

## RECOMMENDATION 121/2011<sup>1</sup>

### *The Role of Parliaments in Providing Legislative Support for Enhancing Scientific and Technological Progress*

1. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) stresses the vital role that scientific and technological progress plays in sustainable economic development in the new millennium. Scientific progress serves the interests of societies, helps to increase overall quality of life, has an impact on cultures and lifestyles, and addresses social and economic problems.
2. The PABSEC notes the resolve of the BSEC Member States to support development in the sphere of science and technology. In this context, the Assembly recalls the *Declaration on the Occasion of the Fifteenth Anniversary Summit of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation* of 25 June 2007, in which the BSEC Heads of State and Government emphasize that “deepening cooperation in the priority areas such as environmental protection, trade, transport, tourism, energy, telecommunications, science and technology and combating terrorism would yield tangible outcomes to improve the quality of the daily lives of peoples in the area”.
3. The PABSEC welcomes the Declaration of the Ministers Responsible for Science and Technology adopted in Sofia on 9 April 2010, which stresses that “science and technology are major assets for sustainable social and economic development, and the BSEC Member States, based on their rich and long-lasting tradition, are willing to devote particular attention for the further development and strengthening of that field, both at national level and in the Organization as a whole”. The Declaration entrusts the BSEC “to further strengthen regional cooperation in the fields of scientific research and technological development as a major driving force of dynamic and sustainable economic growth and prosperity for the peoples of the region”.
4. The PABSEC is keenly aware that scientific and technological progress may have negative consequences along with the achievements. While scientific and technological developments

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<sup>1</sup> *Rapporteur*: Mr. Michael Yemelianov, Chairman of the Committee – Russia.

Assembly debate on 2 July 2010 (see Doc.: GA37/LC37/REP/11, Report of the Legal and Political Affairs Committee on *The Role of Parliaments in Providing Legislative Support for Enhancing Scientific and Technological Progress*, discussed in Chisinau on 12 April 2011; *Rapporteur*: Mr. Ioannis Amoiridis, member of the Committee, Greece).

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provide ever-increasing opportunities to better the living conditions of peoples and nations, there are cases where they give rise to social problems that threaten the safety and security of individuals. In an increasingly globalized world, there is an urgent need to fully harness scientific and technological developments for the welfare of mankind and to neutralize possible harmful potential, both now and in the future.

5. The PABSEC highly evaluates the activities of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology for its role in elaborating the BSEC Action Plan on Cooperation in Science and Technology (2010–2014), which serves as a practical expression of the renewed commitment to regional cooperation in this field. The Action Plan recognizes the critical role of innovation, human resources, capacity-building, and research infrastructures in maintaining national competitiveness in today’s global economy and reaffirms the need to enhance science and technology programs and partnerships.
6. The PABSEC recognizes the distinctive role played by the BSEC and its related bodies in the sphere of science and technology and particularly commends the work of the International Center for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) for its major contribution to the preparatory work for the BSEC Action Plan on Cooperation in Science and Technology and for designing and conducting reviews on science, technology and innovation policy.
7. The PABSEC recalls its Recommendation 45/2000 on *Development of Communications in the Black Sea Region*; Recommendation 60/2002 on *Globalization: Challenges and Prospects for the PABSEC Member States*; Recommendation 66/2002 on *Information Society: the Role of New Technologies*; Recommendation 71/2003 on *Black Sea Informational Alliance*; Recommendation 92/2006 on *Strengthening the Legislative Framework for Protection of Intellectual Property*; and the Recommendation 95/2007 on *Cooperation in the Field of High Technologies among the BSEC Member States*. The Assembly reaffirms its commitment to promote the benefits that society can derive from advances in science and technology and emphasizes the importance of ensuring the long-term sustainability of research and promotion of stronger links between science, technology, and innovation systems.
8. The PABSEC supports increased international cooperation in science and technology, which is necessary to address a broad range of global challenges, implement large-scale research projects, and exploit the benefits of globalization. It is equally important that scientific and technological progress be used in the interests of strengthening international peace and security, economic growth, better health, sustainable development, and enhanced safety and security.
9. The PABSEC states that parliamentarians need to intensify their activities in national parliaments and international parliamentary structures through cooperation with other parliamentary assemblies and organizations in order to identify priority concerns in science and technology and to outline prospects to confront the challenges of the new millennium.
10. **Therefore, the Assembly recommends** that the Parliaments and the Governments of the BSEC Member States:
  - i. *ensure* updates to and modernization of the existing legislative framework and enact the necessary legislation in compliance with international standards in the science and technology sector;
  - ii. *adopt* effective mechanisms, including legislative measures, to ensure that the proper utilization of scientific and technological achievements promotes the fullest realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

- iii. *foster and develop* national strategies for science and technology, including specialized actions plans and programs to enhance national capacity-building;
- iv. *actively facilitate* transfer and dissemination of scientific and technical knowledge and the corresponding know-how in a manner conducive to social and economic progress and *further promote* national, regional, and international joint research;
- v. *implement* policies to attract domestic and foreign investment in both the private and public sectors to enhance scientific and technological knowledge management and technology transfer;
- vi. *expand opportunities* in science and technology education, especially in emerging technologies;
- vii. *take* appropriate measures to prevent the improper use of scientific and technological developments to limit or hamper the observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- viii. *reinforce* policies to enhance awareness and public understanding of science, improve the quality of scientific teaching, encourage interaction between the public and private research sectors;
- ix. *ensure* coordination and cooperation between and among the specialized national agencies under the supervision of the respective ministries in order to contribute to the advancement of scientific research and innovation;
- x. *provide* the necessary support for implementation of the BSEC Action Plan on Cooperation in Science and Technology (2010–2014).

11. **The Assembly invites** the BSEC Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs to consider this Recommendation.