



PARLIAMETARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION
PABSEC

Doc. GA64/LC64/REC200/24

RECOMMENDATION 200/2024*

“Legal Challenges of the Refugee and Migration Flows in the BSEC Region”

1. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) underlines that the growth of migration and refugee flows in the BSEC region is a serious problem that causes a wide range of concerns and requires a comprehensive approach to address it. The increase in the number of refugees is accompanied by humanitarian consequences, social and economic burdens, security and law-enforcement issues. At the same time, the existing legislative and legal frameworks often are not able to cope with the new realities, and therefore there is a need to improve the migration and refugee management.

2. The PABSEC acknowledges that the increasing flows of refugees and displaced persons due to geopolitical tensions, ongoing conflicts, economic problems, environmental degradation, as well as spontaneous influxes of refugees, pose urgent humanitarian problems, including access to food, shelter, health care and education, and give rise to security concerns, human trafficking and organized crime. Prolonged tensions and instability in the context of ongoing conflicts along with possible new waves of migration, both legal and illegal, may lead to new unpredictable challenges requiring the timely development of flexible and alternative strategies. Addressing refugee and migrant challenges is essential to enhancing economic growth, ensuring social cohesion and promoting global peace and stability.

3. The PABSEC recalls its previous Reports and Recommendations on “Social Impact of Refugee Crisis in the BSEC Member States” (187/2022), on “Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons and Irregular Migrants in the BSEC Member States – Social Aspects” (151/2016), on “Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons and Irregular Migrants in the BSEC Member States – Political Aspects,” (150/2016), on “Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons and Irregular Migrants in the BSEC Member States – Economic Aspects,” (149/2016), on “Migration in the BSEC Member States – Legal Aspects” (108/2009), on “Rights and Social Protection of Refugees and Displaced Persons” (21/1997), on “Rights and Social Protection of Refugees and Displaced Persons” (21/1997), and reiterates its commitment stated therein.

* Assembly debate on 11 December 2024 (See Doc. GA64/LC64/REP/24, Report of the Committee for Legal Affairs and International Cooperation “Legal Challenges of the Refugee and Migration Flows in the BSEC Region”, discussed on 29 October 2024 in Ioannina (Greece); Rapporteur: Mr. Mustafa HAMARAT, Vice-Chair of the Committee - Türkiye)

4. The PABSEC emphasizes that the intense mobility of people requires a multidisciplinary approach since the impact of these processes varies widely depending on each nation's specific context, including its geographic location, socio-economic capacity, and level of political stability. While most refugees seek safety and protection, the increase in refugee flows represents a significant humanitarian challenge that requires immediate and collective action. It is essential to responsibly and effectively address urgent migration and refugee management challenges that may create new security risks. Balancing the rights of refugees and migrants with the legitimate interests of host states constitutes a significant and urgent task.

5. The PABSEC notes that the BSEC Member States take necessary measures related to migration and refugee flows through cooperation between central and local public authorities and the non-governmental sector. It is essential to effectively address the urgent challenges of refugee and migration flow management by enhancing dialogue and cooperation on the issues of migration and refugee protection. When migrants and refugees are effectively integrated into society, people work together to build a common future and overcome common challenges.

6. The PABSEC underlines that addressing the legal challenges of refugee and migrant flows requires a multifaceted approach that balances humanitarian needs, national interests and international obligations. Solution to the problems of refugees and migrants is not only about the fate of certain individuals, but also the societies and the countries part of which they are. By focusing on the needs and potential of refugees and migrants, societies can promote greater social resilience and cohesion that implies the establishment of a solid mechanism to strengthen interaction between different population groups with the aim to improve the well-being.

7. The PABSEC welcomes the active cooperation of the BSEC Member States with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Council of Europe and other international organisations in the framework of dialogue promoting better migration management. The Assembly also welcomes providing expert advice, research findings, technical cooperation, and operational assistance to build national capacities and facilitate international, regional, and bilateral cooperation in improving the legal framework related to migration and refugee flows in the BSEC region.

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

- i. *strengthen* the legislative work of parliaments with the aim of adopting necessary laws to ensure the protection of the rights of migrants and refugees, as well as effective control over migration processes;
- ii. *elaborate* a coherent legal framework that is consistent with international human rights obligations and standards, while taking into account the national interests of the states;
- iii. *develop*, where necessary, comprehensive and coordinated migration policies that address both the needs of migrants and the concerns of the host countries;
- iv. *ensure* the legislative guarantee for providing free legal aid to refugees, displaced people and migrants;
- v. *take part in* development of inclusive policies that support both refugees and host populations, promoting social cohesion and ensuring access to economic opportunities for all;

- vi. *ensure* that urgent steps are taken to establish a timely and well-coordinated response to the legal challenges of migrants and refugees;
- vii. *take measures* to encourage close cooperation among the law-enforcement authorities with a view to establish coordinated management of refugee flows and crisis resolution;
- viii. *elaborate* asylum procedures, to meet the legal rights of a person seeking protection and to prevent social marginalization;
- ix. *strengthen* support for humanitarian initiatives to provide timely assistance to refugees and migrants, with special attention to basic needs such as food, shelter and healthcare;
- x. *promote* cooperation on irregular migration prevention, human trafficking and smuggling;
- xi. *facilitate* organization of awareness campaigns on the negative impact of illegal migration and of its adverse effects;
- xii. *organize* the efficient exchange of data and statistics on migration flows and information on the law-enforcement measures;
- xiii. *promote* timely information of refugees about any changes in their rights and responsibilities in accordance with the respective rules and regulations;
- xiv. *support* the development of training and capacity building programmes for migration officials to improve the effectiveness of migration crisis management;
- xv. *support* organisation of joint events with representatives of the migration agencies in the BSEC countries to exchange of views on the refugee issues;
- xvi. *strengthen* cooperation between central and local public authorities, non-governmental organisations and private sector in order to effectively address the complex migration and refugee challenges;
- xvii. *ensure* effective resolution of issues related to migration and refugees through collective decision-making with the participation of neighbouring countries and international organizations;
- xviii. *enhance* the partnerships with specialised international organizations for increasing institutional capacities;
- xix. *participate* more actively in the regional and inter-regional gatherings dedicated to migration regulation and refugee reception issues;
- xx. *strengthen* frameworks for bilateral cooperation in the migration sphere and, where necessary sign new agreements;
- xxi. *take every effort* to promote conflict resolution in the Black Sea region that are root causes of forced displacement in the region;
- xxii. *consider* the possibility of establishing a regional centre for exchange of information and best practices in the refugee field among the BSEC Member States.

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