

## **RECOMMENDATION 114/2010\***

### ***Food Security in the BSEC Member States***

1. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) is aware that the issue of food security is of increasing urgency and that comprehensive, collaborative action is required at national, regional, and global levels.
2. The PABSEC considers the agricultural sector an essential component of the socio-economic structure of the BSEC member states. An effective investment policy would increase production of agricultural products by upgrading the infrastructure (including food processing facilities) and reforming the administrative/institutional framework. In order to attract and involve the private sector in this initiative, member states will need to implement specific measures to develop a regulatory framework and create the necessary financial incentives.
3. The PABSEC considers scientific research in the agricultural sector to be a significant aspect of food security, promoting development of small and medium farm enterprises in order to increase their productivity and competitiveness in global markets.
4. The PABSEC positively assesses the activities of international institutions in the field of food security, particularly when simultaneously confronting the current economic challenges. The present economic and financial crisis has negatively impacted the agricultural sector, posing a threat to the global food security structure. This crisis requires new coordination mechanisms between the supranational institutions as well as the introduction of universal standards to ensure food security. The UN and its specialized agencies, in particular the FAO, assume a leading role in meeting this challenge.
5. The PABSEC welcomes efforts toward achieving the targets of the Millennium Development Goal and the World Food Summits by taking positive actions to eradicate hunger at the

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\* *Rapporteur: Mr. Gagik Minasyan, Chairman of the Committee (Armenia).*

Assembly debate on 2 June 2010 (see Doc.: GA35/EC34/REP/10, Report of the Economic, Commercial, Technological, and Environmental Affairs Committee, *Food security in the BSEC Member States*, discussed in Chisinau on 17 March 2010; Rapporteur: Mr. Svilen Kraychev – Bulgaria).

*Text adopted by the Assembly in Belgrade on 2 June 2010.*

earliest possible date. The Assembly emphasizes the role of the EU, the OECD, the WTO, and the WHO for taking effective action on agricultural policies.

6. The PABSEC applauds the collaborative effort of the BSEC Organization and the FAO in jointly implementing the project *Institutional Strengthening to Facilitate Intra- and Inter-regional Agricultural Trade of the BSEC Members States*. In addition, the PABSEC expresses its support of the initiatives for enhanced cooperation in strengthening food security among the BSEC member states. These collaborative measures include researching the possibilities of bio-technology application for the cultivation of high-yield wheat, corn, rice, and other cereals; guiding SMEs to export-oriented agriculture products, with emphasis on food processing and packing industries; establishing small-sized (family) farms specializing in fisheries and aquaculture; and seeking agricultural mechanisms to exploit the potential of the vast sea mass in the BSEC region.
7. The PABSEC recalls its Recommendation 54/2001 on *Promoting Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development*, Recommendation 94/2007 on *State and Prospects of Fisheries in the Black Sea States*, Recommendation 49/2001 on *Black Sea Environmental Protection: New Challenges*, Recommendation 74/2003 on *Fight against Poverty in the BSEC Member States*, Recommendation 99/2007 on *Global Climate Change: Consequences for the BSEC Member States*, Recommendation 111/2009 on *Water Resources Management in the Black Sea Region*, Recommendation 112/2009 on *Rational Management of Natural Resources in the Black Sea Region: Enhancement of Legislative Framework*, and Recommendation 113/2009 on *Shaping Ecological Awareness and Behavior in the BSEC Member States*.
8. **Therefore, the PABSEC recommends** that the Parliaments and the Governments of the BSEC Member States:
  - i. *elaborate* new mechanisms of regional cooperation, giving due consideration to the new trends and challenges concerned with the issue of food security and with the possible engagement of the global players dealing with this issue in diverse contexts;
  - ii. *enhance* the institutional and legislative framework, with the aim of formulating a joint long-term regional strategy to enhance of food security;
  - iii. *promote* cooperation with food business operators and associations in BSEC member states;
  - iv. *develop* methods for quality control along the entire food chain, with the subsequent establishment of specific regional standards on definition of food safety and quality, and to ensure continuous improvement of these methods;
  - v. *mitigate* the adverse impact of volatile food prices by taking measures to manage such fluctuations, and to reinforce the basic principles of market economy rules such as transparency, accountability, and fair competition;
  - vi. *expedite* accession to the basic UN conventions related to food security by those member states that have not yet joined these international conventions;
  - vii. *consolidate* efforts on shaping a collaborative policy approach to address the impact of climate change on the agriculture and food sector;

- viii. *promote* a wider investment policy for the development of rural areas in the region, with the involvement of all concerned parties and through participation of the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank and the BSEC Business Council;
  - ix. *simplify* internal administrative trade procedures aimed at facilitating export-import of foodstuffs, including applying import customs duties at rates for the most favoured nations (MFN);
  - x. *decide*, through general consensus, to finalize the list of agricultural products on which import duties and taxes shall be gradually phased out;
  - xi. *apply* the veterinary and phytosanitary policy in a reciprocal spirit that involves accredited laboratories of the BSEC member states;
  - xii. *implement* policies of sustainable agriculture and rural development by providing rural areas with the necessary infrastructure facilities: communications, transport, and energy;
  - xiii. *promote* development of scientific research in agriculture and make optimum use of the potential in scientific research to primarily support small- and medium-sized farms by helping them increase their productivity and competitiveness in the global market;
  - xiv. *motivate* a study to identify the types of agriculture management that is most suitable for mountainous terrains.
9. **The PABSEC** invites the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to consider this Recommendation.