

THE NINETEENTH PLENARY SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Doc.: GA19/LC19/REC60/02

RECOMMENDATION 60/2002¹

Globalisation: Challenges and Opportunities for the PABSEC Member Countries

1. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation shares common responsibilities of the international community in the new millennium towards contributing to building the contemporary society based upon an open, universal and rules-based global architecture ensuring that the benefits of the multilateral process extends as widely as possible promoting just and fair civil society within interconnected cooperation of the nations towards peace, stability and prosperity.
2. Globalisation brings both opportunities and challenges to all countries and peoples. The common intention of the countries to diversify and develop the existing economic relations towards globalisation opens up opportunity to efficiently use advantages arising from the geographical proximity and mutual interests, as well as traditional ties and complementary nature of the economies. The challenge is to come together to turn globalisation into more effective and consolidated process with equal participation of the countries, developed and developing alike, in managing the posed problems and realising its immense benefits.
3. The Assembly fully supports the widespread concern that globalisation trigger expansion of cross-border crime having pernicious effect on the development of economic cooperation and establishment of peace, stability and security. In this respect, PABSEC recalls its recommendations on combating crime, terrorism, drug trafficking, corruption, money laundering, migrant smuggling and human trafficking stressing that if not addressed adequately, it may add instability to the process of regional integration and jeopardise the social, economic and political development in the region. In addition, recognising that terrorism, in any of its forms and manifestations, is one of the most pervasive and dangerous threat to lives of innocent people, PABSEC expresses solidarity to the world community to elaborate global strategies of a political, economic, social and cultural nature for its combat.
4. The Assembly stresses that the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, as a viable mechanism of regional economic cooperation in the Black Sea region, based upon the noble principles of goodwill, partnership and understanding serves as a prerequisite for the integration of its member countries and into broader European and global space. It plays a significant role in overcoming asymmetries and discrepancies as well as unification and shaping of common interests and objectives of the participating nations through elaboration of regional projects and programmes promoting greater convergence and synergy of its nations. The process of the European Union enlargement embracing some PABSEC countries has particular significance in reinforcing commitments towards political, economic and social reforms.
5. The PABSEC notes with satisfaction that the BSEC Economic Agenda for the Future towards more Consolidated, Effective and Viable BSEC Partnership outlines the formidable

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The Assembly debate on 13 June 2002 (see Doc.: GA19/LC19/REP/02, Report of the Legal and Political Affairs Committee “Globalisation: Challenges and Opportunities for the PABSEC Member Countries” discussed in Bucharest on 10 April 2002. Rapporteur: Mr. Victor Dallakyan – Armenia)

Text adopted by the Assembly in Tbilisi on 13 June 2002.

challenges of the new millennium to the BSEC countries, including those in the field of economic integration and sustainable development, communication, technologies, agricultural development, business dimension, governance, crime prevention, etc.

