

THE TWENTY FOURTH PLENARY SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Doc.: GA24/LC24/REC79/04

**RECOMMENDATION 79/2004<sup>1</sup>**

Regional Dimension of Stability and Security – Perspective of the BSEC Region

1. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation affirms its commitment to promote and strengthen peace, stability and security in the Black Sea region and to contribute to responding to the security challenges through increasing stability and safeguarding regional and international peace and security based on shared values and common approaches as well as consolidating democracy, rule of law, justice, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, good governance, solidarity, mutual trust and respect for international law.
2. The Assembly recalls the Statement of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States adopted in Istanbul on 25 June 2004 stating the “determination to concentrate efforts on safeguarding regional security and to align them to the broader endeavor to eliminate all forms of hostility, conflicts, violence, crisis, violation of human rights and in particular international terrorism” and welcomes elaboration by the BSEC in cooperation with the International Centre for Black Sea Studies of a Working Paper on Examining the Ways and Means of Enhancing the BSEC Contribution to Strengthening Security and Stability in the Region implying recommendations for possible interaction between the BSEC and other relevant international, regional and national entities.
3. Based on solidarity among the states expressed through sharing of common geographical, historical and cultural values, the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, constituting an effective framework for dialogue on a range of issues and initiatives, uses the momentum to give a new impetus to regional economic cooperation in establishing true partnership and good-neighbourly relations and put in place efficient interaction in the name of strengthening stability and security in the region, broader

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<sup>1</sup> *Rapporteur*: Mr. Alexey SHISHKOV, Russia.

The Assembly debate on 24 November 2004 (see Doc.: GA24/LC24/REP/04, Report of the Legal and Political Affairs Committee “Regional Dimension of Stability and Security – Perspective of the BSEC Region” discussed in Baku, on 13 October 2004; *Rapporteur*: Mr. Makbule Ceco – Albania)

*Text adopted by the Assembly in Antalya on 24 November 2004.*

European space and the world at large, thus promoting implementation of the ambitious goal of turning the Black Sea into the sea of peace, stability and prosperity.

4. The Black Sea region is becoming increasingly important for transatlantic security for its strategic importance as a link and transit area at the crossroads of Europe, the Middle East and Central Asia. The security threats, concerns and challenges in the Black Sea region are of diverse nature and multidimensional scope. These threats and challenges constitute intertwined problems that require multifaceted responses by different national organisations and partnership between governments, private sector and civil society acting appropriately in accordance with democratic norms and principles as well as constitutional provisions of each particular state. The states of the region have an important role to play in promoting international peace and stability through appropriate framework of cooperation at multilateral level including implementation of respective multilateral agreements.
5. The Assembly expresses its deep concern that internal instability and interethnic tensions hamper the progress of democratic development and undermine the establishment of lasting stability in the region. To this end, the parliamentarians of the Black Sea countries acknowledging that resolution of every dispute constitutes an essential basis for peaceful coexistence, call for prompt and peaceful solutions to the persisting controversies in the region and undertake to make every effort for conflict prevention and peaceful settlement of disputes, as well as promotion of reaching negotiated agreements based on justice and full respect for international law and treaties in force.
6. The members of the Parliamentary Assembly condemn any case of organized crime and international terrorism negatively affecting states and societies, posing serious threats to stability, democratic values of states and to the well-being of all peoples. The Assembly renews its commitment to fighting this evil by strengthening the domestic legal framework and multilateral cooperation through the exchange of information, mutual legal assistance and implementation of the “Agreement among the Governments of the BSEC Participating States on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in particular in its organized forms”, as well as the “Additional Protocol on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in particular in its Organized Forms” and the “Additional Protocol on Combating Terrorism”.
7. The PABSEC states its confidence that interaction of the BSEC member countries with international, regional and sub-regional structures will multiply the links and create the milieu of trust, partnership and understanding. In this respect, PABSEC underlines the significance of active involvement at all levels in the work of United Nations, European Union, Council of Europe, OSCE, NATO, WEU, CIS, etc., as well as with the regional and sub-regional structures and initiatives such as SECI, SEECF, CEI and the Stability Pact for SEE, in order to bring more positive elements in improvement of socio-economic situation and enforcement of peace, stability and prosperity.

8. **Therefore, the Assembly recommends** the Parliaments and the Governments of the PABSEC Member Countries:
- i. *to make broader use* of established economic cooperation in the Black Sea region with a view of consolidating peace, security and stability through greater synergy between the member countries in the name of realisation of common objectives of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation;
  - ii. *to further promote* achieving of concrete results towards democratisation, human rights and fundamental freedoms, social justice, rule of law, sustainable development and efficient market economy through individual and mutually supportive actions enhancing integration of the member states as a prerequisite towards lasting stability and security in the region;
  - iii. *to develop and implement* necessary stability policies in a new sense of partnership and cooperation, based on trust, confidence and a higher level of political and economic collaboration as a main contribution to safeguarding stability and security on the European continent;
  - iv. *to further continue* intensive partnership with the BSEC and its Related Bodies in efficient implementation of the “BSEC Economic Agenda for the Future Towards a More Consolidated, Effective and Viable BSEC Partnership” boosting dynamics of regional integration and promoting political, economic and social stability;
  - v. *to implement* the provisions embodied in the BSEC Summit Declarations, Resolutions and Recommendations of the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs calling for safeguarding regional security and to deal with the prevailing security concerns including all forms of confrontation, violation of human rights and freedoms, organised crime, international terrorism, etc.;
  - vi. *to enhance* parliamentary contribution in examining the ways and means of enhancing the BSEC contribution to strengthening security and stability in the region in order to bring real added value to tackling the security concerns in the region;
  - vii. *to promote* organization of consultative parliamentary talks on topical issues in the region as well as to take advantage of a mechanism of fact-finding missions in order to raise awareness of the Assembly members;
  - viii. *to follow-up* the implementation of the Recommendations adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly conducive to strengthening stability and consolidation of regional integration;
  - ix. *to foster* the national and regional capacity to safeguard security and stability and to take necessary measures to address threats to the regional security, in due accordance with countries’ legal systems and with full respect for international law;

- x. *to make full and appropriate use* of existing bilateral and multilateral agreements and mechanisms and to conclude new ones in the priority fields related to enhancing regional stability, conflict prevention and peaceful settlement to disputes;
  - xi. *to support* actions taken by member states involved in disputes in the region to achieve a negotiated peaceful solution of these disputes, so that the region may be consolidated as more stable and secure;
  - xii. *to strengthen* bilateral and regional cooperation, through information exchange and the broadest possible mutual legal assistance to prevent and suppress international crime and terrorism by fully implementing the obligations contracted by the states parties to the regional and international conventions, agreements and protocols;
  - xiii. *to establish* more effective relations and working contacts with the European Union, other European regional or sub-regional structures with a view to share 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.
9. **The Assembly invites** the BSEC Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs to consider this Recommendation.