

**Parliamentary Assembly of the South East European Cooperation Process
(SEECP PA)**

General Committee on Justice, Home Affairs and Security

RESOLUTION

“Institutional shielding and reinforcement of democratic processes for effectively addressing the phenomenon of "brain drain" and the demographic issue in Southeastern Europe”

**Athens
30/3/2026**

Reaffirming our commitment to the Bucharest Charter of Good Neighbourly Relations, Stability, Security and Cooperation in South East Europe, as well as to the other relevant international documents ratified by our parliaments;

Following the Declaration on the inauguration of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly adopted on 10 May 2014;

Guided by the Rules of Procedure of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly adopted on 10 May 2014 which establish the functioning of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly;

Acknowledging that Southeastern Europe is experiencing intense demographic challenges and that the loss of human capital, population aging and low fertility rates can create long-term structural economic fiscal and societal impacts in the region;

Realizing that the loss of human capital limits the potential for economic growth, creating a vicious circle, where reduced growth further strengthens emigration, increasingly affecting demographic dynamics;

Taking into account that young people identify low wages or unemployment, lack of meritocracy, lack of transparency, bureaucracy and the ineffective administration of justice as some of the main reasons to emigrate in search of better living conditions;

Being aware of the fact that "brain drain" affects not only the overall size of the population, but also its structure, as it weakens the educated and innovative part of society with a direct impact on the economic and social well-being of its citizens;

Emphasizing that the phenomenon of "brain drain" can function as an indicator of overall institutional credibility, rule of law and quality of the labor market;

Indicating at regional level that the retention and return of human capital is directly linked to the quality of institutions, the consistency of legislation, meritocracy and the transparency of justice;

Underlying the importance of regional cohesion policy and the Copenhagen criteria as fundamental prerequisites for EU membership;

Appreciating the reform efforts made by EU – aspirant SEECP participants during their accession negotiations.

The General Committee on Justice, Home Affairs and Security in the session that convened in March 30, 2026, in Athens

1. **Emphasizes** the need to increase awareness of the population that, in a democratic society and a stable environment, citizens show greater willingness to invest their future in their place of origin.
2. **Underpins** that economic growth, institutional resilience and democratic empowerment are basic prerequisites for an effective and viable demographic policy.
3. **Calls on** SEECF PA participants to establish a credible policy framework in order to enhance the value of human capital.
4. **Highlights** "brain circulation" as a realistic and potentially beneficial policy, in order to restore citizens' trust and prove its sustainability.
5. **Encourages** synergy and youth mobility within the SEE region.
6. **Calls on** SEECF PA participants to create a common mechanism that recognizes qualifications, eases labour mobility and harmonises taxation and social security systems.
7. **Emphasizes** that the transfer of financial resources and knowledge and the promotion of entrepreneurship and innovation will grant the region with significant growth.
8. **Strongly recommends** the digitalization of administrative procedures and the strengthening of transparency and meritocracy in public administration recruitment.
9. **Highlights** repatriation policies which aim to build trust and foster cooperation with diasporas.
10. **Recognizes** the rule of law as a fundamental pillar for the formation of an environment of trust and stability, with emphasis on the independence of the judiciary, transparency in public administration, predictability of rules and the equality of all before the law.
11. **Commends** that the framework laws on "brain drain" set the necessary legal and organizational framework, aiming to promote regional development.
12. **Indicates** that institutional reforms pave the way for long-term regional cooperation and gradually ensure demographic and economic stability.
13. **Urges** EU candidates to embrace the necessary legislative and institutional measures to conform with the Copenhagen criteria and the specific requests of first cluster (Fundamentals) in EU accession negotiations.
14. **Recommends** SEECF PA participants to align with the EU's principles of good lawmaking, in order to advance regional sustainable development.