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Cheboksary, 20 September 1995

CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

# **REPORT**

**on**

**The Follow-up of the Implementation of Recommendations 3, 4, 6, 8 and 10  
Worked Out by the Committee and Adopted  
by the General Assembly Since 1994**

Rapporteur: **Mr. Lev KURAKOV** (Russian Federation)

## **1. Introduction**

As decided by the Committees' Meetings in Spring 1995 and by the General Assembly in Moscow on 5-7 June 1995, the agenda of the PABSEC meetings in autumn 1995 - both at the committee and the General Assembly level - will be devoted to the follow-up on the implementation of the Recommendations adopted by the Assembly since the beginning of its activities. The Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee at its Fourth Meeting in Bucharest on 6-7 April 1995 decided to devote the major part of its Fifth Meeting in Cheboksary on 20-21 September, 1995 to the follow-up and review of the implementation of Recommendations 3, 4, 6, 8 and 10 which were worked out by the Committee and then adopted by the General Assembly since 1994.

In order to ensure a common approach to the follow-up in all the three Committees, the PABSEC International Secretariat, forwarded a letter to the national delegations (Ref. SG 1372/95 dated 10 July 1995) suggesting that while each Committee will submit its Report to the Assembly, one Recommendation (No.12/1995) consisting of one general preamble and three distinct parts for each Committee be adopted by the PABSEC Autumn Session 1995. The delegations were requested to forward:

- (a) proposals for the Committee Reports on the Follow-up of the Implementation of the Recommendations and information concerning the implementation of individual recommendations and specific provisions that they contain);
- (b) proposals for Recommendation 12/1995 to be adopted by the Autumn Plenary Session.

This Report has been drafted on the basis of sources at the disposal of the Rapporteur and the PABSEC International Secretariat and updated taking into consideration the information and proposals submitted by the national delegations during the Fifth Meeting of the Committee in Cheboksary on 20-21 September, 1995.

## **2. The Recommendations Worked Out by the Committee and Adopted by the General Assembly Since 1994**

Since its inception the Assembly has attached great importance to the development of cultural cooperation among the member countries. This is demonstrated by the fact that out of the eleven Recommendations adopted so far by the PABSEC General Assembly, five have been prepared by the Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee:

**Recommendation 3/1994** on the Ratification and Implementation of the Black Sea Convention on Cooperation in the Fields of Culture, Education, Science and Information (Doc: CC(13)216/94)

**Recommendation 4/1994** on the Joint Research Programme on the History of the Black Sea Basin (Doc: CC(9)195/94)

**Recommendation 6/1994** on the Protection of the Cultural Heritage of the PABSEC Member Countries (Doc.CC 500/94)

**Recommendation 8/1994** on Cooperation among the Capital Cities of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States (Doc.CC 791/94)

**Recommendation 10/1995** on Cooperation among the PABSEC Member Countries for the Improvement of Education (Doc.CC 900/95)

These Recommendations were forwarded by the International Secretariat to the national parliaments of the PABSEC Member Countries, as well as to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and the BSEC Permanent Secretariat.

**(1) Recommendation 3/1994 on the Ratification and Implementation of the Black Sea Convention on Cooperation in the Fields of Culture, Education, Science and Information(Doc: CC(13)216/94)**

Recommendation 3/1995 was prepared by the Committee at its Second Meeting in Moscow on 4-5 May 1994 and adopted by the Third Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly on 22 June 1994 in Bucharest (Rapporteur:Mr.Mirhamza M.Efendiyev (Azerbaijan)). The Recommendation stressed the fundamental significance of the Black Sea Convention on Cooperation in the Fields of Culture, Education, Science and Information which was signed on 6 March,1993 by the Ministers of Culture of Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine, and ushered in the process of the Black Sea Cultural Cooperation.

The Assembly expressed its belief that the Convention constitutes a long-term legal framework for cooperation and is a solid foundation for the conclusion in the future of other bilateral and multilateral cultural agreements.

