

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Committee on Regional Development*

**2007/2101(INI)**

21.11.2007

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Regional Development

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs

on a Black Sea Regional Policy Approach  
(2007/2101(INI))

Draftsman: Yiannakis Matsis

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## SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Notes that the Black Sea Synergy initiative is built around three strategies concerning the Black Sea region, namely enlargement towards South-East Europe and Turkey, the European Neighbourhood Policy and the four EU/Russia common spaces; regrets, however, that bilateral relations dominate in each of these strategies and calls for the development of a multilateral framework for cooperation that enhances regional synergy;
2. Emphasises the importance of applying the EU's regional policy approach in the Black Sea region as a significant tool with which to stimulate the democratic, social and economic development of and trans-border cooperation among the countries in this region;
3. Approves the doubling of the financial resources made available under the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument for the funding of cross-border projects; calls for the principles governing the Structural Funds, in particular partnership, sustainability, efficiency, non-discrimination and decentralisation, to be applied to the use of these financial resources; calls on the Commission to inform Parliament of the implementation of these funds and progress made, by means of short bi-annual reports;
4. Recalls that increased cooperation among the countries neighbouring the Black Sea has a positive effect on the development of the villages, cities and regions of those states and should therefore be further supported and encouraged;
5. Calls for a rational use of Community financial instruments through better coordination of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument, the Structural Funds and the pre-accession funds available to the region; calls on the Commission, acting in cooperation with the beneficiary States, to lay down a general reporting system before the resources are disbursed, with a view to monitoring and assessing to what extent the use of those resources is sustainable, efficient, and in accordance with general EU policy objectives;
6. Calls on the Commission to make the decentralised financial instrument Small Project Funds available for people-to-people projects in the area of cross-border cooperation and to make special efforts to encourage the use of that instrument;
7. Stresses the need to reinforce capacity building among local and regional stakeholders in the Black Sea region as regards programming and project preparation and implementation in order to ensure efficient management of Community financial instruments;
8. Calls on the Commission to strengthen its relations with the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) and other regional organizations involved with economic and social development and the promotion of human rights and democracy, particularly now that, following the accession of Bulgaria and Romania to the European Union, three Member States of the Union are also members of the BSEC and that other

BSEC members are either candidates or potential candidates for membership of the European Union or involved in the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and the European Neighbourhood Partnership Instrument (ENPI); in this context, calls on the members of the BSEC not to veto the participation of any EU Member State in the BSEC;

9. In this connection, calls on the Commission to propose a more concrete mechanism for cooperation between the EU and the abovementioned organisations as well as to clarify the ways in which the BSEC could be involved in the various Community-sponsored initiatives in the region;
10. Calls for existing links between the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the BSEC to be strengthened and to be further developed institutionally in the context of the implementation of Black Sea synergy;
11. Emphasises that cross-border cooperation platforms such as Euroregions can play an essential role in tackling common challenges and in reinforcing regional synergy between local and regional authorities in the Black Sea region; in this context, welcomes the initiative of a Black Sea Euroregion and encourages the Commission to enhance cooperation with the Council of Europe in order to support its establishment and development;
12. Regrets the fact that, despite its huge potential in terms of energy resources in a future integrated European energy system, as well as its transports possibilities, the regions suffer from environmental problems, inadequate border controls and in some areas even frozen conflicts and internal conflicts, which together not only undermine the development prospects of the region and regional cooperation, but also lead to an increased level of organised crime; stresses the need for more active involvement on the part of the EU in the Black Sea area and calls for initiatives under the ENP which will assist these states in improving their technical capacity and help them to combat illegal immigration and organised crime and to modernise their infrastructure;
13. Calls on the Commission to encourage that measures to support the energy and transport sectors give priority to the requirements of energy efficiency, environmental protection and, in particular, climate protection;
14. Encourages the Commission in its efforts to stimulate Black Sea synergy and notes that this strategy might be extended beyond the Black Sea region to the Caspian Basin and on to central Asia; in this context, encourages the Commission in its involvement in bilateral and particular multilateral efforts to raise human rights standards, develop democratic institutions in the area and promote good and decentralised governance and the rule of law, with the aim of creating an area of true democracy and prosperity; encourages the Member States to work with their regional authorities to increase the participation of citizens and NGOs;
15. Emphasises the link between interregional cooperation, regional development, good governance, a decentralised approach, democracy and the promotion of human rights and prosperity, and thus recalls the importance of current programmes and initiatives to increase the stability of and improve cooperation among the states of the Black Sea

region;

16. Applauds the success of the EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine; recommends its further consolidation and awaits with interest the Commission communication on improving the management of migration and illegal immigration; believes that economic development, security and stability and political dialogue are the keys to resolving frozen conflicts and that every effort should be made in these areas;
17. Regards the environmental pollution of the Black Sea as a severe obstacle to the development of the region, and therefore encourages the Commission to apply the approach of the DABLAS Task Force (for the Danube and the Black Sea) to resolve the problems, focussing not only on the Danube but also on the Dniester and Dnieper river basins;
18. Emphasises that successful implementation of regional projects in areas of common interest could increase mutual confidence among partners and bring about progress towards resolving conflicts;
19. Encourages the Commission in its efforts to enhance its relations with energy suppliers and to pursue a fruitful dialogue on energy security, thus promoting energy diversification and legal and regulatory harmonisation and sustainable development through the BAKU initiative (an energy dialogue between the EU and the countries of the Black Sea, Caspian Basin and their neighbours) and the EU-Russia Energy Dialogue;
20. Recalls the important role of a functioning infrastructure for the proper development of the Black Sea region, and therefore welcomes the Commission's proposal to continue the support for regional transport cooperation, which should lead to better connections and improved roads, as well as a more efficient set-up and supervision of waterways;
21. Welcomes the development of the new Trans-Caspian – Black Sea strategic energy corridor, the planned new Russia-Greece-Italy natural gas pipeline (South Stream) and the completion of the Turkey-Greece-Italy natural gas pipeline, as well as the progressive extension of the Energy Community Treaty to Turkey, Moldova and Ukraine.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	20.11.2007
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 40 -: 0 0: 0
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Alfonso Andria, Emmanouil Angelakas, Elspeth Attwooll, Jean Marie Beaupuy, Jana Bobošíková, Wolfgang Bulfon, Antonio De Blasio, Gerardo Galeote, Iratxe García Pérez, Eugenijus Gentvilas, Ambroise Guellec, Marian Harkin, Jim Higgins, Filiz Hakaeva Hyusmenova, Mieczysław Edmund Janowski, Rumiana Jeleva, Gisela Kallenbach, Tunne Kelam, Evgeni Kirilov, Jamila Madeira, James Nicholson, Lambert van Nistelrooij, Jan Olbrycht, Markus Pieper, Bernard Poignant, Pierre Pribetich, Wojciech Roszkowski, Elisabeth Schroedter, Grażyna Staniszevska, Catherine Stihler, Kyriacos Triantaphyllides
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Bernadette Bourzai, Den Dover, Francesco Ferrari, Ovidiu Victor Gant, Louis Grech, Zita Pleštinská, Christa Prets, Czesław Adam Siekierski, Nikolaos Vakalis
<b>Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote</b>	