

## RECOMMENDATION 119/2010\*

### **“Cultural Cooperation in the BSEC region: Experiences, Opportunities and Challenges”**

1. In an increasingly globalised world in which people are able to travel and exchange information faster than ever before, there is a growing interdependence between peoples, nations and cultures. The parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation believes that cultural cooperation and exchanges can play a vital role in promoting constructive, sustainable relationships among the BSEC Member States, based on dialogue and trust. This interaction implies communication and respect between the cultures of the region and helps to achieve a sounder understanding of respective values. As a result, it promotes peace and stability, as well as better economic and political relations, aimed at the development of the BSEC region.

2. Within this framework, the Assembly recalls: *the Black Sea Convention on Cooperation in the Fields of Culture, Education, Science and Information* signed in 1993 and Recommendation 3/1994 on the *Ratification and Implementation of the Black Sea Convention on Cooperation in the Fields of Culture, Education, Science and Information*; as well as its Recommendations on : *Joint Research Programme on the History of the Black Sea Basin* (4/1994); *Protection of the cultural heritage of the PABSEC Member Countries* (6/1994); *Guidelines of the Program of the Protection of the Cultural Heritage in the Black Sea Region* (18/1996); *Youth cooperation in the Black Sea region* (24/1997); *The role of mass media in promoting cooperation in the Black Sea region* (47/2000); *Preservation and enhancement of cultural heritage of the BSEC Member States* (80/2004); *Cultural, educational and social aspects of the EU enlargement: consequences for the Black Sea region* (86/2005); *The dialogue among cultures as a mean to build trust among the nations* (89/2006); *The process of globalisation and the potential threat to the cultural diversity* (93/2006).

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\* *Rapporteur: Mr. Alexander Dermentzopoulos, Chairman of the Committee (Greece).*

The Assembly debate on 3 November 2010 (see Doc. GA36/CC35/REP/10 – Report on “Cultural cooperation in the BSEC region: experiences, opportunities and challenges”, discussed by the Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee at its Thirty-Fifth Meeting in Bucharest on 15 September 2010. Rapporteur: Mr. Volodymyr Skubenko, member of the Committee, Ukraine.

3. In the context of the global economic crisis, the Assembly expresses its concern regarding the impact that the general recession may have on the cultural sector. It underlines once again the interconnection of culture and development and the role of culture as wealth and job generating sector, promoting social cohesion and sustainable development. In this regard, The Assembly recalls its Recommendations on: *The role of culture in the development of the BSEC region* (70/2003) and on *Cooperation in the sphere of cultural tourism in the Black Sea region* (83/2005).

4. Furthermore, the Assembly shares the principles enshrined in the main documents of the United Nations, in particular the UN General Assembly Resolutions on the global agenda for dialogue among civilizations and the promotion of cultural understanding and co-operation with UNESCO and the Council of Europe that are relevant to international co-operation in the field of culture. Particular importance is attached to the new diversity agenda as expressed in the UNESCO *Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions*.

5. The Assembly expresses its appreciation for the work conducted by the BSEC Working Group on Culture and reiterates its commitment to fully support the efforts made with a view to explore in a systematic way the potential of the region and to work towards shaping a better understanding of the Black Sea distinct regional cultural identity by developing joint strategies and programs.

6. The Assembly also supports the current efforts for enhanced cooperation between BSEC and the European Union and for the establishment of a working relationship with a view to achieving an operational framework for cooperation in the field of cultural affairs.

**7. Therefore, the Parliamentary Assembly recommends** that the Parliaments and Governments of the BSEC Member States:

i. *sign, ratify and monitor* the implementation of the major international legal instruments in the field of culture;

ii. *identify and maximize* the cultural potential and the available resources, including human capital, of the BSEC Member States;

iii. *enhance* intercultural dialogue as a means to increase mutual understanding and respect for each other;

iv. *promote* the trans-national mobility of people working in the cultural sector;

v. *support* the trans-national circulation of cultural and artistic works and products;

vi. *promote* cultural heritage protection as a central factor in the mutually supporting objectives of sustainable development, cultural diversity and contemporary creativity;

vii. *further support* the activities of the Black Sea Universities Network, including initiatives such as an internet portal with an integrated digital archive and a thematic conference on the current challenges in preserving the cultural heritage of the Black Sea region

viii. *integrate* values related to cultural diversity into all aspects of lifelong education and training;

ix. *promote* literary translation with a view to enhancing knowledge of the literature and literary heritage within the region and promoting the circulation of literary works between the Member States;

x. *increase* investment in new technologies in general and in digitisation facilities in particular;

xi. *address* the challenge to link culture and economy and work with the creative industries and the business community towards developing a relationship between cultural aims and economic interests;

xii. *seek* alternative investment models for public support of culture and *develop* public-private partnerships for the financing of the cultural sector;

xiii. *carry out* studies and analyses in the field of cultural cooperation and cultural policy development with a view to identifying priority fields of cooperation;

xiv. *encourage* cooperation projects between private or public organisations (such as cultural departments of national, regional or local authorities, cultural observatories or foundations, university departments specialised in cultural affairs, professional organisations and networks) which have direct and practical experience in the analysis, evaluation, or impact assessment of cultural policies at local, regional, national and international levels;

xv. *further strengthen* the existing co-operation within the BSEC in the field of culture and work together with international organizations concerned, especially the Council of Europe and UNESCO, as well as with other regional and international bodies and non-governmental networks for cultural co-operation;

xvi. *enhance* cooperation between the PABSEC Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee and the BSEC Working Group on Culture as well as with BSEC Related Bodies, with a view to implementing the relevant recommendations.

**8. The Parliamentary Assembly** invites the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to consider its Recommendation.