

## **RECOMMENDATION 89/2006\***

### **ON**

### **Dialogue among the cultures as a means to build trust among nations**

1. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation is fully aware of the significance of dialogue among cultures as a major means to build trust among the nations of the BSEC region. The idea of “intercultural dialogue” takes as its starting point the recognition of differences and the diversity of the world in which we live. These differences of opinions, viewpoints, and values exist not only within each individual culture but also between cultures within the BSEC region.
2. An effective dialogue is mutually enriching interaction which encourages the respectful sharing of ideas and an exploration of the different thought-processes through which the world is perceived and understood. This interaction emphasizes opportunities for broadened and deepened self-knowledge and worldview.
3. The Assembly recognises that tolerance is a fundamental value common to all civilizations and that this includes respect for others, regardless of diversity of belief, culture and language neither fearing nor repressing differences within and between societies but cherishing them as a precious asset of humanity.
4. The Assembly underlines the crucial role of education in promoting a scientific approach and an ethical and spiritual value system which facilitate the use of knowledge and reasoning in understanding other cultures among the BSEC region and recalls its Recommendations 10/1995 on “*Cooperation among the PABSEC Member Countries of the Improvement of Education*”, 24/1997 on “*Youth Cooperation in the Black Sea Region*”, 27/1998 on “*Cooperation of the Academic Communities of the BSEC Member States and its Legal Framework*”, 31/1998 on “*Mutual Recognition of of Higher Education Diplomas by the PABSEC Member Countries*” and 56/2001 on “*Black Sea Universities Network: contribution to the Academic Cooperation*”.

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\* *Rapporteur: Mr. Vladimir Badalyan, Vice-Chairman of the Committee (Armenia)*

The Assembly debate on 8th June 2006 (see Doc. GA27/CC26/REP/06 – Report on “Dialogue among cultures in order to build trust among nations”, discussed by the Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee at its Twenty Sixth Meeting in Belgrade on 5 April 2006 – Rapporteur: Prof. Fillipos Tsalidis (Greece)

*Text adopted by the Twenty Seventh General Assembly in Yerevan on 8 June 2006.*

5. The Assembly also affirms that the respect for the diversity of cultures, the protection and promotion of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, the values of tolerance and mutual understanding are fostered through multi-civilisational discourse, and in this connection recalls its Recommendation 4/1994 on “*The Joint Research Programme on the History of the Black Sea Basin*”, 6/1994 on “*Protection of the Cultural Heritage of the PABSEC Member Countries*”, 18/1996 on “*Guidelines for the Program of the Protection of the Cultural Heritage in the Black Sea Region*”, 70/2003 on “*The Role of Culture in the Development of the BSEC Region*” and 80/2004 “*Preservation and Enhancement of Cultural Heritage in the BSEC Member States*”.

6. The Assembly fully recognises the importance of the development of tourism that also constitutes a vital means for the dialogue among cultures and recalls Recommendation 32/1999 on “*Development of Tourism in the Black Sea Region*” and 83/2005 on “*Cooperation in the sphere of cultural tourism in the Black Sea region*”. At the same time it underlines the importance of the Mass Media as an intercultural instrument and recalls Recommendation 47/2000 on “*The Role of Mass Media in Promoting Cooperation in the Black Sea Region*”.

7. The Assembly welcomes the process of the European Union enlargement realizing the benefits of the European integration for the BSEC Member States but at the same time expresses the belief that each BSEC Member State should seek to protect their cultural, educational and social identity. It recalls Recommendation 86/2005 on “*Cultural, Educational and Social Aspects of the European Enlargement: consequences for the Black Sea Region*”.

8. The Assembly recalls also that the issue of bilateral and multilateral cultural cooperation among the BSEC member states lies within the scope of the 1993 *Black Sea Convention on Cooperation in the Fields of Culture, Education, Science and Information*.

9. **Therefore, the Parliamentary Assembly recommends** the Parliaments and Governments of the BSEC member states:

**i) to encourage** the respect for differences and the tolerance of others in society, regardless of their sex, race, ethnic groups, religion or political affiliation, as well as the respect and tolerance for other cultures and civilizations;

**ii) to recognise** that dialogue among different cultures-within the members states as well as between the states- can contribute to making their common values, including universal human rights, more discernible;

**iii) to welcome** the contribution of the positive and mutually beneficial interaction among cultures throughout human history to the peaceful coexistence of nations and to the cultural enrichment of people;

**iv) to take** into account that education contributes to better understanding of other cultures and civilizations;

**v) to encourage** the fulfilment of all cultures present in the BSEC region by enacting laws providing for freedom of expression and creation;

**vi) to guarantee** equal access and participation in cultural life for every group of society, so that the cultural diversity is promoted in the spirit of democracy;

**vii) to foster**, while fully respecting human rights, and with a particular focus on the local and regional level, the development of tolerant and equitable relations between BSEC member states and between all culturally diverse groups in the BSEC region of each State;

**viii) to involve** the International Centre for the Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) in order to promote cooperation, exchange and scientific researches in the field of culture;

**ix) to encourage** at local and regional level participation in intercultural dialogue in the spirit of cultural citizenship and with a view to cultural democracy;

**x) to create** a space for dialogue and cultural citizenship in which it is possible to express disagreement, which is not only part of the democratic process but also its guarantor;

**xi) to consider** the development of knowledge of history, cultures, arts and religious from school age onwards to be of central importance;

**xii) to contribute** to the development of intercultural dialogue by encouraging, whenever possible, action intended to bring together different cultural groups through intercultural events and practices, aimed at all age groups and all socio-cultural groups, within programmes implemented by cultural institutions responsible for the fine arts, theatre, literature, etc;

**xiii) to follow** the pattern of the European Union regarding the “Year of Intercultural Dialogue” and consider the creation of a Forum within the BSEC countries based on the dialogue among the cultures;

**xiv) to invite** the BSEC Member States, that have not done so, to accede to *the 1993 Black Sea Convention on Cooperation in the Fields of Culture, Education, Science and Information*;

**xv) to counteract** the conflict of civilizations with the dialogue of cultures in a way that none of the cultures have dominance over others providing a possibility for the nations to perceive cultural diversity provided that national identity is preserved.

**10. The Parliamentary Assembly** invites the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to consider its Recommendation.