



## PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION PABSEC

*Doc.: GA65/LC65/REC203/25*

### **RECOMMENDATION 203/2025\***

#### **“International Cooperation in the Fight against Organised Crime in the BSEC Region”**

1. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) emphasizes paramount importance of international cooperation as a cornerstone for effectively tackling the complex and pressing challenges posed by organized crime today. The challenges like global interconnectedness, escalation of cybercrime, pervasive corruption, skilled use of advanced technologies by criminals, socio-economic downturns, and considerable legal and regulatory gaps, demand a robust and unified response from international community at all levels. Broader international cooperation in the fight against organised crime is essential for establishing a formidable front against transnational criminal enterprises that endanger social stability and economic security. The commitment to concerted international endeavour in fighting organised crime lays the solid foundation for brighter future for emerging generations.
2. The PABSEC acknowledges that the strategic location of the Wider Black Sea Region, with its multiple sea routes and transport corridors linking East to West and North to South, provides a conducive environment for illegal activities. The complexities surrounding migration in this region greatly complicate efforts to combat organized crime, creating vulnerabilities that traffickers and smugglers readily exploit. A unified approach will enhance border security, ensure the protection of vulnerable populations, and create a more resilient framework for tackling the intertwined issues of migration and organized crime. Effective coordinated efforts are essential to safeguard the integrity of the Wider Black Sea Region and protect it from the far-reaching threats posed by organized criminal enterprises.
3. The PABSEC emphasizes that parliaments play a crucial role as essential platforms for fostering international cooperation in the fight against organized crime. By elaborating on legislative reforms and facilitating cross-border dialogue, parliaments create a framework that not only addresses existing gaps but also anticipates future challenges. This collaborative approach significantly enhances the collective capacity of nations to tackle organized crime more effectively. When legislative bodies come together, they share best practices, harmonize legal standards, and develop unified strategies that respond to the complexities of transnational criminal networks. By prioritizing international collaboration and legislative reform, parliaments lay the groundwork for a safer, more secure world, where justice prevails.

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\* Assembly debate on 19 June 2025 (See Doc. GA65/LC65/REP/25, Report of the Committee for Legal Affairs and International Cooperation “International Cooperation in the Fight against Organised Crime in the BSEC Region”, discussed on 29 April 2025 in Skopje (the Republic of North Macedonia); Rapporteur: Mr. Kamran BAYRAMOV, member of the Committee - Azerbaijan)

4. The PABSEC recalls its previous Reports and Recommendations “The Role of Parliaments in Preventing Human Trafficking – Legal and Political Aspects ” (180/2021), “Role of the Parliaments in providing legal Framework for Combating Corruption” (147/2015), “Role of the Parliaments in Enhancing Information (Cyber) Security in the BSEC Member States,” (129/2012), “Implementation of the Agreements among the BSEC Member States on Combating Organized Crime” (124/2011), “The Role of the Parliaments of the BSEC Member States in Fighting International Terrorism” (102/2008), “Basic Principles of the Black Sea Convention on Combating Organized Crime and Terrorism” (17/1996), “Cooperation among the PABSEC Member Countries in Combating Organized Crime” (15/1996), underscoring its commitment to bolstering international cooperation in the fight against organised crime in the BSEC region.

5. The PABSEC emphasizes that combating organised crime necessitates a multidisciplinary approach that draws on the expertise and resources of various sectors, and it relies heavily on strong collaboration among relevant law enforcement authorities at both national and international levels. This collaboration facilitates a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted issues, enabling the development of targeted strategies that encompass prevention, enforcement, and rehabilitation. The synergistic efforts in the fight against organized crime should also engage non-governmental and civil society organizations recognizing their vital role in prevention and awareness-raising efforts.

6. The PABSEC is pleased to acknowledge the proactive steps taken by BSEC Member States in their fight against organized crime. To combat these criminal activities effectively, targeted measures are being implemented within the realm of legal support. This includes establishing a solid legal framework that provides expertise, policy guidance, and tailored capacity-building programs to meet specific legislative needs. By fostering a united effort and sharing valuable insights, the BSEC Member States strive to enhance their collective capabilities in tackling organized crime and safeguarding the security in the region.

7. The PABSEC emphasizes the critical importance of bolstering cooperation through both bilateral and multilateral formats to establish robust mechanisms and programs for devising comprehensive strategies aimed at effectively combating criminal organizations. Multilateral frameworks for interparliamentary cooperation foster essential platforms for the exchange of information and best practices as well as facilitate discussions on opportunities to enhance mutual support in the ongoing battle against organized crime. International cooperation, harnessing the strengths and insights of various nations, is vital for addressing the complexities of organized crime and ensuring the well-being of people across the region.

