



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION
PABSEC

Doc. GA64/EC63/REC199/24

RECOMMENDATION 199 /2024*

“Transport Infrastructure as a Means of Development in the BSEC Member States”

1. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) acknowledges that transport infrastructure is a vital means of development of states and regions. Transport infrastructure development is a complex but important task requiring rigorous planning and effective investment. Transport infrastructure, together with high-quality transport services, ensures the functioning of all modes of transport, promotes trade, economic growth, social inclusion and sustainability. Efficient transport infrastructure facilitates the movement of goods and passengers, reduces transport costs and time, expands trade opportunities and promotes new jobs. Strong transport links allow countries to diversify supply chains and manage them effectively, increasing competitiveness and economic stability. Well-developed transport networks improve the quality of life of people and ensure safe, environmentally friendly and accessible transport at the local, national and international levels. The development of transport infrastructure is a prerequisite for steady and sustainable development of the BSEC Member States.

2. The PABSEC emphasizes the strategic importance of the Black Sea region due to its geopolitical location and the status as a vital transport corridor and major transit hub. The development of transport infrastructure in the Member States and the region as a whole plays a special role in the strategic development of the Black Sea region, opening up opportunities for sustainable economic growth, expanding trade, strengthening regional integration and improving mutual relations. The construction of a modern, well-developed and reliable infrastructure network in the BSEC region, integrated into the global transport system, as well as the successful implementation of multilateral transport projects contribute to the strengthening of economic, social and geopolitical relations.

3. The PABSEC recalls its previous transport related Recommendations: Recommendation 174/2020 “Legislative Framework for the Realization of the Projects Connecting Europe and Asia (One Belt - One Road)”; Recommendation 171/2019 “Legal and Political Aspects of the Development of Transport Routes in the BSEC Region”; Recommendation 140/2014 “The Role of Parliaments of the BSEC Member States in the Enhancement and Regulation of International Passenger and Cargo Transportation in the BSEC Region”; Recommendation 115/2010 “The Legal Framework for Regulation of Civil Aviation in the BSEC Member States”; Recommendation 107/2009 “Development of the Sea Transport in the Black Sea Region: Problems and Prospects”; Recommendation 84/2005 “Development of the Transport

* Assembly debate on 11 December 2024 (See Doc.GA64/EC63/REP/24, Report of the Committee on Economic and Development Policy “Transport Infrastructure as a Means of Development in the BSEC Member States“, discussed on 17 October 2024 in Istanbul,; Rapporteur: Mr. Mitar KOVAC, Member of the Committee - the Republic of Serbia).

Infrastructure in the Black Sea Region”; Recommendation 40/99 “Legal and Political Aspects of the Transport Systems Integration Process in the Black Sea Region”; Recommendation 29/1998 “Transport in the Black Sea Region”; Recommendation 13/1996 “Cooperation in Transportation among the BSEC Member Countries” and reiterates its commitment stated therein.

4. The PABSEC appreciates the efforts of the BSEC Member States in developing sustainable transportation systems within long-term strategic and financial planning. Policies to improve transport infrastructure and the sustainable development of transport address a wide range of social, financial, technological, infrastructure and environmental issues at local, national and international levels. An efficient and transport infrastructure and networks greatly help realise the benefits of regional integration, promote trade and investment, and make progress in other areas of cooperation. Joint efforts within the framework of multilateral and bilateral agreements, with due regard to the interests of each BSEC Member State, strengthen regional development and integration, promoting economic resilience and sustainable development of the region.

5. The PABSEC emphasizes that transport is of particular importance in the context of geopolitical tensions. Transport infrastructure is a strategic asset in terms of national security and geopolitics. Key transport routes are transformed into strategic and economic advantages and enhance the influence of countries in regional and global politics. Reliable transport networks and logistics ensure efficient and prompt delivery of necessary resources. Protecting transport infrastructure and ensuring sustainable mobility are essential for economic stability and geopolitical security.

6. The PABSEC welcomes the efforts of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) in implementing the transport goals defined in the “The BSEC Economic Agenda - Towards a sustainable future of the Wider Black Sea area” (2023) in cooperation with the BSEC Related Bodies and in the framework of the activities of the BSEC Working Group on Transport. In this respect, the PABSEC expresses its full support to intensification of cooperation towards development of modern road and maritime infrastructure and facilitation of international transport of goods in the region.

7. The PABSEC shares the global approach towards implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the United Nations Paris Climate Agreement (2015). These approaches must be appropriately adapted to the specific political, legal, economic and social conditions of each country. To this end, the PABSEC welcomes organisation of the International Forum in Rize “Logistics and Transportation in the Black Sea Region” (28 September 2024) and UN Climate Change Conference (COP-29) in Baku (11-12 November 2024).

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

- i. *improve the legal basis* to ensure effective transport infrastructure and enhancement of cooperation in the field of transport;
- ii. *organize* a thorough assessments of current transportation needs with a view to develop holistic transport plans that consider all modes of transport, including road, rail, air, and waterways;
- iii. *create* a robust and adaptive transport infrastructure that supports economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability;
- iv. *consider* the possibilities of integrating multi-modal transport networks that facilitate seamless transfers of necessary goods between different modes of transport and improve transportation efficiency;
- v. *promote* transport policies of the BSEC Member States with the aim to increase the competitiveness of national economies and achieve sustainable mobility and high efficiency of the transport sector;

- vi. *further encourage* implementation of Agreements and Conventions established under the auspices of the UNECE;
- vii. *join efforts* to overcome the challenges facing the transport sector, such as reducing the environmental impact, modernization and digitalization of transport, implementation of intelligent transport systems, improving the competitiveness of transport enterprises, etc.;
- viii. *promote* speeding up implementation of measures related to the facilitation of border crossing and transition of goods through transport corridors;
- ix. *take steps* for improvement of transport infrastructure, logistical capabilities and human capital, removal of non-tariff barriers, and introduction of coordinated policies and strategies;
- x. *intensify efforts* to achieve a high level of regional transport cooperation with due regard to the national priorities of the BSEC Member States;
- xi. *promote efforts* to increase the capacity of existing infrastructure, create new and improve current infrastructure, and initiate new transport projects;
- xii. *stimulate* investments aimed at ensuring greening transport;
- xiii. *use* efficiently the existing mechanisms of bilateral and multilateral cooperation to ensure result-oriented approach to the regional infrastructure connectivity;
- xiv. *encourage* implementation of projects foreseen by the Memoranda of Understanding on Coordinated Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway and Development of the Motorways of the Sea in the BSEC Region, Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC region;
- xv. *encourage* cooperation among the BSEC Member States in accordance with their international obligations, by concluding bilateral and multilateral agreements, as well as memoranda of understanding and cooperation in the field of transport;
- xvi. *effectively deploy* the potential of financial institutions, including the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank to launch new transport infrastructure projects in the BSEC region;
- xvii. *make active use* of the public-private partnership for financing and managing transport infrastructure projects;
- xviii. *utilize the valuable expertise* of the BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partners on the issues of facilitation of road, maritime and multimodal transportation;
- xix. *promote* participation of all Member States in the “BSEC Permit Project”;
- xx. *support organization* of regional seminars, round tables and events aimed at sharing best practices and exchange of information in the sphere of transport among experts of the BSEC Member States, other states and international organizations;
- xxi. *intensify cooperation* with the BSEC Working Group on Transport in the field of developing regional transport projects and infrastructure and provide the necessary support to the implementation of its Action Plan.

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