6. The Parliamentary Assembly welcomes the results achieved by the PABSEC countries in taking comprehensive measures for meeting the challenges of the new world order and notes further progress in economic development, democratisation, political stability and social coherence. Yet, diversity of the economies in the Black Sea region with different practices, policies and legislative frameworks as well as economic and political obligations towards international or regional organisations, protracts, to a certain extent, the integration process. In addition, prevailing unstable political climate, unresolved conflicts, declining living standards and big number of refugees undermine normal flow of economic activities and deprive the region from fully benefiting from the economic cooperation process.
7. Parliaments and parliamentarians in their capacity as the representative democracy, have responsibility add voice to the concerns and aspirations of the people to contribute to the smooth flow of globalisation process. National parliaments serve as a main pillar of democratic society with prime task to enact and streamline the laws, rules and regulations necessary for overall development and progress. Greater parliamentary involvement helps to make integration process more widely understood and supported.
8. The Assembly believes that the interaction between and among the PABSEC member parliaments and their partnership with the internationally renown parliamentary organisations like European Parliament, NATO PA, OSCE PA, PACE, IPU, IPACIS, WEU Assembly, etc., as well as with the regional and sub-regional organisations and initiatives such as SECI, CEI and Royaumont Process will bring more positive elements in promotion of joint policies for improvement of socio-economic situation and enforcement of democratic principles.
9. On the threshold of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation's tenth anniversary, the Assembly, having in mind that only together can the member countries meet the challenges of tomorrow's world, affirms its commitment to mobilise at their utmost for attaining the objectives enshrined in main PABSEC and BSEC documents and translate the political will and vision towards establishment of harmonious coexistence of the peoples in peaceful, stable and prosperous world into an action.
10. **Therefore, the Assembly recommends** the parliaments and the governments of the PABSEC Member Countries:
 - i* to endorse bold, concrete and effective initiatives to promote materialisation of the commitments and principles laid down in the Charter of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, BSEC Summit Declarations, Recommendations and Resolutions and of the BSEC Ministers of Foreign Affairs;
 - ii* to take every possible measure to use to the maximum the benefits of globalisation through broader economic integration by means of improvement of the economic well-being and the quality of life of our peoples, promotion of development of the countries and strengthening of democracy;
 - iii* to further continue intensive partnership with the BSEC and its Related Bodies for the efficient implementation of the "BSEC Economic Agenda for the Future Towards a More Consolidated, Effective and Viable BSEC Partnership" as a comprehensive programme for promoting political, economic and social stability;
 - iv* to ensure full involvement of all BSEC dimensions – the Organisation, its Parliamentary Assembly, Business Council, BSTDB and ICBSS – in the process of searching common principles and solutions to the national and global problems that of environment, organised crime, international competition, investments, free trade, social hardships etc. and to encourage, in this respect, the recent BSEC initiatives on Project Development Fund, Investment Initiative, Energy Market Project and Cross-Border Facilitation;

- v. to promote the framework for establishing more effective relations and working contacts with the main European, regional or sub-regional structures to introduce their experience and expertise in the Black Sea region for strengthening institutional framework;
- vi. to continue the process of reviewing national legislations in order to eliminate or amend certain provisions which may prevent the process of harmonisation of legislation, with due regard to *European acquis*, necessary for materialisation of the multilateral projects within the BSEC framework;
- vii. to encourage cooperation between national governments and international agencies, with a view to focus on the issues of vital regional priority aimed at deepening the economic relations and developing higher degree of integration through exchanging replicable experiences in global matters and creating effective legal and regulatory frameworks;
- viii. to join the efforts to elevate the role of the national parliaments and parliamentary structures in consolidating dialogue between the actors in integration process and to encourage more participation by civil society through strengthening participative democracy for better griping benefits and opportunities for the nation states as well as the regions;
- ix. to continue to take appropriate preparatory measures for establishing the BSEC Free Trade Area and further integration into the wider European and global spaces;
- x. to further approximate legislative and regulatory mechanisms to the European and global standards in order to enhance ability of the countries to implement effectively joint projects and programmes;
- xi. to work in the direction of coordinating and convergence of economic and social policies between the countries in order to help each other to narrow the gap in the stages of economic development and progress in order to enhance regional integration and democratic development
- xii. to further support ongoing process of country-by-country reforms facilitating integration process and promoting trade and economic cooperation within the region in order to realise full economic potential of the countries participating in the regional integration process;
- xiii. to take resolute effort to reach peaceful settlement of prevailing disputes in the region within the internationally recognised norms and instruments, to boost the economic processes in the region and fully unlock the potential of the region to meet the ambitious challenges of the new millennium;
- xiv. to make every effort to prevent, detect, punish and eradicate all forms of crime, terrorism, drug trafficking, corruption, money laundering, migrant smuggling and human trafficking and to encourage the approval of effective and specific measures and, in this respect, to implement the provisions embodied in the Agreement among the Governments of the BSEC Participating States on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in particular in its Organised Forms and the subsequent Protocol;
- xv. to participate more actively in the regional and inter-regional gatherings devoted to the new approaches to the global challenges with a view to share the experience on reciprocal basis through providing information on joint BSEC activities and, at the same time, to enrich the Black Sea regional cooperation with new concepts and elements elaborated by international community;
- xvi. to make full and appropriate use of existing bilateral and multilateral instruments, as well as to conclude and adhere to the new ones in the priority fields related to enhancing integration and broader partnership;
- xvii. to extensively follow up the implementation of all the Assembly's Recommendations adopted until today bearing the concept of consolidation and integration of the regional development and cooperation;

11. **The Assembly invites** the BSEC Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs to consider this Recommendation.