



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION
PABSEC

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

Doc.: GA54/CC53/REC172/19

RECOMMENDATION 172/2019*

“Unemployment in the BSEC Member States. The Role of the State in Facilitating Job Creation”

1. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) underlines that the unemployment is one of the topical social problems which the world community faces today. The issues related to jobs creation are among the priority tasks of the public sector in the countries in the BSEC region. The role of the state in job creation should be aimed at the growth of sustainable activities, increasing productivity and employment, promoting a balanced distribution of human resources.
2. The PABSEC recalls its Recommendations on issues related to unemployment: Recommendation on Social Guarantees During the Transition Period (14/1996); Social Reintegration of Jobless People (67/2002); The Fight Against Poverty (74/2003); Improvement of the Quality of Life in the BSEC Member States (100/2007); The Impact of Globalization on the Social Policies in the BSEC Member State (106/2008); Social Welfare Reforms in the BSEC Member States (130/2012); Youth Unemployment and Employment Policies in the BSEC Region: the Need to Empower the Young Generation (139/2014).
3. The PABSEC welcomes the efforts of the BSEC Member States focused on the improvement of the social policy legislation aiming at providing sustainable labour climate, relevant to the labour demands, assuring decent living conditions for their citizens. The parliaments and the governments of the BSEC Member States pursue employment policies to facilitate adaptable labour force that can innovate, progress, and develop human capacity. The policies and programmes also aim at eliminating any discrimination, ensuring equal opportunities regarding the access to employment, the vocational guidance and education.

* Assembly debate on 21 November (see Doc.: GA54/CC53/REP/19, Report of the Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee on *Unemployment in the BSEC Member States. The Role of the State in Facilitating Job Creation*, discussed in Chisinau, on 21 October 2019; Rapporteur: Mrs. Anush Begloian, Member of the Committee, Armenia).
Text adopted at the General Assembly in Sofia on 20 November 2019

4. The PABSEC considers that the social reforms, tackling the unemployment, poverty and social inequalities require the active joint efforts of the parliaments, the governments and the private sector, in the elaboration of joint policies for the establishment of a sustainable social systems. The social welfare sustainability helps people to cope with the major risks of life and to better adapt to changing economic, political, demographic and social conditions.
5. The PABSEC underlines that unemployment level determines the living standards of the population. The structural changes in the economic sphere, decrease in the number of employed people and increase in the number of unemployed strengthens differentiation of the society. In countries with high unemployment, individuals are pushed to search labour opportunities abroad, which also lead to informal employment. That is why, the employment policies need to be complemented with the reforms related to macroeconomic stability, private sector development, education system, social protection, etc.
6. The PABSEC notes that the speedy technological progress strongly affects the labour markets drastically and reshapes the employment systems. As the governments and the private sector integrate technologies even further in their processes, and the individuals adopt these technologies across various spheres, the demand for digital workers grows.
7. Development of new informational technologies calls for increase in qualified professionals and promotes creation of new opportunities for labour. Many countries face lack of qualified professionals that generates the need for preparing new personnel meeting the contemporary requirements.
8. The PABSEC shares the global approach that focuses on the implementation of the United Nations (UN) 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), particularly Goal 8: “Decent work and economic growth”. This framework needs to be appropriately tailored to specific political, legal, economic and social circumstances of each country.
9. The PABSEC appreciates the efforts made by the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) within the framework the “BSEC Economic Agenda: Towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership” (Istanbul, 2012), which refers to the promotion of the social well-being as a major BSEC priority. The BSEC Organization has not yet paid adequate attention to the problem of unemployment and given the fact that employment and unemployment are factors behind the economic growth, it is expedient that this issue is duly addressed at the inter-governmental level.
10. Therefore, the PABSEC recommends that the parliaments and the governments of the BSEC Member States:
 - i. *promote* employment policies to facilitate job creation through the development of efficient labour legislation and employment programmes, taking into consideration the specifics of each country;
 - ii. *adopt* measures to respond to the needs of the vulnerable groups of the society, such as women, young workers, disabled persons, elderly workers, working pensioners by providing labour market programmes in order to address the specific obstacles;
 - iii. *address* discrimination in employment on the basis of age by providing legislation and public-awareness campaigns;

- iv. *improve* the working environment through long-term strategies to enhance quality employment;
- v. *support* ongoing reforms to improve the business environment and support the SMEs aiming to provide appropriate business climate, which, in return, will facilitate job creation and economic growth;
- vi. *support* stronger collaboration between the labour market institutions and business, trade unions, higher education institutions to set strategic priorities and resolve concrete challenges in unemployment sphere;
- vii. *facilitate* the development of technology as a mean of increasing productive potential and achieving the major objectives of creation of better employment opportunities and decent working conditions;
- viii. *take* measures to reduce risks of informal employment in the BSEC Member States and elimination of labour market imbalances through promoting greater access to local labour markets, information resources, training facilities, etc.;
- ix. *further maintain* the decrease of unemployment and boosting job creation as high-priority issues towards social integration and economic growth;
- x. *adopt or improve* legislation, where necessary, regulating the employment policies in order to create reliable and sustainable labour markets, playing an important role in job creation;
- xi. *facilitate* attraction of foreign investments by ensuring improvement in the business and investment climate, eliminating barriers for the entry of new enterprises and creation of new jobs;
- xii. *strengthen* public protection against unemployment and focus on development of self-realisation including the work for career counselling for population;
- xiii. *stimulate* a strong partnership between the governments and the private sector to ensure a comprehensive labour market information on available vacancies;
- xiv. *provide* coordination between the statistical systems of the BSEC Member States, the national stakeholders, such as civil society, academia and private sector;
- xv. *invite* the Member States to facilitate the exchange of best practices, including guidelines and regulatory procedures in the field of the employment policies and responses to facilitate job creation;

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