



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

Doc.: GA50/LC50/REC159/17

**RECOMMENDATION 159/2017<sup>1</sup>**

**“The 25 Years of the PABSEC: Enhancement of the Interparliamentary Cooperation in the Region”**

1. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) reaffirms its commitment to the common goals and objectives stipulated in the Declaration of the Istanbul Summit (1992), the Bosphorus Statement (1992) and the Declaration on the Establishment of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (1993).
2. The PABSEC welcomes the *Declaration of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Summit of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation* of 22 May 2017 adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the BSEC Member States, which stresses that “in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of BSEC and to achieve a stronger future for the Organization, the Member States should continue and finalize in the nearest future the reform process”. The Declaration recognizes the need to take steps aimed at strengthening the project-oriented dimension of BSEC and we recognize the need to further develop BSEC project capacity through Project Development Fund, Project Management Unit and Project Promotion Facility.
3. Based on solidarity among the states, which is reflected in the sharing of common geographical, historical and cultural values, the Black Sea Economic Cooperation constitutes an effective framework for dialogue on a wide range of issues and initiatives, further motivating regional economic cooperation for the establishment of true

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<sup>1</sup> The Assembly debate on 29 November 2017 (see Doc.: GA50/LC50/REP/17, Report of the Legal and Political Affairs Committee “The 25 Years of the PABSEC: Enhancement of the Interparliamentary Cooperation in the Region” discussed in Rostov-on-Don on 25 October 2017; Rapporteur: Mr. Pavel Hristov, Member of the Committee – Bulgaria)

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partnerships and good-neighbourly relations. This collaboration, in turn, lays the foundation for efficient interactions to facilitate the implementation of shared goals for a more prosperous Black Sea region.

4. The PABSEC further welcomes the phased implementation of the *Economic Agenda towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership* and *The Way Forward for an Action Plan on the Implementation of the Economic Agenda towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership*. In order to ensure the effective and timely implementation of projects and programs identified in these documents and to establish the necessary mechanism for uninterrupted exchange of information and knowledge, the PABSEC notes the urgent need to increase the level of coordination among the BSEC, the PABSEC, the BSEC Business Council (BSEC BC), the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank (BSTDB) and the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS).
5. The PABSEC is confident that interaction of the BSEC Member States with international and regional structures will multiply collaborative linkages and cultivate a spirit of mutual trust, partnership and understanding. In this respect, the PABSEC underlines the significance of active involvement at all levels in the work of international bodies. Such proactive participation will introduce more constructive and progressive elements to improve the current socio-economic situation and to reinforce peace, stability, and prosperity in the Black Sea region.
6. The PABSEC emphasizes the valuable contribution of the PABSEC observers and partners to the work of the Assembly, as well as the importance of the initiatives of the PABSEC Special Representatives to enrich the content of the Black Sea cooperation by attracting new stakeholders. Promotion of new initiatives and programs is of great importance for enhancing participation at all levels.
7. With the aim to effectively meet the challenges of new century, the PABSEC has to strengthen its role and reinforce its commitment to become an active player within the wider Black Sea Region in general and in each Member State in particular. In this respect the PABSEC recalls its Declaration on the Strengthening of the PABSEC Status, which states that “increased political significance of regional parliamentary organizations and the entailing need to fully unlock the potential of the PABSEC as a platform for effective inter-parliamentary dialogue necessitates strengthening of the status of the PABSEC and its transformation into an international parliamentary organization”.
8. The PABSEC acknowledges that the key to successful cooperation within the PABSEC framework is continual adherence and ongoing commitment to the “spirit of the PABSEC”, which maintains an ethos of mutual trust, mutual consultations, and viable solutions based on a common consensus. This collaborative spirit has been an invaluable achievement of the countries of the region during the many years of their fruitful cooperation, and must be further strengthened and invigorated in the years to come.
9. **Therefore, the Assembly recommends** that the Parliaments and the Governments of the PABSEC Member States:
  - i. *harness* the full potential of the established framework for economic cooperation in the Black Sea region so as to consolidate regional peace, security, and stability by creating greater synergy between nations and to achieve the common objectives of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation;
  - ii. *accelerate* the implementation of the *Economic Agenda towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership* by developing effective strategies for regional integration;

- iii. *support* the result-oriented and scheduled implementation of the medium- and long-term projects and programs identified in the Paper on *The Way Forward for an Action Plan on the Implementation of the Economic Agenda towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership*;
  - iv. *enhance* the mutually supportive intergovernmental, interparliamentary, banking, business, and academic institutions of the BSEC in order to ensure coherence, balanced workloads, and the creation of a common methodology focusing on the achievement of the identified objectives;
  - v. *follow up* on the implementation of the PABSEC Recommendations for the development of proper mechanisms to strengthen multilateral regional cooperation in the most pertinent areas;
  - vi. *promote* the necessary legislative changes to adapt the current legislative framework for the timely implementation of multilateral projects and agreements;
  - vii. *develop* a more active approach in expressing support for the new initiatives and in promoting adoption of the new laws and multilateral agreements related to implementation of the commitments and principles enshrined in the BSEC Summit Declarations, the BSEC Charter, and the Declarations of the Parliamentary Assembly;
  - viii. *strive* to achieve greater coherence and coordination between the BSEC and the PABSEC when drafting the respective agendas, so as to ensure that the issues and projects discussed within the BSEC are complemented by the initiatives of the PABSEC and vice-versa;
  - ix. *fully deploy* the appropriate use of existing bilateral and multilateral agreements and mechanisms and conclude new instruments in the priority areas related to enhancing peace, stability, and prosperity in the region;
  - x. *enhance* the role and status of the PABSEC by enacting the principles of the Declaration on the Strengthening of the PABSEC Status.
10. **The Assembly invites** the BSEC Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs to consider this Recommendation.