



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION
PABSEC

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

Doc.: GA55/LC55/REC174/20

RECOMMENDATION 174/2020*

**“Legislative Framework for the Realization of the Projects Connecting Europe and Asia
(One Belt - One Road)”**

1. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) stresses that the BSEC Region is an important intersection of major transport routes, such as the Silk Road, TRACECA Project (Transport Corridor Caucasus-Asia), International Transport Corridor “North–South”, Trans-Siberian Railway, Trans European Network Transport (TEN-T) and Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL). The role of the Region in the world politics has significantly increased, with the development of the energy corridors, passing through Europe and Asia, including Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline (BTC), South Gas Corridor (SGC), Trans Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline (TANAP) Project, Turkish Stream, Blue Stream, Caspian Pipeline Consortium, Transcaspian International Transport Route and others. In addition, the launch of the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars (BTK) Railway in 2017 provided a new perspective on the establishment of uninterrupted trade between Asia and Europe.
2. The PABSEC underlines that promoting better connectivity through transport and trade facilitation within the One belt – One road (OBOR) Initiative is a potential part of the economic cooperation among the BSEC Member States that might create better conditions for the development of sustainable transport infrastructure, thus increase the investments, create new jobs and contribute to the economic and social development of their peoples.
3. The PABSEC recalls its transport-related Recommendations: Recommendation 40/1999 on the Legal and Political Aspects of the Transport Systems Integration Process in the Black Sea Region; Recommendation 84/2005 on Development of Transport Infrastructure in the Black Sea Region; Recommendation 140/2014 on the Role of Parliaments of the BSEC Member States in the Enhancement and Regulation of International Passenger and Cargo Transportation in the BSEC Region; Recommendation 171/2019 “Legal and Political Aspects of the Development of Transport Routes in the BSEC Region” and reiterates the commitments stated therein.

* Assembly debate on 6 August 2020 (see Doc.: GA55/LC55/REP/20, Report of the Legal and Political Affairs Committee “*Legislative Framework for the realization of the Projects connecting Europe and Asia (One Belt - One Road)*” discussed online on 9 July 2020; Rapporteur: Mr. Igor Becic – Serbia)
Text adopted at the General Assembly on 6 August 2020 at online meeting

4. The PABSEC recognizes the growing international interest to the OBOR Initiative, aimed at boosting cooperation, as well as the prospective benefits from the implementation of these projects for the BSEC Region. It is important to stress the priority of enhancing the mutually beneficial economic cooperation and trade ties through developing efficient and secure multimodal transport links and corridors along the Belt and Road.

5. The PABSEC welcomes the efforts of the BSEC Member States towards the establishment of well-developed transport routes and connectivity, including safe, environmentally friendly modes of transport (railway, marine, road, energy corridors), which will contribute to efficient, secure and sustainable transportation and trade. The further development of sustainable transport systems in the BSEC Member States, along with the OBOR projects and corridors will ensure effective development of the countries of the Black Sea Region and will boost the economic and social interaction among them.

6. The Assembly underlines that the policy coordination is an important precondition for joint actions and the successful accomplishment of the OBOR Initiative. The clear identification of the legislative discrepancies between the participating countries and the prospective harmonization of the legal frameworks in the field of transport and trade, taking into account their existing international commitments, including those arising from their membership in regional economic integration organizations, ensure that the development of the transport sector contributes to the regional and global objectives. In this regard, the practical progress in this direction requires sound and effective transport policies, considered as the ability of each participating in OBOR country to coordinate its national strategy with neighboring countries.

7. The PABSEC stresses that the emerge of the new coronavirus in Wuhan (China, in December 2019) constitutes a huge threat to the global economy in general and particularly to the development of infrastructure projects. In addition, it constitutes a major obstacle to cooperation and might affect the accomplishment of transport initiatives and projects in the BSEC Region. However, the PABSEC expresses assurance that the global situation will improve soon and bring the economic growth and pace of development back to the normal tendencies.