The Assembly called on the national Parliaments to expedite the ratification process of the Convention. It also requested the national Parliaments to supervise over the implementation of the Convention and to provide regular information on the ratification and supervision over the implementation of the Convention to the Assembly, as well as to provide information to broad public in their countries in order to increase the public awareness of the Black Sea Cultural Cooperation

The Assembly recommended the Governments of the member countries to expedite the endorsement procedure and to provide for the expeditious processing of the Convention's ratification instruments. The Governments were also recommended to support the projects carried out within the framework of the Convention and to create conditions for the involvement in the Black Sea cultural cooperation process of voluntary and non-government organisations, artists' and writers' associations, sports, youth and children's organisations, private foundations,etc. in order to broaden and diversify the cultural contacts among the peoples living in the Black Sea region.

There is no doubt that the discussion of the Convention in the Assembly and the adoption of the Recommendation on this issue produced a favourable impact on the ratification process. In

particular, at the Second Meeting of the Committee and at the Third Plenary Session the national delegations of Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Turkey and Ukraine informed the Assembly about the ratification of the Convention in their countries.

The ratification process of the Convention, according to the information obtained from the national delegations and from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey as the Depository State of the Convention, is shown in the table below:

**The ratification process of the Black Sea Convention on Cooperation in the Fields of Culture, Education, Science and Information**

Country	Date of Ratification by Parliament	Date of Deposit of the Instrument of Ratification	Date of Entry into Force
ALBANIA	20 January 1994	25 August 1994	<b>10 October 1994</b>
ARMENIA	27 September 1993	27 February 1995	27 March 1995
AZERBAIJAN	April 1995	3 May 1995	3 June 1995
GEORGIA*	14 March 1995	14 June 1995	14 July 1995
MOLDOVA	28 April 1994	8 June 1994	<b>10 October 1994</b>
ROMANIA	10 March 1995	3 May 1995	3 June 1995
RUSSIA	-	-	-
TURKEY	5 April 1994	10 September 1994	<b>10 October 1994</b>
UKRAINE	4 February 1994	30 September 1994	30 October 1994

\* approved by government decree

According to the second paragraph of its Article 13, the Convention entered into force internationally on **10 October 1994**, that is, on the thirtieth day following the deposit of the fourth Instrument of Ratification with the Depository State. According to the third paragraph of Article 13, for each State ratifying the Convention after the deposit of the fourth instrument of ratification the Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after deposit by such State of its instrument of ratification.

A number of important events has been held in the framework of the Convention since it was signed: the Black Sea University opened in Romania in 1993, the First Black Sea Arts Festival in Sochi in 1994, two Black Sea Film Festivals in Georgia, “Waves of the Black Sea” writers’ cruise, exchanges of artists, scientists and students, etc. A series of bilateral cultural, educational and scientific cooperation agreements have been concluded between the Signatory States.

At the same time no annual Coordination Council meetings as envisaged by the Convention have been held. The Signatory States are planning to hold the Second Meeting of Ministers of Culture in 1996 in order to review the implementation of the Convention and consider measures to step up the regional cultural cooperation.

BELARUS	7 June 1994	7 June 1994	<b>10 October 1994</b>
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The Assembly can make a further contribution to promoting the Black Sea Cultural Cooperation by addressing the national parliaments and governments and urging them to provide active support to all the activities undertaken within the framework of the Convention.

**(2) Recommendation 4/1994 on the Joint Research Programme on the History of the Black Sea Basin (Doc: CC(9)195/94)**

Recommendation 4/1995 was prepared by the Committee at its Second Meeting in Moscow on 4-5 May 1994 and adopted by the Third Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly on 22 June 1994 in Bucharest (Rapporteur: Prof.Tahsin Gemil (Romania)). The main problem in implementing this Recommendation, as has been repeatedly pointed out by the Rapporteur, is the absence of financing. This issue was also raised in the letter addressed by Mr.Karoly Kerekes, Head of the Romanian national delegation, to the Secretary General of the PABSEC on 19 January 1995. At the same time it should be noted as explained by the Secretary General in his reply letter, that the Recommendation itself addresses the Governments of the member countries requesting them *“to support the identification of possible sources of financial support within the framework of already existing and planned national, bilateral and multilateral programmes and projects, as well as from non-government organisations and private sources”* and *“to explore the possibilities of cooperation in this field with other international organisations, such as UNESCO and CSCE’s human dimension bodies, and foster contacts with individual cultural and research establishments in third countries interested in the materialisation of this Programme”*.

