



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION
PABSEC

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

Doc.: GA61/EC60/REC191/23

RECOMMENDATION 191 /2023*

“The Role of Parliaments in Enhancing Energy Security in the BSEC Member States”

1. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) acknowledges the crucial role of energy for human existence and activity and emphasizes the important role of parliaments in creating legal framework for a contemporary, resource-efficient green and inclusive economy, which contributes to the increased use of renewable energy sources, strengthening of energy security and effective fight against the climate change.
2. The PABSEC notes the particular importance of energy security for the countries of the Wider Black Sea Region, through which the main routes for transporting energy resources to the world market pass and transnational energy projects of regional and global importance are implemented.
3. The PABSEC stresses the importance of energy security as a crucial element of economic development and strengthening stability. Maintaining energy and environmental security at an appropriate level is one of the main directions of the government activities. In this regard, it is necessary to enlarge the dialogue between energy exporting, importing and transit countries in order to strengthen good neighborly relations and prevent possible energy market abuses. Security and solidarity in the energy sector depends to a large extent on adherence to the principles of equity, transparency and openness.
4. The PABSEC recalls its Recommendations in the field of energy, including Recommendation 155/2017 “Development of New and Renewable Sources of Energy in the BSEC Member States”, Recommendation 98/2007 “The priorities of Cooperation between the BSEC Member States in the field of Energy: Oil and Gas Spheres”, Recommendation 91/2006 “Alternative Energy Resources and their Possible Application in the Black Sea region”, Recommendation 68/2003 “Cooperation in the Field of Energy”; and reiterates its commitment to strengthen cooperation in the field of energy security in the Wider Black Sea Region.

Assembly’s debate on 5 May 2023 (see Doc.: GA61/EC60/REP/23, Report of the Economic, Commercial and Financial Affairs Committee “The Role of Parliaments in Enhancing Energy Security in the BSEC Member States“, discussed on 7 April 2023; Rapporteur: Ms. Vjollca Ademi, Member of the Committee- the Republic of North Macedonia.

The text adopted at the General Assembly in Ankara on 5 May 2023.

5. The PABSEC shares the opinion that among the threats to energy security, economic, social, political, technogenic and natural changes have special place and often are interconnected. In the contemporary world, with the growing demand for energy resources and the dependence of economies on their stable supply, it is important to ensure durable energy security, diversification of energy sources, and energy efficiency as part of a constructive dialogue between the market stakeholders. In this regard, the PABSEC supports the policies pursued by the BSEC Member States aimed at enhancing energy systems, transition to a green economy and ensuring green growth.

6. The PABSEC regrettably emphasizes that geopolitical instability, ongoing conflicts in the Wider Black Sea Region and a general decline of climate of confidence in the world undermine energy security, that can have serious consequences for states and economies, limiting their socio-economic development. Governments are readjusting their energy strategies to reflect new geopolitical realities and to ensure sufficient, reliable and secure supplies of energy.

7. The PABSEC appreciates the role of parliaments in enhancing energy security and welcomes the efforts of national parliaments in the elaboration of appropriate legislation, which provides framework for the reduction of the energy crisis and consequences of climate change. Adequate parliamentary support is crucial for adopting effective decisions based on a comprehensive approach to energy security.

8. 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 appreciates the actions of the BSEC Working Group on Energy and stresses the need to intensify the cooperation with the aim to implement joint projects and initiatives.

9. The PABSEC attaches a special importance to the joint efforts of authorities at all levels as well as enhanced collaboration with international and regional specialized organizations and agencies, including the United Nations, the International Renewable Energy Agency, the international Energy Agency, Energy Community, etc., as a useful mechanism for an effective resolution of the energy crisis.

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

- i. *improve* the legal basis of economic relations in the field of energy and energy security, in order to improve the quality and standard of living of citizens;
- ii. *take further steps* to diversify the energy supply, secure alternative fuel supplies and ensure the efficiency of transformation, transport, and storage of energy resources;
- iii. *encourage* investment opportunities in the energy sector for upgrading energy infrastructure and technology to increase productivity and sustainability;
- iv. *make efforts* to mitigate the energy vulnerabilities, caused by the post-pandemic economic recovery and the ongoing conflicts;
- v. *take measures* to find solutions to the geopolitical challenges, undermining the energy security in the region;
- vi. *elaborate* regulatory and legal documents to increase the share of knowledge-based industries in the economy and introduce new energy-saving technologies in order to increase energy efficiency and promote the use of renewable energy sources;
- vii. *make efforts* to develop effective legislation for the development of green and digital energy;
- viii. *encourage* regional initiatives for the development of new alternative types of energy as a strategic solution to the problem of climate change: biofuels, solar, wind, geothermal energy, etc., as well as for the use of non-traditional energy sources;

- ix. *promote* further collaboration among the BSEC Member States in accordance with their national legislation and international commitments;
- x. *provide* legislative support to the projects with participation of private sector promoting sustainable energy development and environmental sustainability issues in the BSEC region;
- xi. *deepen* the cooperation among the BSEC Member States, in the field of energy security, by concluding bilateral or multilateral agreements, as well as protocols of cooperation and memorandums of understanding among competent national authorities and agencies;
- xii. *exchange information* on national energy legislation and review, as appropriate, the existing laws and regulations, to ensure the consistency and conformity of domestic legislation with international standards and guidelines on energy;
- xiii. *effectively deploy* financing and credit instruments of the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank and other financial institutions, in order to support regional energy projects;
- xiv. *promote* implementation of the strategic objectives in the energy sector, stipulated in the BSEC policy documents;
- xv. *provide* the necessary support to the activities of the BSEC Working Group on Energy and the implementation of its Action Plan.

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