

RECOMMENDATION 150/2016¹

“Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons and Irregular Migrants in the BSEC Member States – Political Aspects”

1. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) is acutely aware that the plight of refugees has now become a critical and distressing problem that is assuming great significance in the foreign and domestic policies of all countries concerned. The refugee problem has escalated to a point where it now affects the vital interests of nations and states. Hundreds of thousands of people whose lives have been threatened in their homeland have fled their countries in search of a more peaceful, prosperous and secure new place of residence.
2. The PABSEC notes that the international community today needs to find ways to resolve many issues concerning the refugee problem in the framework of the political commitment of the states, in order to ensure sustainable long-term solutions. Currently, international migration constitutes a multifaceted phenomenon that affects all aspects of society: economic or political, and demographic processes as well as national relations.
3. The PABSEC is aware that an increasing number of government agencies and non-government organizations (NGOs) are called upon to provide a solution to the numerous aspects of refugee problems, and to mobilize all available resources that are required for imperative decision-making. States in the BSEC region that harbour large numbers of refugees face many challenges, including the pressing economic challenges associated with the accommodation of refugees and their integration into their new places of residence. In addition, the unceasing flow of refugees gives rise to growing social and economic tensions within the region.
4. The PABSEC emphasises the importance of international cooperation in resolving the refugee crisis, and notes the special role of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the consolidation of programs and mechanisms to identify and implement durable solutions.
5. The PABSEC acknowledges the efforts of the Member States that are committed to protecting refugees within the framework of international law. The Assembly appreciates their efforts to organize a decent reception for refugees in the host nation and to facilitate their rehabilitation. It is also important to improve national migration policies, including

¹ Assembly debate on 30 June 2016 (see Doc.: GA47/LC47/REP/16, Report of the Legal and Political Affairs Committee “Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons and Irregular Migrants in the BSEC Member States – Political Aspects” discussed in Athens on 23-24 May 2016; Rapporteur: Mr. Vlad Nistor - Romania)

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measures to promote economic and social adaptation and integration of migrants, and to strengthen national legislation and democratic institutions.

6. The PABSEC calls upon the Member States to play an active part in addressing one of today's urgent global challenges: to ensure that the peoples of the world can live in freedom and security. To this end, the Assembly urges the Member States to make strenuous efforts to identify new approaches and solutions to the refugee problem so as to ensure peace, stability and prosperity in the Black Sea region.
7. **Therefore, the Assembly** recommends that the Parliaments and Governments of the BSEC Member States:
 - i. *adopt* the necessary measures to strengthen public policy in relation to the refugee problem, with the focus on a comprehensive and effective system based on quantitative and qualitative assessments of migration and its socio-political implications;
 - ii. *escalate* efforts to strengthen the institutional and operational capacities of national government agencies, in order to ensure a higher level of coordination and cooperation between institutions that deal with the refugee problem;
 - iii. *increase efforts* for preventing appearance of refugees and displaced persons in the framework of the rules of international law;
 - iv. *improve* the mechanisms of national asylum systems by aligning them with international standards;
 - v. *facilitate* the establishment and development of effective and coordinated organizations in the NGO sector that can collaborate with government agencies to successfully implement national refugee assistance programs;
 - vi. *strive* to establish sustainable and effective partnerships between government agencies and NGOs in the field of refugee protection and assistance;
 - vii. *organize* information dissemination mechanisms to educate asylum-seekers on procedures for obtaining refugee status and refugee registration, and on solutions to address their legal, economic and social problems;
 - viii. *promote* the provision of information that enables local population in the host countries to better understand and respect the rights of refugees and asylum-seekers, as well as ensure better living standards for migrants;
 - ix. *develop* common programs on the socio-economic and cultural development of regions with the highest number of refugees;
 - x. *increase* responsibility of BSEC Member States in creating political, legal, economic and social conditions for repatriation of refugees and displaced persons;
 - xi. *harness* the potential for stronger cooperation between the BSEC Member States by improving information- and experience-sharing mechanisms on aspects related to national asylum systems;
 - xii. *facilitate* consultative meetings on topical issues in the region, organise fact-finding missions with the participation of the members of the Assembly and share findings with the Assembly;
 - xiii. *enter into* agreements between states to ensure the economic, social and political guarantees for refugees;
 - xiv. *explore* the establishment of the Council of Migration Bodies of the BSEC Member States as a body of sectoral cooperation between national migration agencies, including the exchange information and best practices for working with refugees in the region.
8. **The Assembly invites** the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to consider this Recommendation.