meeting in Chisinau on 28 September, 1994; Rapporteur: Mr.C.Dragomir)

*Text adopted by the Assembly on 13 December, 1994 in Tirana*

5. Reaffirms its determination to facilitate the implementation of its Recommendations 3/1994 and 4/1994 regarding the Black Sea Convention on Cooperation in the Fields of Culture, Education, Science and Information and the Joint Research Programme on the History of the Black Sea Basin as significant instruments assisting in the protection of the cultural heritage in the region;

5. Notes with concern serious problems facing the member countries in preserving and protecting their national cultural heritage, especially in the countries where great socio-economic changes and difficulties of the transition period have diminished the role of cultural affairs among other national priorities,

6. Recognizes the urgent need for an extensive cooperation among the member countries in the protection of their cultural heritage on the basis of the internationally accepted principles and approaches and taking into consideration the specific features of the region.

## II. The Assembly, therefore,

### 1. Calls on the national Parliaments:

a. To take urgent steps to enact special legislation or to modify existing legislation with a view to protecting the national cultural heritage; in doing so, to ensure maximum information-sharing and mutual use of the expertise available in the member countries;

b. To facilitate the accession of each member country to the universally recognized international agreements and conventions on the protection of the cultural heritage by their ratification and supervision over their implementation;

c. To follow up on the implementation of Recommendation 3/1994 on the Ratification and Implementation of the the Black Sea Convention on Cooperation in the Fields of Culture, Education, Science and Information and Recommendation 4/1994 on the Joint Research Programme on the History of the Black Sea Basin;

d. To explore the possibilities of cooperation in this field with other international and interparliamentary organisations.

### 2. Recommends the Governments of the Participating States and the BSEC:

a. To take measures with a view to elaborating and adopting comprehensive national programmes on the preservation and protection of the cultural heritage; in doing so,

1. To organise the drawing up of national inventories of historical and cultural monuments and sites (National Cultural Heritage Lists and Endangered Cultural Heritage Lists);
  2. To ensure that the preservation of historical and cultural monuments should be an essential and fundamental consideration in the preparation and implementation of all construction and development plans;
  3. To pay special attention to the development of archives and museums and to better preservation of their stocks;
  4. To ensure the protection of the cultural heritage of national minorities taking into consideration the legislation of each member country;
- b. To take all possible measures to ensure the protection of the historical and cultural heritage in the areas of conflict;
- c. To study the problem of the illegal export and import of cultural objects in the past and at present and to investigate the ways and possibilities of the return of such objects to their countries of origin through developing cooperation in this respect among the PABSEC member countries and with third countries;
- d. To organise and facilitate joint projects, exchanges and contacts, as well as institutionalisation of certain forms of cooperation among the archives and the museums of the PABSEC member countries;
- e. To take steps for the expansion of the regional cooperation in the conservation of the cultural heritage and, to this end, consider the possibility of establishing the Black Sea Cultural Heritage Foundation as a body which would coordinate efforts, accumulate financial resources and ensure the involvement of various government, non-government and private organisations in the elaboration and implementation of priority projects in the field of the cultural heritage, including the drawing up of the Black Sea Cultural Heritage List and the Endangered Cultural Heritage List on the basis of the national inventories of historical and cultural monuments and sites;
- f. To develop cooperation with UNESCO, ICOMOS (International Council of Monuments and Sites), the World Heritage Fund and the World Heritage Committee, CDCC (Council for Cultural Co-operation) of the Council of Europe, the European Union, as well as with other international and European organisations and third countries in order to exchange experiences, enhance expertise and mobilise resources needed for the cultural heritage conservation and protection programmes; to send this Recommendation to the permanent representations at the Council of Europe and the UNESCO offices of all the BSEC countries;
- g. To support the inscription on the World Heritage List of the monuments located in the PABSEC member countries to make the Black Sea region better represented on this internationally recognized inventory of the natural and cultural heritage;

3. Requests the Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee to remain seized of the matter and report to the Assembly on the progress achieved in the implementation of this Resolution.