The direct contacts among those national research centres interested in the implementation of this project would be indispensable. The Research Centre established in the Institute of History “Nicolae Iorga” was recommended as the coordinating body for the Programme. It can be directly contacted as a first step by interested institutions (Bd.Aviatorilor, 1 Bucharest; Tel/Fax 401- 311 03 71).

**(3) Recommendation 6/1994 on the Protection of the Cultural Heritage of the PABSEC Member Countries (Doc.CC 500/94)**

Recommendation 6/1994 was prepared by the Committee at its Third Meeting in Chisinau on 28-29 September 1994 and adopted by the Fourth Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly on 13 December 1994 in Tirana (Rapporteur: Mr.Constantin Dragomir (Romania)).

It outlined a number of important initiatives aimed at safeguarding the cultural heritage in the PABSEC member countries, in particular, with regard to setting up the Black Sea Cultural Heritage Foundation, drawing up national cultural heritage inventories and the consolidated Black Sea Cultural Heritage List, prevention of illegal export and import of cultural objects, cooperation among museums and archives, cooperation with other international organisations, etc.

At the same time during the Third Meeting in Chisinau the members of the Committee felt the need to pursue activities in this direction and decided to set up a specialised sub-Committee (the first Sub-Committee within the Assembly structure) on the Protection of the Cultural Heritage. Mr.Malkhaz Baramidze (Georgia) was elected Chairman and Mr.Nina Zatsepina (Russia) was elected Rapporteur of the Sub-Committee. During the First Meeting of the Sub-Committee which was held within the framework of the Fourth Meeting of the Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee held in Bucharest on 6-7 April 1995 it was decided to request the Rapporteur to prepare the Guidelines of the Report on the Programme of the Protection of the Cultural Heritage in the Black Sea Region. The Guidelines were considered by the Second Meeting of the Sub-Committee held within the framework of the Fifth Meeting of the Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee (Cheboksary, 20-21 September 1995).

#### **(4) Recommendation 8/1994 on Cooperation among the Capital Cities of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States (Doc.CC 791/94)**

Recommendation 8/1994 was prepared by the Rapporteur of the Committee Mr.Rauf Ismailov (Azerbaijan) in cooperation with the PABSEC International Secretariat and adopted by the Fourth Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly on 13 December 1994 in Tirana.

Following a proposal of the Second Meeting of the Committee, the Assembly provided its auspices to the Meeting of the Mayors and Governors of the Capital Cities of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States - the Black Sea Capitals' Round-Table - which was held in Istanbul on 6-8 September,1994 at the invitation of the Governor of Istanbul, Mr.Hayri Kozakcioglu. The Meeting was organised by the Governor's Office of Istanbul in cooperation with the PABSEC International Secretariat and attended by heads of capital city administrations from Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Romania, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine, as well as the Governor and Mayor of Istanbul.

The Assembly recommended the Governments of the Participating States and the BSEC to support the cooperation among the capitals of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States initiated by the first Black Sea Capitals' Governors and Mayors Round Table.The Governments and the BSEC were also be recommended to assist in the implementation of the cooperation projects proposed in the Declaration of the Round Table in the following fields: social, health, educational and cultural facilities; maintenance of law and crime control; improvement of environment; preservation of cultural heritage.

The Recommendation stressed the importance to support further local authorities meetings and encourage contacts and various forms of cooperation at the local level as an important aspect of the Black Sea Cooperation process.

Following the First Round Table, a booklet was published by the PABSEC International Secretariat and circulated among the participants of the meeting and among the national delegations.

