

RECOMMENDATION 117/2010*

“Condition of the marine environment in the Black Sea region”

1. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation is keenly aware of the responsibility of to protect and preserve environment for the benefit of present and future generations, with the aim of sustainable development in the BSEC member states.
2. The PABSEC confirms the need of the member countries to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced relationship between social, economic and environmental activities. Interconnection of environment with other spheres is provisioned by the trends in the economy of each state, as the economic development could negatively affect the country’s ecology, consequently, structure of the national economies should harmoniously correlate with environmental standards.
3. The Assembly acknowledges the need for close cooperation among the BSEC member states based on a regional approach in a coordinated manner for the protection of marine environment, as the maritime aspect plays significant role for all the countries of the region in terms of trade and economic relations. Currently, all the BSEC member states are in transition process of developing and updating their national instruments aimed at combating marine pollution. Therefore, exchange of information on the new developments in the environmental legislation and the progress towards protecting marine environment would be a useful contribution to both regional cooperation and national environmental policies of the member countries.
4. The Assembly reaffirms the importance of acting in accordance with the instruments and standards of the United Nations, including Convention on the Law of the Sea, Rio Declaration and Agenda 21, and within the framework of priorities and targets set by the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Millennium Development Goals, as well as with the IMO principles and other relevant rules of international law, with a view to achieve progress in the protection of the marine environment.

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

Assembly debate on 3 November 2010 (see Doc.: GA36/EC35/REP/10, Report of the Economic, Commercial Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee “Condition of the Marine Environment in the Black Sea Region” discussed in Kyiv, on 29 September 2010; Rapporteur: Mr. Konstantinos Tsiaras – Greece)

Text adopted by the Assembly in Trabzon on 3 November 2010.

5. The Assembly appreciates the activity of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution (Black Sea Commission) and progress that has been made towards rehabilitating and protecting marine and coastal environment of the Black Sea. In this regard, practical implementation of the Bucharest convention and its protocols, as well as the Strategic Plan for the Rehabilitation and Protection of the Black Sea is a prerequisite for the effective cooperation of the Black Sea countries in the protection of the Black Sea ecosystem.

6. The Assembly welcomes close cooperation of the BSEC Organization with major international institutions, emphasizing developments in this cooperation, such as the initiative of the European Commission on launching Environment Partnership of the Black Sea Synergy, agreements with the UN Environmental Programme and UN Economic Commission for Europe. Besides this, Assembly stresses that potential of the cooperation with global actors of environmental policies remains unrealized and the current state and future prospects of the marine environment of the BSEC region requires new collaboration mechanisms on multilateral base.

7. The Assembly recalls its Recommendations 49/2001 “Black Sea Environmental Protection: New Challenges”, 94/2007 on “State and Prospects of Fisheries in the Black Sea countries”, 99/2007 on “Global Climate Change: Consequences for the BSEC Member States”, 107/2009 on the “Development of the sea transport in the BSEC member states: states and prospects” 111/2009 on “Water Resources Management in the Black Sea Region”.

8. Therefore, the Assembly recommends that the Parliaments and the Governments of the BSEC Member States:

i) *improve* the environmental monitoring system essential for a regional assessment of the state of marine environment, as well as for the establishment of further actions and measures in order to rehabilitate the damaged marine environment and to evaluate the risks.

ii) *integrate* marine environmental concerns into economic sectors strategies in line with the principles of sustainable development, and *apply* economic and financial instruments as incentives for the protection of marine environment;

iii) *cooperate* in the integrated river basin management, taking into account that healthy environmental situation of the marine waters in the region closely linked to the prevention and reduction of pollution of the rivers and basins of the rivers flowing into the seas;

iv) *strengthen* the system of hazardous waste management, recycling of industrial waste and trans-boundary waste movement in the marine environment;

v) *promote* application of innovative, environmentally friendly and resource saving technologies in the marine environment;

vi) *regularly exchange* information on the new developments in the legislation concerning the marine environment and the progress towards protecting the marine environment in accordance with international standards and agreements;

vii) *ensure* practical implementation of the existing national laws and regulations, including international agreements, which are the essential part of the national legislation;

viii) *streamline* activities towards exploring investment programs directed at preservation of the region's marine environment, as well as the development of green technologies;

ix) *organize* meetings, conferences and workshops of the experts, researches and members of non-governmental organizations with the view of exchanging scientific-technical experience in the field of marine environment;

x) *enhance* cooperation with the international organizations, especially with UN bodies and European institutions, dealing with elaboration of regional projects concerning researches on the impact of climate change on marine environment in the region.

xi) *support* the activities of the non-governmental sector with their broad engagement in the protection of marine environment raising public awareness on the issues and challenges faced by the regional marine environment;

xii) *establish* an integrated coordination center for maritime search and rescue activities (SAR) and on the fight against oil spills and pollution;

xiii) *urge* the BSEC member states that have not yet joined the basic UN conventions on the protection of marine environment, to facilitate measures for their accession to these agreements.

9. The Parliamentary Assembly invites the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to consider this Recommendation.