8. The PABSEC welcomes the established cooperation between the BSEC Member States and the Asian countries in the framework of the OBOR Initiative on bilateral basis. Applying the principles of mutual respect and mutual trust, China also engages in substantive cooperation with other participating countries, fully utilizing existing multilateral cooperation mechanisms such as: G-20, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia, China-CEE 17+1 Cooperation Platform, World Economic Forum, Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). To this end the agreements on the pairing the EAEU and the OBOR development plans acquire special importance with the aim of forming the Greater Eurasian Partnership with the participation of the EAEU, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the ASEAN and all other interested Eurasian states and regional organizations as a broader and flexible framework of integration.

9. The PABSEC appreciates the efforts made by the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) within the framework the “BSEC Economic Agenda: Towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership”, adopted in Istanbul in June 2012, which calls on the promotion of sustainable transport systems which meet the economic, social and environmental needs of the people of the Black Sea Region, in order to reduce regional disparities and to link the BSEC Region’s transport infrastructure to European and Asian Networks. The PABSEC expresses full

support to the final documents adopted by the Ministerial Meetings on the wide range of issues in the field of transport.

10. Therefore, the PABSEC recommends that the parliaments and the governments of the BSEC Member States:

- i. *elaborate* measures for the realization of mutually beneficial regional projects connecting Europe and Asia, aiming to increase the regional interaction and boost the economic cooperation between the countries in the BSEC Region;
- ii. *continue to use more efficiently* the existing mechanisms of bilateral and multilateral cooperation to ensure more focused and result-oriented approach to the regional infrastructure connectivity, while following the international norms and policies;
- iii. *promote* the transport policy of the BSEC Member States with the aim to increase the competitiveness of the national economies and achieve sustainable mobility and high efficiency of the transport sector;
- iv. *encourage* financial institutions to continue developing existing cooperation on investment and financing, introduce innovations, according to the demands of the market, strengthen the cooperation between the banks and the enterprises;
- v. *join* efforts for overcoming the key challenges facing the transport sector, such as the modernization and digitalization of infrastructure, implementation of intelligent transport systems, improving the competitiveness of transport enterprises, and reducing the environmental impact including through strengthening the use of gas motor fuel for motor vehicles;
- vi. *join* efforts for establishing in Eurasia and in the Black Sea region, as its integral part, a single transport area, coordinated development of transport corridors, harmonization of regional and national integration strategies; promote the coordinated development of transport corridors in Eurasia and the Black Sea regions in conformity with legislations of the member states;
- vii. *exchange* best practices and experience to create and maintain sustainable, secure, integrated and uninterrupted transportation networks;
- viii. *coordinate and implement* measures related to the facilitation of border crossing and fast and seamless transition of goods through transport corridors as appropriate;
- ix. *support* the digitalization and automation of procedures for international trans-border trade and transport, in combination with the relevant adaptation of national legislation and policies as appropriate;
- x. *examine* the usefulness and possibilities to establish national associations, aimed at exchange of information in the sphere of transport connectivity among the BSEC Member States and China;
- xi. *cooperate* on the basis of willingness and mutual benefit through consultation and policy coordination, which will contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and boost the infrastructure development in the BSEC Region;
- xii. *contribute* to the promotion of coordinated efforts of both public and the private sector, international organizations and of other stakeholders of the BSEC Member States in order to enhance the transport connectivity in the Region;

- xiii. *support* the existing initiatives in the field of sustainable transport development in the BSEC Region, providing a relevant platform for dialogue on broader transport-related issues and trade facilitation mechanisms;
- xiv. *continue facilitation of support* to the strategic targets in the transport sector identified in the “BSEC Economic Agenda: Towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership” (2012), in particular its Goal 3: “Establishment of an Efficient Transport Network”;
- xv. *intensify* cooperation with the BSEC Working Group on Transport in the field of developing regional transport projects and infrastructure.

11. The PABSEC invites the BSEC Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs to consider this Recommendation.