



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION
PABSEC

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

Doc.: GA61/CC60/REC190/23

RECOMMENDATION 190/2023*

“The Role of Mass Media in the Socio-Economic Development of the BSEC Member States”

1. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) underlines that the social and economic well-being of nations is one of the main priorities and objectives of every society. Being an essential part of the daily lives of the people, mass media plays a significant role in this regard, through creation and development of a democratic and knowledgeable societies, participating in shaping of political, social and legal culture of citizens.
2. The PABSEC acknowledges that the media representatives can promote better socio-economic situation by means of providing good-quality information with broad reach. An independent and effective media plays an essential role in improving governance, reducing corruption, increasing economic efficiency and stability, and creating positive social and economic change.
3. The PABSEC recalls its previous Recommendations and stresses that the Recommendation 47/2000 “The Role of Mass Media in Promoting Cooperation in the Black Sea Region” which emphasises that the variety of mass media offers a certain degree of pluralism. Based on this Recommendation in 2001 and 2002 were organised the meeting of the Public Broadcasters of the BSEC Member States with the aim to exchange information and experience and discuss existing problems.
4. The PABSEC emphasizes that achieving progress in social and economic development requires ensuring coordinated interaction between the government and civil society. In this regard, the media act as the “fourth branch of power” exerting a strong influence on public consciousness, which in turn plays one of the decisive roles in shaping public opinion and public interests of citizens.
5. The PABSEC notes that the creation of high-quality information content and bringing it to the public is the primary task of the mass media for the effective implementation of targeted state programs. The media contribute to the improvement of public administration, enhance state-citizen relations, support more informed democratic decision-making, A strong, free and independent media sector ensures transparency and openness of public control.

* Assembly debate on 5 May 2023 (See Doc. GA61/CC60/REP/23, Report of the Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee “The Role of Mass Media in the Socio-Economic Development of the BSEC Member States”, discussed on 23 March 2023 online; Rapporteur: Mr. Victor Spinu – Republic of Moldova)

6. The PABSEC shares the opinion that today social networks serve not only as a channel for the dissemination of information, but also as a new means of shaping public opinion. Social networks are increasingly being used by officials to ensure due social awareness, analyze the results, and identify socially relevant socio-economic problems. The effectiveness of the media contributes to building a just, equal, and prosperous society. At the same time, the Assembly shares the concerns of the world community regarding the scale and pace of the spread of fake news and false information through digital media and social platforms.

7. The PABSEC emphasizes the importance of strengthening cooperation in the field of mass media in the BSEC Member States, which will contribute to the socio-economic development of the BSEC Member States and the deepening of relations between the peoples. The exchange of information for the public at large on different platforms can help improve mutual understanding and respect, which will undoubtedly lead to the strengthening of socio-economic development and prevention of conflict situations.

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

- i.* *contribute* to the creation of a strong independent media sector, essential for the functioning of a democratic society and platform for freedom of expression;
- ii.* *create* conditions for achieving the goals of social development and improving economic conditions;
- iii.* *improve* the legislative framework that ensures the coherent development of the mass media as a comprehensive and reliable source of information;
- iv.* *support* strengthening of partnerships between the state and citizens in order to create a democratic and knowledgeable society and ensuring democratic decision-making;
- v.* *ensure* a strong, free and independent media sector that effectively fights corruption, contributing to its timely detection;
- vi.* *promote* the adoption of the necessary legislation to combat the spread of fake news and false information in all spheres of life, decreasing media credibility, doubting their objectivity and impartiality;
- vii.* *use* the media as an effective tool for strengthening democratic institutions and civic participation in decision-making;
- viii.* *promote* strong role of the mass media in the socio-economic development of the BSEC Member States, in ensuring peace and progress;
- ix.* *support* the development and enhancement of cooperation between the media representatives of the BSEC Member States;
- x.* *enhance* measures aimed at improving the efficiency of interaction between the population, the media and public authorities, as well as building a constructive dialogue;
- xi.* *encourage* initiatives to organize conferences and seminars for media representatives of the Black Sea countries on various priority topics;
- xii.* *continue* the practice of holding meetings of public national broadcasters of the BSEC Member States in order to contribute to the socio-economic development.

9. The Assembly invites the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to consider this Recommendation.