

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION
PABSEC

Doc. GA 4851/98

THE ELEVENTH PLENARY SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDATION 28/1998¹
on
the Black Sea Capitals Association

1. Cooperation among the capitals of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States was initiated by the PABSEC in 1994. In launching this initiative, the Assembly proceeded from the conviction that local authorities, rendering direct service to the public and addressing everyday problems encountered by citizens, could make a major valuable contribution to attaining the aims of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation.
2. Three Round Table Meetings of the Governors and Mayors of the Black Sea Capitals - held under the auspices of the PABSEC in Istanbul in 1994, in Kyiv in 1995 and in Bucharest in 1998 - have contributed to forging closer ties among the local authorities of the participating cities, highlighting a significant role that the capitals can play in the BSEC process as the economic, political and cultural centres of their countries.
3. Recalling its Recommendation 8/1994 "On Cooperation among the Capitals of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States" (Doc. CC 791/94), the Assembly notes with satisfaction that substantial progress has been achieved in developing bilateral and multilateral ties among the capitals of the BSEC countries.
4. The Assembly welcomes the outcome of the Third Round Table held in Bucharest on 14-15 May 1998 which has opened a new chapter in the collaboration among the regional capitals. The adoption in Bucharest of the Statute of a new organisation - the Black Sea Capitals Association - offers new opportunities for a more intensive cooperation in various fields among the participating cities within the framework of the Black Sea cooperation process.
5. The Assembly expresses its continued support to the efforts of the capital cities aiming to expand their cooperation and will do its best to work in close contact and fruitful interaction with the Black Sea Capitals Association which represents a new significant member within the BSEC family of organisations.
6. The establishment of the Black Sea Capitals Association will contribute to a more vigorous interaction at the level of local authorities within the BSEC framework, taking also into account the activities of the International Black Sea Club established in 1993 and bringing together the port cities in the region. This demonstrates the growing interest

¹ *The Assembly debate on 25 June, 1998 (See Doc. GA 4084/98 - Background paper on the Third Round Table of the Governors and Mayors of the Black Sea Capitals)*

Text adopted by the Assembly on 25 June, 1998 in Bucharest

towards the Black Sea cooperation process on the part of the local authorities and at the same time demands adequate strategies and increased support from both the BSEC and the PABSEC.

7. The Assembly recommends to the Parliaments and Governments of the BSEC Member Countries:
 - i. to support the activities within the framework of the Black Sea Capitals Association as a new significant component of the regional cooperation process, particularly in the following fields:
 - development of infrastructure, housing; social, health, educational and cultural facilities;
 - business cooperation among companies, enterprises, investor institutions and businessmen;
 - cooperation between chambers of commerce and industry, legal institutions, universities, health institutions and tourism establishments;
 - law and order, combating crime, particularly organised crime, illicit drugs and arms trafficking and illegal migration;
 - human contacts and cultural cooperation;
 - protection of the environment and of the historical and cultural heritage;
 - ii. to encourage, through the newly established Black Sea Capitals Association, a more active involvement of the local authorities of the national capitals, as well as enterprises, companies, research and educational establishments, and other bodies and organisations located in the capitals, in efforts aimed at designing and implementing BSEC projects;
 - iii. to initiate and promote at the national level the relevant legislation contributing to elaborating an appropriate legal and institutional framework for the regional cooperation at the level of local authorities.
8. The Assembly invites the Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Participating States to consider this Recommendation.