

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

THE TENTH PLENARY SESSION OF THE PABSEC GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Doc. GA 3471/97

**RECOMMENDATION 24/1997<sup>1</sup>**

**on Youth Cooperation in the Black Sea Region**

1. The participation of young people in social and political life is essential for democratic society. There is a need, particularly in the countries of transition, for a more active involvement of the younger generation in national policy-making to ensure the functioning of civil society.
2. Most of the BSEC Participating States are currently working to elaborate coherent and comprehensive youth policies addressing the social, cultural and educational needs of young people. The concept of international cooperation, including the BSEC framework, should become an important component of these policies.
3. The Assembly believes that young people could be more actively involved in the Black Sea cooperation process as part of a wider public participation in the BSEC projects and activities, both at national level and through international, European and regional youth platforms.
4. The cooperation of youth from the BSEC Participating States may add a new dynamic dimension to the Black Sea cooperation process, promoting human contacts, exchanges and common projects and thus fostering the climate of mutual understanding and trust conducive to peace and stability in the Black Sea region.
5. At the regional level, support is needed both from national authorities, on the one hand, and from the BSEC and the PABSEC, on the other, in order to ensure a sufficient legal, institutional and operational framework for a vigorous youth cooperation in the Black Sea region.
6. Youth non-governmental organisations, through the Black Sea NGO Forum, have actively contributed to the sustainable development of the Black Sea region and efforts to protect and rehabilitate the Black Sea ecosystem. This productive involvement should be continued and enhanced.
7. Welcoming the steps already undertaken by the parliaments and governments of the Participating States, non-government and youth organisations aiming to promote regional youth cooperation, the Assembly stresses the need for further active and broad initiatives to

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<sup>1</sup>The Assembly debate on 11 December, 1997 (See Doc.GA 3470/97 - Report on Youth Cooperation in the Black Sea Region, adopted by the Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee at its Ninth Meeting in Kyiv on 1 October 1997; Rapporteur: Mr. Ivan Popesku)

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forge stronger links among the young people of the Black Sea countries in the framework of overall efforts to ensure a wider public participation in the Black Sea cooperation process.

8. **The Assembly recommends** the Parliaments and Governments of the PABSEC Member Countries:
- i. to elaborate and implement comprehensive and consistent youth policies addressing the needs of the younger generation in the fields of education, employment, social security and culture, as well as preventing youth marginalisation, crime, juvenile delinquency, drug abuse and other negative phenomena adversely affecting youth;
  - ii. to co-ordinate the youth policies of the Participating States and, to this end, exchange and harmonise relevant legislation and maintain contacts among the ministries and other government bodies responsible for youth affairs;
  - iii. to provide the necessary legal and operational framework for the activities of youth organisations as a prerequisite of young people's participation in institutional and political life;
  - iv. to facilitate the adequate financing of youth programmes in the Black Sea region by mobilising both public and private sources;
  - v. to promote cooperation among the youth organisations of the BSEC Participating States, both at bilateral and multilateral levels, which should become an essential component of people's diplomacy underpinning the Black Sea cooperation process;
  - vi. to examine the possibility of signing a multilateral protocol on cooperation in youth affairs among the BSEC Participating States in order to provide a legal framework for regional youth cooperation;
  - vii. to encourage mutual study visits by the representatives of youth organisations in order to exchange experiences and identify areas of cooperation; to organise training seminars and workshops for young leaders and for officials dealing with youth issues;
  - viii. to encourage closer professional contacts among young people, such as joint activities of the associations of young entrepreneurs, young political leaders, national students' unions, environmental and cultural heritage associations and groups, etc.;
  - ix. to encourage youth activities aiming to promote the sustainable development and the protection of the Black Sea ecosystem and, in this framework, to support the commemoration of the Black Sea Day on 31 October with such activities as Black Sea lessons at schools, seminars, festivals, etc.
  - x. to facilitate the exchange of students, learning of the languages of the Black Sea countries, art contests and festivals, film festivals, cooperation on the opportunities of recognising diplomas and degrees, as well as other activities within the framework of the Black Sea Convention on Cooperation in the Fields of Culture, Education, Science and Information;
  - xi. to support the activities of the Black Sea University in Romania which has proved its capacity to become the focal point for educational cooperation in the region;
  - xii. to encourage cooperation in the field of sports, in particular, within the framework of the future Black Sea Sports Games;
  - xiii. to encourage the active participation of young people from the BSEC Participating States in international and regional youth gatherings;
  - xiv. to provide support to the efforts of national youth associations with a view to establishing, under the auspices of the PABSEC, a Black Sea Youth Assembly which

would be designed as a forum promoting a greater involvement of young people in the Black Sea cooperation process;

- xv. to develop cooperation with the Council of Europe, the European Union and other European institutions and international organisations in the field of youth affairs, as well as to facilitate the contacts of the youth organisations from the BSEC countries with European and international youth bodies.
9. **The Assembly invites** the BSEC Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs to consider this Recommendation.