The Second Round Table Black Sea Capitals' Round-Table was held in Kyiv on 13-14 September 1995 under the PABSEC auspices and at the invitation of the Mayor of Kyiv, Mr.Leonid

Kosakivsky. The PABSEC International Secretariat will shortly publish a booklet with the materials of the Meeting.

This publishing practice seems very useful. The Committee could take a decision on the publication of the results of its meeting in a special booklet and determine persons responsible for the preparation of the publication. This step would not only contribute to a better promotion of the Committee's activities but also help better supervise over the implementation of the recommendations that we adopt.

**(5) Recommendation 10/1995 on Cooperation among the PABSEC Member Countries for the Improvement of Education (Doc.CC 900/95)**

Recommendation 10/1995 was prepared by the Committee at its Fourth Meeting in Chisinau on 6-7 April 1995 and adopted by the Fifth Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly on 7 June 1995 in Moscow (Rapporteur: Prof.Tahsin Gemil (Romania)).

Though it is still early to discuss the follow-up of this Recommendation, one step taken by the Committee at its Fifth Meeting in Cheboksary concerned the framework of cooperation between the PABSEC and the Black Sea University. A background paper (Doc.1467/95) and a Draft Decision of the Assembly (Doc.GA 1468/95) on this matter were discussed and approved at the Meeting.

It should be noted that the recommendations of the Assembly concerning the improvement of education are not being implemented at a sufficient pace. In this respect we should make a proposal on organising a meeting of ministers of education of the PABSEC member countries in early 1996 identifying the time and venue of this meeting. This meeting can be regarded as the expansion of the process which also involves the meetings of the ministers of culture and the governors and mayors meetings.

**3. The Working Procedures within the Committee and the Assembly**

The contribution of the national delegations to the preparation of Committee reports and recommendations since the very early stages is of major importance since the documents of the Assembly have to reflect the views of all, or of as many as possible, its member countries.

The following table shows how many national delegations forwarded their written proposals to the PABSEC International Secretariat during the preparation of the Committee Reports and Recommendations:

**Written Proposals of the National Delegations during the preparation of the Committee Reports and Recommendations**

Subject of the Report and Recommendation	Number of national delegations which forwarded their proposals to
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	the PABSEC International Secretariat
The Report 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	- (prepared by the PABSEC International Secretariat)
The Report and Recommendation 4/1994 on the Joint Research Programme on the History of the Black Sea Basin	1 (Romania)
The Report and Recommendation 6/1994 on the Protection of the Cultural Heritage of the PABSEC Member Countries	5 (Azerbaijan, Georgia, Romania, Turkey, Ukraine)
The Report and Recommendation 8/1994 on Cooperation among the Capital Cities of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States	1 (Azerbaijan)
The Report and Recommendation 10/1995 on Cooperation among the PABSEC Member Countries for the Improvement of Education	5 (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Romania, Turkey, Ukraine)
The Report of the Sub-Committee on the Protection of the Cultural Heritage	3 (Armenia, Georgia, Ukraine)

The table demonstrates the need to increase the contribution of the national delegations to the preparation of the Committee documents.

In general we can state that the decisions and recommendations of the Committee, as well as those of the Assembly are on the whole being implemented. We are saying “on the whole” because nonetheless some of them are being implemented slowly. The main reason lies in the fact that the national delegations have not established permanent contacts with the parliaments, governments and especially relevant ministries in the countries of the region. The Committee along with the International Secretariat should provide an effective assistance to the national delegations aiming to establish these ties.

**Setting deadlines** for the national delegations and for the PABSEC International Secretariat can assist in streamlining the working procedure within the Committee. It is suggested that a regular practice should be introduced when the national delegations forward their proposals to the International Secretariat **two months ahead** of the meeting date and the International Secretariat circulates the documents **one month ahead** of the meeting date.

**Feedback process** is very important for a continuous follow-up on the Assembly decisions. For this purpose, the national delegations are requested to send regular reports on the implementation of the Recommendations in their countries. The PABSEC International Secretariat will then circulate this information among all the national delegations. In this respect cooperation between the parliaments and governments, on the one hand, and between the PABSEC and the BSEC, on the other, is of great importance.

