

## **RECOMMENDATION 105/2008<sup>1</sup>**

### **Fifteen Years of Black Sea Economic Cooperation: Political Aspects of Deepening of Economic Cooperation**

1. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation underlines the utmost importance of deepening of economic cooperation through the best use of available possibilities and resources to promote and consolidate the regional cooperation with the aim to turn the Black Sea into a sea of peace, stability and prosperity, good neighborly relations, mutual respect and dialogue.
2. The Assembly stresses that the issues of stability and development are intrinsically linked. The regional process cannot be separated from the political, social and economic factors that shape societies. It is important to fully unlock these aspects and make use of the existing mechanisms to bring into play both political and economic potential and ensure that more substantive progress is made in the process of economic cooperation.
3. The Parliamentary Assembly notes with satisfaction that the Black Sea Economic Cooperation has served as an effective tool for increasing dynamism and strengthening practical approach in the development of the regional cooperation.
4. The national parliaments of the BSEC states have stressed on every occasion their commitment to promote and consolidate by cooperative action economic, social and

---

<sup>1</sup> Assembly debate on 4 November 2008 (see Doc.: GA32/LC32/REP/08, Report of the Legal and Political Affairs Committee “Fifteen Years of Black Sea Economic Cooperation: Political Aspects of Deepening of Economic Cooperation” discussed in Belgrade on 8-9 October 2008; Rapporteur: Mr. Ara Nranyan – Armenia)

*Text adopted by the General Assembly in Chisinau on 4 November 2008*

cultural development of the member states, to reach higher degree of regional cooperation promoting democratic values, human rights and the rule of law, raising awareness and to foster greater understanding among peoples in the region.

5. The Assembly, taking into account the presentations made during the Meeting of the Presidents of the Parliaments of the BSEC Member States on “Achievements and Prospects of Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation in the Wider Black Sea Area”, which took place in Athens on 9 June 2008, recognises the significance of bilateral and multilateral relations between the states in the BSEC framework to promote translation of political declarations into joint action towards attainment of essential goals of regional cooperation.
6. The PABSEC notes with concern the escalation of political situation in the region and expresses its grave concern over the conflicts that have lead to losses and suffering, displaced persons and refugees, great misery and destruction. Attempts to search political solutions at the expense of the other states by means of force cannot turn beneficial for any party. The Assembly calls on the states in the region to a peaceful solution to the conflicts.
7. The Assembly appreciates the role of the international community and, particularly, that of the European Union and its constructive contribution to peaceful and lasting solution to the existing conflicts in the region.
8. Parliamentarians of the BSEC member states can and must promote realisation of a huge potential of friendly neighbourhood, unity and cooperation between the states and the peoples in the region. They have to devote themselves jointly to safeguarding peace, security, stability and to stronger partnership for prosperity establishing the relations where disputes among or within the nations are peacefully and honourably resolved based on the norms and principles of international law.
9. **Therefore, the Assembly recommends** the Parliaments and the Governments of the BSEC Member States:
  - i. *to renew the commitment* for economic cooperation in the region as a foundation for consolidating peace, security and political stability.
  - ii. *To commend* the implementation of the provisions embodied in the BSEC Summit Declarations, and Declarations of the Parliamentary Assembly of the BSEC as well as the Resolutions of the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs related to the deepening of economic cooperation;
  - iii. *to follow-up* the relevant proposals presented in the Recommendation 55/2001 of the Assembly on Cooperation among the PABSEC Member States in Promoting Political Stability through Economic Integration;
  - iv. *to make full and appropriate use* of existing bilateral and multilateral instruments for consolidating shared responsibility of the states directed towards deepening of economic cooperation in the BSEC region on the basis of equal partnership, mutual respect and common interest;

- v. *to ensure* full involvement of the BSEC, PABSEC, BSTDB, the BSEC Business Council and the ICBSS in the process of searching solutions for further formulation and implementation of necessary policies based on trust, confidence and a higher level of political collaboration;
  - vi. *to undertake* an in-depth review of the vision, policies and strategies of consolidation of peace and stability in terms of elaborating new and comprehensive approach in dealing with the topical problems and challenges based on an understanding of the region's history and specificity of its role in the international relations;
  - vii. *to maintain and consolidate* political commitment to enhancement of economic cooperation and duly deal with any possible incidents that may threaten peace and stability in individual states and spread over into the whole region;
  - viii. *to strengthen* support for the cooperation between the BSEC and the EU and the PABSEC and the European Parliament;
  - ix. *to enhance* relations and develop working contacts with the European, regional or sub-regional structures with a view to share experience on reciprocal basis and enrich the regional cooperation with new concepts;
10. **The Assembly invites** the BSEC Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs to consider this Recommendation.