

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION
PABSEC

THE THIRD PLENARY SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Doc.: EC 241/94

RECOMMENDATION 1/1994¹

on

the Improvement of Customs
Regulations among the BSEC
Member Countries

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation

1. Restates its determination, taking into consideration the general principles and objectives of "The Bosphorus Statement," of giving utmost importance to developing mutually beneficial economic cooperation as well as of achieving prosperity and peace in the region,
 2. Places special emphasis on the expansion of mutual economic and commercial cooperation among the member states and on the implementation of specific projects of common interests and concerns as well as the problems of the member countries which are in transition to free market economies,
 3. Puts particular significance on the establishment of conditions favorable to free trade among the member states through the reduction or gradual elimination of obstacles and restrictions of all kinds in regard to customs regulations,
 4. Reiterates the utmost importance of increasing trade volume by means of establishing sound and standardized customs mechanism in compliance with the GATT principles, Kyoto and Nairobi Conventions and Customs Cooperation Council's Recommendations, to the extent possible, among the BSEC member states in order for the achievement of a higher degree of integration of the member states into the world economy,
 5. Reassures that, while substantiating its efforts towards the accomplishment of mutually advantageous customs relations among the BSEC member states, it will take into account the specific economic conditions, interests, and concerns of the countries involved as well as the problems of the countries in transition to market economies, in particular.
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¹ The Assembly debate on 21 June, 1994 (See Doc.: EC 214/94 - Report of the Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee on "The Improvement of Customs Regulations Among the BSEC Member Countries." Rapporteur: Mr. Cristian Dumitrescu).

Text adopted by the Assembly on 21 June, 1994 in Bucharest

II. The Assembly, therefore,

1. Urges the National Parliaments:

- a. To give all possible assistance at the national and regional levels of all initiatives undertaken with a view to enlarge and deepen the economic cooperation among the BSEC member countries, putting special emphasis on bilateral and multilateral projects in the spirit of upgrading their economic development as well as their integration into the European economic structure,
- b. To take urgent steps in their Parliaments towards the mutually beneficial modification of customs legislation among the BSEC member countries.
- c. To enact legislation to relax the extreme protectionist provisions which hinder trade among the BSEC member countries,
- d. To take necessary measures for the gradual adoption of GATT and other universal customs regulation principles, to the extent possible, in order to expedite the economic integration of the BSEC member countries with the rest of the world,
- e. To provide necessary information to the member countries to facilitate the mitigation of the disparities among them in their national legislation and to encourage the creation of a comprehensive framework for their customs regulations,
- f. To provide for the timely ratification of international agreements regarding the customs cooperation among the BSEC member countries.

2. Recommends the Governments of the BSEC member countries and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC):

- a. To re-examine existing customs legislation in order to generate a new framework to the advantage of all the member countries, beginning with the gradual elimination of any barriers encountered in trade among them, and through the examination of the European Union and other relevant regional economic structures,
- b. To form a BSEC working group for the purpose of examining and identifying the areas to be modified in the customs legislation,
- c. To ask for the involvement of the BSEC Council, private sector and governmental as well as non-governmental organizations in the mutual customs regulations development process,
- d. To pay particular attention to the redevelopment of the customs regimes, tariffs, non-tariff measures, international transportation, registration systems, insurance, licensing, MFN status and preferential trade agreements,
- e. To support the formation of a workshop or a course program on customs techniques that may be organized by the "Customs Cooperation Council" which will facilitate the preparation of a new mechanism on customs regulations.
- f. To ensure the flow of information regarding the coordination of customs regulations among the BSEC member countries in order to accelerate the accomplishment of the new mechanism.
- g. To strengthen the customs surveillance procedures with an aim to struggle against smuggling including weapons and drugs as well as illegal exports of national cultural heritage.

3. Asks the Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee to report to the Assembly periodically on the progress of the development of the new mechanism for customs regulations.