#### **4. Conclusions**

1. During the short period of time elapsed since the establishment of the Assembly, the PABSEC Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee has succeeded in taking up important issues of the regional cultural cooperation both of general and specific nature. Out of the eleven Recommendations adopted so far by the PABSEC General Assembly, five have been prepared by the Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee.
2. The Committee has also pursued a number of significant supplementary projects, such as the Black Sea Capitals' Governors and Mayors Round Table, the international competition for the PABSEC Logo, and cooperation among the information services of the national parliaments of the PABSEC member countries in the field of the exchange of legal information, which promoted the goals of regional cooperation and the initiatory role of the Assembly in this process.
3. There is no doubt that Recommendation 3/1994 on the Ratification and Implementation of the Black Sea Convention on Cooperation in the Fields of Culture, Education, Science and Information has produced a favourable impact on ratification process and on raising the parliamentarians' and public awareness of the Black Sea cultural cooperation. From now on the emphasis of the Committee's efforts should be placed on promoting the implementation of this significant document.
4. The impact of other Recommendations prepared by the Committee is more difficult to assess due to scarce information provided by the national delegations. The Rapporteur used the occasion of the Fifth Meeting of the Committee to obtain more information from the national delegations in order to supplement this Report and the cultural section of Draft Recommendation 12/1995 (in particular, see [Appendix 1](#)).
5. The introduction of the work procedures put forwarded in this Report should assist the Committee in raising the efficiency of its activities. This practice could also be suggested to the other Committees of the Assembly.
6. Taking into consideration the social problems existing in the member countries, especially the problems stemming from a transition to market economy, the agenda of the forthcoming meetings of the Committee should include social issues as envisaged in the Decision on the Long-Term Plan of Action of the Committee adopted at its Fourth Meeting in Bucharest on 6 April 1995 and approved by the Fifth Meeting of the PABSEC Standing Committee in Moscow on 5 June 1995.
7. The ideas put forward in this Report and the proposals of the national delegations made at the Fifth Meeting of the Committee in Cheboksary on 20-21 September 1995 have been introduced into the cultural section of Draft Recommendation 12/1995 to be adopted by the Sixth Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly to be held in Ankara on 27-29 November 1995.

**Programme of joint activities for the implementation  
of the Black Sea Convention on Cooperation in the Fields of Culture,  
Education, Science and Information**

*Submitted by the Moldovan national delegation to the Fifth Meeting of the Cultural, Educational  
and Social Affairs Committee*

1. Publication of a tourist guide-book of the Black Sea Basin countries featuring less known cultural and natural heritage in order to establish new tourist routes in the Participating States.
2. Drawing up a list of national and international cultural events jointly organised by cultural bodies of the Black Sea Basin countries, facilitating the participation of the representatives of all the Black Sea Basin countries in these events.
3. Considering the establishment of a data bank capable to make up for a lack in the exchange of information among cultural institutions and containing data on these institutions, their activities and main projects.
4. Establishment of direct contacts among the institutions and experts in the field of protection and utilisation of the national cultural heritage in order to implement joint programmes of cooperation.
5. Organisation of bilateral events between the museums of Moldova and those of the Black Sea Basin countries in order to exchange cultural values:
  - (a) exchange of traditional art exhibitions (“Traditional Carpets”);
  - (b) exchange of modern art exhibitions (of individual artists and groups) from the collections of the National Museum of Fine Arts and of the Artists’ Union;
6. Exchange of expertise and documents between the conservation and restoration experts from the museums of Moldova and from the Black Sea Basin countries.
7. Participation in artists’ creative workshops (3-5 artists from each country).
8. Drawing up a consolidated Catalogue of Monuments, Architectural Sites and Landscapes. Establishment of a single information system of historical monuments.
9. Organisation of the international scientific conference “Cultural and ethnic processes and socio-ethnic processes in the Black Sea area in the 1st millenium B.C. - first half of the 1st millenium A.D.” - Chisinau, May 1997