

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION
PABSEC

DOC: GA 5028/98

Antalya, 22 December 1998

THE TWELFTH PLENARY SESSION OF THE PABSEC GENERAL ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDATION 29/1998¹

on

“TRANSPORT IN THE BLACK SEA REGION”

1. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation fully endorses the Yalta Summit Declaration of 5 June 1998, which stressed the belief of the Heads of State or Government of the BSEC Participating States that in the 21st century the role of the Black Sea region, both in world politics and in the global economy, will grow substantially, due to its strategic location and vast economic potential.
2. The PABSEC reiterates its interest in all matters pertaining transportation in the Black Sea region, as previously expressed with its Recommendation 13/1996 on “Cooperation in Transportation Among the BSEC Member Countries” and the Declaration of the PABSEC Fifth Anniversary of 24 June 1998.
3. The Assembly therefore recognises the need to promote sustainable efficient transport systems which meet the economic, social, environmental and safety needs of the Black Sea citizens, help reduce regional disparities, contribute to the establishment of the BSEC free trade area, and enable Black Sea business to compete effectively in European and world markets.
4. The PABSEC supports all measures towards the creation of a modern transport infrastructure and a respective market-oriented legal and institutional framework, that will contribute to lower transportation costs and faster transportation times between the countries of the Black Sea.
5. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation expresses its adherence to the joint European effort to create a European transport policy and a Pan-European transport system as adopted by the Second and Third Pan-European Transport Conferences, held on 14-16 March 1994 in Crete, and on 23-25 June 1998 in Helsinki, respectively.

¹Rapporteur: Ms. Julia Yaneva- Bulgaria

Assembly debate on 9 December 1998 (see Doc. GA 5027/98, Report of the Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee on “Transportation in the Black Sea Region”, discussed in Antalya on 9 October 1998; Rapporteur Mr. Turhan ALCELIK- Turkey).

Text adopted by the General Assembly in Saint Petersburg on 9 December 1998

6. The PABSEC welcomes the decisions of the Conference of the Ministers of Transport of the BSEC and Central European Initiative countries (held in Sofia on 21-22 November 1996) and the BSEC-TRACECA Ministerial Transport Conference, held in Tbilisi on 8-9 April 1997.
7. In this light the Assembly underlines the importance of connecting the BSEC region with the Trans-European Networks of the European Union countries and commends the efforts undertaken by the TRACECA countries to link Europe, Central Asia and Asia.
8. The members of the Parliamentary Assembly express their support to the establishment of the Crete Transport Corridors, together with their extensions branches, and they will strive to ensure that each BSEC country will be connected to at least one Crete corridor taking into account the interests of all member countries.

The Assembly therefore:

A. Calls on the National Parliaments and the Governments of the BSEC Participating States:

- i. To speed up the establishment of a modern transportation network between the BSEC Participating States networks, in accordance with the principles of market economy and inter-modality (integrated use of all modes of transport).
- ii. To take practical measures in establishing a BSEC transport ring as one of the priorities in the integration process of the regional transport systems, in order to ensure their connection with the Pan-European transport routes, as well as with the transport systems of the member countries of TRACECA. In this respect it is reasonable to set up a BSEC regional centre for transport infrastructure.
- iii. To enact legislation pertaining to the harmonisation of their regulatory, fiscal, technical and institutional framework in transportation, taking into account market-oriented criteria, as well as the relevant provisions of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (e.g. TIR Convention), the International Maritime Organisation and the European Community; the member countries should strive to conclude bilateral and multilateral agreements towards this goal.
- iv. To adopt and implement laws and policies relevant to transportation which will be based on common principles and standards, and in particular:
 - a) to facilitate the participation of the private sector in the construction and operation of a modern transportation network.
 - b) to progressively liberalise the transport markets of the Black Sea region.
 - c) to gradually simplify and harmonise customs and border crossing procedures for cargoes and passengers, as well as opening-up all transport routes between the BSEC countries.
 - d) to gradually converge tariffs for freight and passenger transportation and transit tariffs, adhering at the same time to the free transit principle.
 - e) to reduce and progressively abolish transit quotas and high toll collections between the BSEC countries, as well as to harmonise the issuing of TIR carnets according to international standards.
 - f) to initiate and manage preparatory measures, aiming at identifying transport infrastructure projects of reasonable size, with appropriate economic efficiency and financial viability.

- g) to discuss the possibility of setting up a legal framework for settling transportation disputes.
- v. To further strengthen their cooperation in defining a common approach in all major fora that shape the European transport policy of the next century.
- vi. To work out joint projects ensuring the Black Sea region's place in oil and gas transportation from the Caspian Sea and Central Asia towards Europe.
- vii. To intensify contacts with the European Community, the United Nations' Economic Commission for Europe, the Central European Initiative, the TRACECA countries, and all other relevant international institutions that work towards the establishment of a common European transport network.
- viii. To take all necessary actions that will ensure safety and environmental protection while planning and implementing the national and regional transport strategies, strictly adhering on the provisions of Agenda 21 adopted by the UN World Forum on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.
- ix. To involve the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank in the rehabilitation and construction of the transportation network of the Black Sea, while actively seeking the financial assistance of international organisations and financial institutions for the assessment and financing of transport infrastructure projects undertaken by the BSEC countries.

B. Invites the BSEC Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs to consider this Recommendation.