

RECOMMENDATION 134/2013*

***Global Climate Change: Causes, Effects, and Possible
Consequences for the BSEC Member States***

1. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) is keenly aware of the need for joint efforts in achieving the common goal of mitigating the negative impact of global climate change.
2. The PABSEC recalls the *Declaration of the Assembly on the Twentieth Anniversary of the Establishment of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation* of 27 November 2012, in which the PABSEC states its concern over the recent developments related to global climate change and the new challenges in the field of environmental safety, and prioritizes the environmental preservation of the Black Sea region within the cooperation framework of the PABSEC. The Declaration emphasizes that the collaborative efforts of the BSEC Member States is the only effective measure to prevent environmental and technological disasters that are dangerous not only on a regional scale, but also at the global level.
3. The PABSEC recognizes the need for close cooperation among the BSEC Member States in identifying and analyzing the causes and the growing impact of global climate change in the Black Sea region. Exchange of information in this crucial area of environmental protection would be a useful contribution to both regional cooperation and the national environmental policies of the Member States.
4. The PABSEC acknowledges that governments play a critical role in creating appropriate frameworks to incentivize financial and capital markets to fund projects aimed at minimizing the harmful impact of global climate change. Such projects should optimize energy efficiency, promote renewable energy sources, and protect the industrial sectors most vulnerable to climate change: agriculture, tourism, forestry, water resources, and waste management.

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Assembly debate on 18 December 2013 (Doc.: GA42/EC41/REP/13, Report of the Economic, Commercial, Technological, and Environmental Affairs Committee on *Global Climate Change: Causes, Effects, and Possible Consequences for the BSEC Member States*, discussed in Ganja on 4 September 2013.

Text adopted by the 42nd General Assembly in Tbilisi on 18 December 2013.

5. PABSEC recognizes that an adequate involvement of all countries of the world in solving the climate problem needs to prepare a new comprehensive global agreement involving developed as well as developing countries, and especially all major emitters of greenhouse gases. A new global agreement should be cost-effective to ensure global benefits at the lowest possible cost and to promote further economic and social development of all countries on a sustainable basis.
6. The PABSEC recommends that the Member States adopt international best practices in implementing reforms on the issuance of environmental permits and compliance measures that encourage private enterprises and the financial community to invest in improving ongoing environmental performance and environmental cleanup.
7. The PABSEC emphasizes that national, regional, and local public authorities must have the competence to identify priority environmental investments and help project owners, in particular the utilities sector, to implement viable environmental investment projects.
8. The PABSEC is mindful that international agencies such as the International Financial Institutions (IFIs), the Global Ecological Fund (GEF), and donors promoting local and renewable energy resources could contribute to feasible environmental investment projects. Effective measures to promote such projects should include the necessary institutional reforms and capacity building through client involvement in the process of designing and implementing investment projects and building up the pool of local consultants for the project preparation phase.
9. To this end, the PABSEC commends the implementation of the *BSEC Economic Agenda towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership*, adopted on 26 June 2012 by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States, stating the necessity for taking measures to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change and adaptation to these effects. The PABSEC also welcomes the adoption of the *Joint Declaration on Climate Change and Green Economy - BSEC contribution to Rio +20*, adopted in Belgrade on 23 April 2012 by the Ministers of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the BSEC Member States.
10. The PABSEC greatly appreciates the active participation of the international community in mitigating the consequences of climate change and stresses the fundamental importance of an integrated approach to policies related to climate change. A cohesive effort entails complementary sectoral policies and programs in the sectors of energy, transportation, agriculture, industry, and scientific research.
11. The PABSEC recalls the following reports and recommendations adopted previously:
 - Report and Recommendation 5/1994 on *Black Sea Environmental Health*;
 - Report and Recommendation 49/2001 on *Black Sea Environmental Protection: New Challenges*;
 - Report and Recommendation 81/2005 on *Economic Aspects of Resolving Environmental Problems in the BSEC Member States*; and
 - Report and Recommendation 99/2007 on *Global Climate Change: Consequences for the BSEC Member States*.

12. **Therefore, the PABSEC recommends** that the parliaments and the governments of the BSEC Member States:
- i) *promote* multilateral cooperation in identifying the potential consequences of global climate change in the BSEC region;
 - ii) *contribute* to the development of Global Framework for Climate Services established by the World Meteorological Organization with the assistance of the international community and the UN organizations to provide climate information to the public, industries and governments in order to reduce the risk of natural disasters, increase food security, water management, improving the health of people and other solutions of the climate-related problems;
 - iii) *facilitate* ecologically oriented economic development and the introduction of eco-efficient technological innovations;
 - iv) *support* the creation of legal and institutional frameworks to take advantage of new opportunities for environmental financing, such as local financial markets, financing mechanisms related to activities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and debt-for-environment swaps;
 - v) *create* mechanisms to prevent and mitigate current adverse environmental impacts and the risks of natural and technological catastrophes closely linked with climate change including mechanisms for the prevention of natural disasters;
 - vi) *prioritize* the recovery of affected natural ecological systems and ensure environmentally sound industrial waste management and other waste management systems;
 - vii) *promote* the development of economic regulation and market-based instruments for environmental protection and environmental safety;
 - viii) *encourage* additional private-sector finance by implementing market-friendly reforms of environmental institutions and introducing corresponding policy changes;
 - ix) *improve* national climate change monitoring systems and promote their integration with the international systems of environmental monitoring;
 - x) *intensify* the active participation of civil society organizations and local communities in the formulation and implementation of effective measures to mitigate the consequences of climate change and adaptation to these consequences;
 - xi) *give* due priority to the preservation and rehabilitation of ecosystems and biological resources in adjacent seas, including the Black Sea, and coastal areas;
 - xii) *establish* programs to raise public ecological awareness by disseminating information on the possible consequences of climate change, and to include such information in school curricula;
 - xiii) *promote* the formation of an efficient system of incentives for the use of resource-saving technologies, such as tax incentives, loans with lower interest rates, and subsidies for the implementation of environmental programs;

- xiv) *endeavor* to enhance the role of state involvement in the area of environmental monitoring and assessment, so as to weed out inefficient and corruptiogenic standards in the regulation of emissions, environmental management, and liabilities for environmental damage;
- xv) *duly consider* available data on predictions of global climate change when elaborating regional developmental strategies, developmental planning of national economic sectors, and various region-specific regulations and standards;
- xvi) *intensify* efforts towards diversification of energy resources and transition to alternative, more sustainable, and eco-friendly energy sources;
- xvii) *assist* in training local personnel in the BSEC countries, with the aim of preparing economically sound investment projects in the ecological sector; and
- xviii) *support* the development and implementation of operational and long-term measures of adaptation to climate change.

13. The PABSEC invites the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to consider this Recommendation.