

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

THIRD PLENARY SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Doc.: LC 242/94

RECOMMENDATION 2/1994¹

on

The Legislative Harmonisation among the BSEC Participating States

- I. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation:
1. Stressing the significance of the unprecedented global changes evolving since 1989 and, in this context, the growing role of regional cooperation as a consistent tool in promoting the values of democracy, neighbourhood and peace,
 2. Reaffirming its conviction that the implementation of the Declaration of the Establishment of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation – PABSEC, adopted by the Speakers of the Parliaments of the Participating States on 26 February 1993 in Istanbul requires rigorous and sustainable efforts of the parliaments in the region aimed at turning the Black sea region into the area of friendship, harmony, prosperity and stability as a major contribution to the peace and security in Europe and the world at large,
 3. Welcoming the progress made by the newly emerging democracies along the road of parliamentarianism and expressing full support to the measures undertaken by the member countries in order to ensure a genuine democracy and the rule of law, which represents a vital need for a wide, solid and mutually advantageous cooperation in the Black Sea area,
 4. Recognising the right of each member country to work out legal systems according to the specific national policies and, at the same time, being fully aware of the challenge before the member countries to bring a valuable and constructive contribution to setting up a coherent, flexible and productive legal

¹ The Assembly debate on 22 June 1994 (See Doc.: LC 217/94; Report on the Seminar on Improvement and Harmonisation of the Legislative Systems of the Member Countries of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation – Development of Democratic Institutions. Rapporteur: Mr. Abdi BALETA – Albania)

Text adopted by the Assembly on 22 June 1994, in Bucharest.

framework leading to a new form of economic, social, cultural and political cooperation within the region of the Black Sea,

5. Acknowledging the responsibility of the parliamentary dimension of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation process to take the lead in starting legislative harmonisation among the Participating States, aiming to strengthen PABSEC and BSEC's ability and capacity to overcome the existing obstacles due to the great disparity in legal regulations at the national level to cope with the urgent and complex demands of an effective and beneficial cooperation in all fields of common interest,
6. Underlining the importance of the first PABSEC Seminar, held by the legal and Political Affairs Committee between 22-24 February 1994 in Ankara which illustrated the commitment of the parliamentarians to focus on pressing issues facing the region today – the development of democratic institutions, democracy in the transition period, legislative harmonisation, peace and stability in the Black Sea basin – enabling an open and fruitful exchange of views and clearly highlighting that the Parliamentary dialog and diplomacy can play a positive and significant role in building a solid foundation to the cooperation process in the Black Sea area.

II The Assembly, therefore,

1. Calls upon the National Parliaments:

- a. To increase the parliamentarians' awareness of their role and responsibility in supporting all actions undertaken by the Assembly with a view to implementing its goals, through legislative and political means at the national and regional parliamentary level.
- b. To become the main vehicle in safeguarding and promoting the basic principles of democracy, pluralism, rule of law and human rights, boosting their efforts to build a modern and prosperous society – a society open to the universal values – thus giving a strong impetus to the cooperation process in the Black Sea area.
- c. To attach particular attention to the need of harmonising legislation among the member countries, reviewing current regulations so that outdated ones are discontinued and new ones, in the spirit of present European regulations, are adopted, speeding up the economic, social, cultural and political cooperation in the region and, to that end:
 - to ensure the adequate involvement of the Constitutional, Legal, Economic and other pertinent committees of the national parliaments in a continuing and coordinated action for setting up a set of legislations aiming to facilitate and develop bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the Black Sea region,
 - to encourage and support the parliamentary contacts, exchange of views, organisation of specialised meetings, with the participation of MPs, governmental agencies, representatives of the private sector, in order to

identify efficient modalities for the achievement of a balanced and workable harmonised legislative system among the Participating states,

- to follow-up the implementation of the decisions agreed upon at the BSEC top or ministerial level meetings, as well as the recommendations of the PABSEC adapting the national regulations to the respective standards.
- d. To strengthen their commitments to put an end to the existing conflicts in the area, to promote stability and lasting peace – essential prerequisites of the cooperation in the Black Sea region.

2. Recommends the Governments:

- a. To show political will and determination, making best use of all possibilities to put into practice the provisions of the Summit Declaration and the Bosphorus statement adopted by the Heads of State or Government of the Participating States in Istanbul on 25 June 1992, through the involvement of the governmental agencies and private sectors in the accomplishment of the ongoing projects and the identification of new short and long-term projects, conducive to the prosperity and upgrading the living standards of the nations in the area and, to that end:

- to undertake a comprehensive review of current bilateral and multilateral legal arrangements among the BSEC member countries, taking appropriate concerted measures in the field of legislative harmonisation and to further reduce or progressively eliminate obstacles of all kinds underpinning regional cooperation, particularly with regards to trade, private entrepreneurship, finance, visa formalities and tourism.
- to provide information to the member countries on this matter, facilitating the contacts between the institutions in charge to work out harmonised legislation among the Participating states.
- to set up an inter-ministerial committee or to designate an office responsible for following and coordinating steps to be taken at the national and regional levels in the legislative harmonisation, in a systematic manner, selecting the priority targets which can stimulate and encourage the governmental agencies, and most of all private firms, to bring a substantial contribution to the economic cooperation in the area.

- b. To designate a BSEC working group to follow periodically the activities carried out by the national governmental agencies and to present concrete proposals on the legislative harmonisation at the BSEC ministerial level meeting.

- c. To support all the initiatives taken by the Participating States with a view to ensuring prosperity, stability and peace in the Black Sea region.

2. Requests the Legal and Political Affairs Committee to follow-up on the progress in the legislative harmonisation and to review the process at the Committee Meeting in autumn 1994.