

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION
PABSEC

THE SIXTH PLENARY SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

DOC.GA 1342/95

RECOMMENDATION 12/1995¹

on

**The Follow-up of the Implementation of
Recommendations 1-11 Adopted by the General
Assembly Since 1994**

I. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation

1. **Reiterating** its firm conviction that the expansion of bilateral and multilateral cooperation among the BSEC Participating States on the basis of the principles and objectives of the Summit Declaration on Black Sea Economic Cooperation adopted in Istanbul on 25 June 1992, Declaration on the Establishment of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation adopted in Istanbul on 26 February 1993 and the Statement of the High-Level Meeting of the Heads of State or Government adopted in Bucharest on 30 June 1995 is a vital tool for ensuring the progress and prosperity of the nations in the area and thus contributing to peace and stability in the Black Sea Region,
2. **Stressing** the important role of the Assembly in taking necessary actions aimed at developing the legislative framework of the whole Black Sea Economic Cooperation process and elaborating legislation assisting the implementation of concrete projects and programmes initiated in the region,
3. **Expressing** its strong belief that the recommendations adopted by the PABSEC General Assembly since the foundation of PABSEC in the fields of customs regulations, banking and finance and the Black Sea environmental health continue to be of paramount importance for achieving the main goals of economic cooperation among the BSEC Participating States,
4. **Expressing** its conviction that cultural cooperation promoting better understanding, mutual respect and tolerance represents an important human dimension of the Black Sea cooperation process,
5. **Appreciating** the completion of the ratification of the Convention on Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution signed in Bucharest on 22 April 1992 by the Coastal States of the Black Sea,

¹ Text adopted by the Assembly on 29 November 1995 in Ankara

6. Welcoming the ratification of the Black Sea Convention on Cooperation in the Fields of Culture, Education, Science and Information by the majority of the PABSEC Member Countries and the entry of the Convention into force on 10 October 1994,

II. The Assembly, therefore,

Recommends, invites and calls upon the National Parliaments and Governments of the PABSEC Member Countries:

A. In the Field of Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs:

1. To intensify the efforts towards the expansion of cooperation in banking and finance for fulfilling concrete projects of vital interest for all the BSEC Participating States.
2. To ratify the Agreement Establishing the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank within the shortest possible time in order to promote private and entrepreneurial initiatives and to provide trade financing as well as to attract resource transfer to the region.
3. To undertake concrete steps conducive to facilitating the harmonisation of the legislation in customs regulations aiming at establishing favorable conditions for the development of free trade among the BSEC Participating States as well as to enact and enforce necessary legislation for the elimination of the obstacles hindering bilateral and multilateral economic cooperation among them.
4. To dedicate their best efforts in order to effectively put into practice the mandates of the Convention on Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution as well as to ensure the prompt participation and implementation of the Agreement on Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable Utilization of the Danube River signed on 29 June 1994 and the Strategic Action Plan that was signed by the Danube Riparian States and, finally, to support the environmental projects and programmes underway focusing specifically on the "Black Sea Environmental Health."
5. To ensure the active support and participation of the Parliaments and Governments of the BSEC Participating States as well as of relevant regional and international parliamentary, governmental and non-governmental organisations in the First Black Sea Environment Conference to be organised by the PABSEC in the first half of 1996.
6. To enact and enforce necessary legislation as well as to provide the best means for transition towards the establishment of a sound infrastructure, institutionalisation and privatisation in order to satisfy and catch up with the contemporary requirements of the free market economies. To that end, to support the establishment of a unified information network among the PABSEC Member Countries.
7. To pay particular attention to the problems encountered by the PABSEC Member Countries in their progress towards European integration and the effects of the integration process on them and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation structure.
8. To provide full support to the prompt and concrete implementation of the specific projects of economic cooperation agreed upon by the High Level Meeting of the BSEC Participating States held on 30 June 1995 in Bucharest.

B. In the Field of Legal and Political Affairs,

1. To review the process of implementation of the Assembly's Recommendation 2/1994 on the Legislative Harmonisation among the BSEC Participating States, Recommendation 7/1994 on the Visa Facilities between the PABSEC Member Countries and Recommendation 11/1995 on the Cooperation in Eliminating Consequences of Natural Calamities and Technical Disasters;

2. To undertake urgent measures for the gradual improvement of visa regimes between the PABSEC member countries and elaboration of mechanisms for successful implementation of the project, starting with the establishment of favourable conditions for free movement of certain categories of citizens actively and directly involved in the process of the cooperation (MPs, diplomats, government officials, members of the BSEC Council and other businessmen registered according to the national legislations, accredited journalists, members of the PABSEC International Secretariat and the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat).
3. To give all possible assistance to initiatives encouraging cooperation in eliminating consequences of natural calamities and technical disasters in the spirit of the proposals made by the Assembly.
4. To secure the mechanisms for immediate response to the disasters through humanitarian relief operations.
5. To strengthen the commitments to put an end to existing conflicts in the area in order to ensure stability and lasting peace as a prerequisite for a broad and multilateral cooperation in the Black Sea Region.
6. To support all the initiatives taken by the Participating States with a view to ensuring prosperity, stability and peace in the Black Sea region.

C. In the Field of Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs,

1. Taking into consideration the entry into force of the Black Sea Convention on Cooperation in the Fields of Culture, Education, Science and Information, to step up efforts towards a more active implementation of the provisions of the Convention.
2. To review the process of the implementation of the Assembly's Recommendation 4/1994 on the Joint Research Programme on the History of the Black Sea Basin, Recommendation 6/1994 on the Protection of the Cultural Heritage of the PABSEC Member Countries, Recommendation 8/1994 on Cooperation among the Capital Cities of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States, and Recommendation 10/1995 on Cooperation among the PABSEC Member Countries for the Improvement of Education.
3. To step up support to the projects undertaken within the framework of the above mentioned Recommendations.
4. To assist in identifying the sources of financing of the Joint Research Programme on the History of the Black Sea Basin.
5. To expand regional cooperation with a view to safeguarding the cultural heritage in the region and, in particular, to consider the establishment of the Black Sea Cultural Heritage Foundation, a body which will coordinate efforts, accumulate financial resources and ensure the involvement of various organisations in the elaboration and implementation of projects in the field of the cultural heritage protection.
6. To promote regional cooperation in the field of education both at bilateral and multilateral levels taking into account the concrete proposals put forward in Recommendation 10/1995 on Cooperation among the PABSEC Member Countries for the Improvement of Education.
7. To furnish regular information to the Assembly on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present Recommendations.
8. *Recommends the Parliament and Government of the Russian Federation* to consider the acceleration of the ratification procedure of the above mentioned Convention in order to fully complete the ratification process by the original Signatory States.
9. *Recommends the Parliament and Government of the Hellenic Republic, as well as the next*

Meeting of the Ministers of Culture of the Signatory States, to consider the accession of Greece to the Black Sea Convention on Cooperation in the Fields of Culture, Education, Science and Information.