8. The PABSEC welcomes the continued deepening of cooperation within the BSEC Organization in the fight against organized crime, as outlined in Goal 16: Combating Organized Crime, Illegal Trafficking of Drugs and Weapons, Terrorism, Corruption, and Money Laundering within the “BSEC Economic Agenda towards a Sustainable Future of the wider Black Sea area.” While significant progress has already been made, it is crucial for the Black Sea region to fully leverage all its opportunities. Through coordinated efforts the Member States must commit to ensuring that effective measures are implemented to combat these complex threats. By working together, the PABSEC and the BSEC can create a safer environment that fosters stability, security, and prosperity for the entire Black Sea region.

9. The PABSEC also welcomes the active cooperation among the Member States within the UN and the EU institutions dedicated to ensuring global security and stability. Additionally, collaboraton with different international organizations including Interpol, Europol, and other

regional frameworks, plays a vital role in developing comprehensive strategies that effectively combat criminal organizations. By fostering these partnerships, the Member States can enhance their collective capabilities to address the multifaceted challenges posed by organized crime.

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

- i. *harmonize* laws and regulations across countries to ensure consistent legal definitions and procedures related to organized crime for facilitating international cooperation in the fight against organised crime in the BSEC region;
- ii. *promote* bilateral and multilateral cooperation for more efficient mutual legal assistance, and evidence sharing;
- iii. *strive to ensure* that national legislation and law enforcement practices are coherent to facilitate the implementation of anti-crime measures;
- iv. *form* dedicated task forces comprising law enforcement, border security, customs, and intelligence agencies from different countries to tackle specific organized crime issues in the region;
- v. *facilitate* development of secure platforms for real-time sharing of intelligence and information related to criminal activities, trends, and networks among member states;
- vi. *promote* the establishment of a shared database among countries to monitor and combat the activities of organized criminal organizations
- vii. *invest* in advanced technologies and data analytics tools to track and analyse patterns of organized crime, including cybercrime.
- viii. *conduct* joint training programs for law enforcement personnel to enhance their skills in investigating and prosecuting organized crime;
- ix. *provide* technical assistance and resources to countries with rather limited capacities to combat organized crime effectively;
- x. *establish* unified approaches to migration management through intelligence sharing and border security to combat human trafficking and smuggling;
- xi. *update* operational methods and develop advanced tools for monitoring digital threats, and enhance international cooperation for information sharing;
- xii. *strengthen* digital security and financial transparency to enable timely and coordinated detection of suspicious financial activities;
- xiii. *develop*, where necessary, comprehensive and coordinated policies to strengthen state institutions, and implement anti-corruption reforms alongside a robust judicial system;
- xiv. *encourage* collaboration between governmental agencies and private sector entities, such as banks and telecommunications companies, to prevent money laundering and cybercrime;
- xv. *establish* reporting mechanisms that allow businesses to report suspicious activities related to organized crime;
- xvi. *participate* in parallel investigations, international police operations, and Joint Investigation Teams (JIT) to enhance enforcement capabilities;
- xvii. *implement* educational programs to inform the public about organized crime risks, fostering citizen involvement in crime prevention;

- xviii. *initiate* public awareness campaigns to educate people about the dangers of organized crime and how to report suspicious activities;
- xix. *involve* local population in crime prevention initiatives to build trust and resilience against organized crime;
- xx. *engage* civil society organizations, NGOs, and specialized agencies in joint preventive measures and policy development;
- xxi. *enhance* partnerships with specialized international organizations to increase institutional capacities;
- xxii. *organize* international conferences focused on fight against organized crime to facilitate dialogue, share experiences, and reinforce commitments to international cooperation in the fight against organised crime in the BSEC region;
- xxiii. *participate* more actively in regional and inter-regional gatherings focused on combating organized crime;
- xxiv. *strengthen* frameworks for bilateral cooperation in combating organized crime and, where necessary, sign new agreements;
- xxv. *foster* regional cooperation agreements that address shared vulnerabilities and joint initiatives against organized crime;
- xxvi. *utilize* existing tools such as networks, liaisons, police cooperation agreements to strengthen collaboration among the Member States;
- xxvii. *promote* participation in specialized forums and platforms for law enforcement and policymakers to discuss emerging trends and challenges in organized crime;
- xxviii. *actively engage* in the interparliamentary coordination mechanisms established by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and ensure the effective implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding with the UNOCT;
- xxix. *consider* establishing a Regional Centre within the BSEC dedicated to monitoring and combating organised criminal activities, which would also facilitate the exchange of critical information among the Member States;
- xxx. *actively support* the initiatives of the BSEC Working Group on Combating Crime, Especially in Its Organised Forms, to promote the effective implementation of its comprehensive Action Plan;
- xxxi. *enhance* the role of the BSEC Crime Liaison Officers Network in the fight against organised crime by fostering greater information exchange and organising collaborative support for mutual assistance during criminal investigations;

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