

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Transport and Tourism

2007/2101(INI)

19.10.2007

OPINION

of the Committee on Transport and Tourism

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs

on a Black Sea regional policy approach
(2007/2101(INI))

Draftsman: Leopold Józef Rutowicz

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Transport and Tourism calls on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Acknowledges that with the accession of two States bordering on the Black Sea, Bulgaria and Romania, new challenges are emerging in the European Union for regional and cross-border cooperation between the EU and the Black Sea region; stresses that enhancing the transport infrastructure and tourism in the region would foster international trade and economic and social development, while giving fresh impetus to political dialogue and stability and frozen conflicts resolution in the region leading to further opportunities to attract investments;
2. Insists that if full advantage is to be taken of the EU's access to the Black Sea, it will be vital to develop the harbour infrastructures at the EU's Black Sea ports (Burgas, Constanța, Mangalia, Varna) as well as those located at the Danube estuary, with a view to ensuring intermodal transport;
3. Recommends, given the specific characteristics of the Danube Delta, which is home to over 1200 plant and tree species, 300 bird species and 100 fish species, that the development of tourism and transport infrastructure in the Danube Delta protected area should respect and protect its biodiversity;
4. Recalls that the Black Sea region, which is situated close to the Caspian Basin, is of high geopolitical importance for the transport and transit of hydrocarbon reserves located in the Caspian Sea territory of Iran and Azerbaijan, while providing a physical link to Central Asia via the so-called 'Great Silk Road';
5. Believes that diversifying the modes of transport, the geographical sources and the transit routes of energy resources by means of maritime transport, pipelines or seaports will reduce Europe's dependence on existing suppliers and provide more security of energy flows which in turn will contribute to peace, stability and prosperity in the region;
6. Welcomes the report of the High Level Group for the extension of the large trans-European transport axes to the neighbouring countries and regions as well as the idea of extending the application of the EU's satellite based navigation system Galileo, taking into account the foreseen impact of EU future enlargements;
7. Considers that transport has a key role to play in the creation of cooperation networks and in regional development, and calls on the Commission to draw up a more comprehensive strategy under the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and its relevant Action Plans, having regard to the conclusions of the High Level Group Report;
8. Calls for the progressive integration of transport networks and markets in the region and synergies between the relevant trans-European transport network (TEN-T) and Pan-European Corridors/Areas and the new transnational axes proposed by the Commission with the TRACECA corridor; welcomes the Commission's decision to undertake a review in 2008 of the list of priority projects for trans-European transport, and stresses the

importance of extending the TEN-Ts to the countries bordering on the EU in the Black Sea region;

9. Calls on the Commission and those Member States directly concerned to accelerate the implementation of the trans-European projects - priority axes 7, 18, 21 and 22 as defined in Decision No 884/2004/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 amending Decision No 1692/96/EC on Community guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network¹ - in order to ensure access to the Black Sea by road, rail, inland waterway and sea routes; considers, in addition, that the full economic and tourist development of the Member States in the Black Sea region will necessitate motorway and high-speed rail links between the central and western parts of the EU and the Black Sea coast;
10. Stresses the importance of the Memorandum of Understanding on state control of the ports in the Black Sea region, draws attention to the fact that some of the countries which have signed the Memorandum are still on the blacklist or 'grey list' of the Paris Memorandum of Understanding concerning state control of the ports, and insists on the importance of cooperation in the Black Sea region so as to act effectively against pollution of the marine environment and the coastal areas, on a basis of safety standards for naval transport in the region;
11. Welcomes the fact that EU has been granted observer status into the BSEC (Black Sea Economic Cooperation) and calls on the Commission to develop a coherent action plan in order to enhance cooperation and to provide effective support for BSEC initiatives in the transport field;
12. Calls on the Commission to step up dialogue with the 16 Baku Initiative partner countries, with due reference to the need for proper targeting of funding for cross-border ventures and most issues relating to sea and air (black list) transport and the transport of hazardous materials, and to ensure that such ventures are carried out in keeping with current EU and international standards;
13. Calls for advocacy within the ENP Action Plans for gradual implementation of the EU legal framework and standards with regard to infrastructures of rail and road transport, including interoperability issues, safety and security of passengers and freight;
14. Suggests a strategic extension of the European Common Aviation Area principles to all partner countries in the Black Sea region, which should apply the Community acquis, including Single European Sky regulations, in order to achieve traffic efficiency and generate an economically profitable airspace;
15. Deplores the lack of coordination of investments in projects in the transport sector and calls on the Commission to identify priorities for the cross-border sections and to put in place a strong and effective coordination mechanism for their implementation;
16. Takes the view that the implementation of projects for the region, such as TRACECA, the Baku Initiative for trans-European transport cooperation, the Motorway of the Sea in the BSEC region and the Black Sea Ring Road, requires the cooperation of all countries

¹ OJ L 167, 30.4.2004 . Corrected version in OJ L 201, 7.6.2004.

in the region, which, by ensuring synergies, will create added value and the environment required for their implementation.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	9.10.2007
Result of final vote	+: 36 -: 4 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Gabriele Albertini, Inés Ayala Sender, Etelka Barsi-Pataky, Paolo Costa, Arūnas Degutis, Saïd El Khadraoui, Robert Evans, Emanuel Jardim Fernandes, Francesco Ferrari, Luis de Grandes Pascual, Mathieu Grosch, Stanisław Jałowiecki, Georg Jarzembowski, Dieter-Lebrecht Koch, Jaromír Kohlíček, Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou, Sepp Kustatscher, Jörg Leichtfried, Eva Lichtenberger, Erik Meijer, Robert Navarro, Luís Queiró, Reinhard Rack, Luca Romagnoli, Gilles Savary, Brian Simpson, Renate Sommer, Dirk Sterckx, Ulrich Stockmann, Georgios Toussas, Yannick Vaugrenard, Roberts Zīle
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Philip Bradbourn, Aldis Kušķis, Joost Lagendijk, Ioan Mircea Pașcu, Leopold Józef Rutowicz
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Ovidiu Victor Ganț, Bilyana Ilieva Raeva, Olle Schmidt