



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION
PABSEC

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

Doc.: GA63/EC62/REC196/24

RECOMMENDATION 196 /2024*

“Cooperation among the BSEC Member States in Energy Trading”

1. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) considers energy cooperation as an integral part of the concept of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and states that cooperation among the BSEC Member States in energy trading represents a mutually beneficial and complimentary component creating opportunities for enhancing national and global energy security counteracting climate change threats and ensuring the well-being of the peoples in the Region.
2. The PABSEC notes with appreciation that the Wider Black Sea Region is an important player in the global energy market. Due to its transit location at the crossroads of major transport corridors and energy routes connecting the West and the East, the North and the South, the BSEC region opens up new prospects for closer interaction aiming at diversification energy trading. The region is rich in energy resources itself and moreover is closely adjacent to significant oil and natural gas reserves that opens broad prospects for energy trading.
3. The PABSEC regrets that with the beginning of the military action in Ukraine, the situation in the global energy market deteriorated and energy prices began to skyrocket leading to widening energy shortage, increasing concerns about energy security, and slowing down the process of accession to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy resources. The current geopolitical crisis in the region deepens the uncertainty of the energy future and makes us aware of the need for more effective cooperation in the field of energy trading in the Wider Black Sea Region.
4. The PABSEC emphasizes that strengthening cooperation among the BSEC Member States in the field of energy trading is not possible without well-developed and modern energy infrastructure and multilateral regional and global energy projects, that ensure diversification and security of energy supply. The Assembly welcomes the ongoing efforts of the BSEC

Assembly's debate on 14 May 2024 (see Doc.: GA63/EC62/REP/24, Report of the Committee on Economic and Development Policy “Cooperation among the BSEC Member States in Energy Trading“, discussed in Zonguldak, the Republic of Türkiye, on 28 April 2024; Rapporteur: Ms. Pranvera Resulaj, Member of the Committee- the Republic of Albania).

The text was adopted at the General Assembly, on 14 May 2024, in Tirana, in the Republic of Albania.

Member States to implement important energy projects in the region, as well as to set a favourable investment climate to develop new energy projects of mutual interest. At the same time, it is necessary to ensure the introduction of new environmentally friendly and energy efficient technologies, energy saving, use of renewable energy sources, as well as the formation of new energy distribution systems.

5. The PABSEC notes the importance of strengthening the international legal regime based on the regulatory framework encompassing the relationship between international law entities. The effective legal framework ensures the necessary rules affecting the supply, production, transportation, distribution, and storage of energy resources for all energy market stakeholders. To this end, parliaments need to provide timely and clear legislative support to ensure strengthening the cooperation in the field of energy trading, including alternative renewable energy resources.

6. The PABSEC recalls its Recommendations in the field of the energy and trade issues, including Report and Recommendation 191 /2023 “The Role of Parliaments in Enhancing Energy Security in the BSEC Member States”, Report and Recommendation 155/2017 “Development of New and Renewable Sources of Energy in the BSEC Member States”, Report and Recommendation 98/2007 “The priorities of Cooperation between the BSEC Member States in the field of Energy: Oil and Gas Spheres”, Report and Recommendation 91/2006 “Alternative Energy Resources and their Possible Application in the Black Sea region”, Report and Recommendation 68/2003 “Cooperation in the Field of Energy”, Report and Recommendation 37/1999 “Trade Development in the Black Sea Region”, Report and Recommendation 23/1997 “Harmonization of Foreign Trade Regimes of the BSEC Participating States”, Report and Recommendation 16/1996 “Development of Cooperation in the field of Trade and Business among the BSEC Member Countries” and reiterates its commitment to strengthen cooperation in the field of energy trade in the Wider Black Sea Region.

7. The PABSEC welcomes the activities of the BSEC Organization and its bodies, on strengthening the cooperation among the BSEC Member States in the field of energy. The PABSEC highly appreciates the actions of the BSEC Working Group on Energy and stresses the need to intensify cooperation in implementing joint projects and initiatives.

8. The PABSEC attaches a special importance to enhancing collaboration with international and regional specialized organizations, including the structures of the United Nations, the International Renewable Energy Agency, the International Energy Agency, Energy Community Treaty, etc., and calls for shared responsibility to meet the existing energy challenges and ensure a clean energy future through the adoption of sustainable energy solutions.

9. Therefore, the Assembly recommends that the Parliaments and Governments of the BSEC Member States to:

- i. *improve* the legal basis to ensure effective cooperation in the field of energy trading;
- ii. *design* energy policies drawing on their own energy potential and in line with national interests and the general situation in international energy market;
- iii. *intensify* efforts to achieve a higher level of regional energy cooperation with due regard to the national priorities of the BSEC Member States;
- iv. *take further steps* to improve energy security and sustainable management of energy resources;
- v. *implement* measures to diversify the renewable and non-renewable energy supply, as well as their efficient transportation and storage;

- vi. *promote efforts* to increase the capacity of existing infrastructure and initiate new energy projects;
- vii. *create* a strong economic basis to protect citizens and society from sharp energy shortages by reducing dependence on imported and expensive energy sources;
- viii. *make efforts* to liberalize energy trade relations at the regional level through conclusion of new trade agreements;
- ix. *take steps* to reduce technical, administrative and other barriers in energy trading;
- x. *introduce* international standards in the field of transportation of energy resources ensuring environmental protection and sustainable development;
- xi. *ensure* an increase of the share of renewable energy sources in the energy balance and develop models of transition to a “green” economy and a “circular economy”;
- xii. *organize work* leading to implementation of low-carbon energy projects and fulfil climate change commitments;
- xiii. *stimulate* investments aimed at developing sustainable energy;
- xiv. *improve* policy coordination and legislative and regulatory framework in the sphere of energy trading;
- xv. *enhance* the exchange of best practices and knowledge in the field of deployment of renewable energy;
- xvi. *stimulate* capacity-building and technical expertise to strengthen cooperation in the field of energy trading;
- xvii. *encourage* cooperation among the BSEC Member States in accordance with their international obligations, by concluding bilateral and multilateral agreements, as well as memoranda of understanding and cooperation of the competent energy authorities;
- xviii. *contribute* to strengthening of the mechanism for information exchange on rules and regulations to ensure the integration of best practices and international standards into national regulatory systems;
- xix. *stimulate* joint research and development in the energy field;
- xx. *enlarge* the dialogue among energy exporting, importing and transit countries in the Black Sea region to ensure sustainability of energy security;
- xxi. *effectively deploy* the potential of financial institutions, including the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank to launch new energy projects in the BSEC region;
- xxii. *contribute* to the implementation of the strategic objectives in the energy sector stipulated in the BSEC statutory documents;
- xxiii. *provide* the necessary support to the activities of the BSEC Working Group on Energy and the implementation of its Action Plan.

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