



Istanbul, 20 February 2008

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**REPORT OF THE
MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP
ON AGRICULTURE AND AGRO-INDUSTRY**

Istanbul, 19-20 February 2008

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Agriculture and Agro-Industry was held in Istanbul, on 19-20 February 2008.

2. The following BSEC Member States participated in the Meeting:

Republic of Albania
Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Republic of Bulgaria
Georgia
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Serbia
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine

3. The representative of the Republic of Poland also participated in the Meeting as BSEC Observer.

The List of Participants of the Meeting is attached as Annex I.

4. The Meeting was chaired by Ms. Olha BOHONSKA, Vice-Consul, Consulate General of Ukraine in Istanbul, in the capacity of the BSEC Chairman-in-Office.

5. The Draft Agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The Agenda, as adopted, is attached as Annex II.

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS RELATED TO AGRICULTURE AND AGRO-INDUSTRY

6. The Working Group discussed the ways and means of implementation of the Resolutions and Decisions of the Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs held in Belgrade on 19 April 2007.

7. Following the appointment of the Russian Federation as the Country- Coordinator of the Working Group on Agriculture and Agro-Industry the participants discussed, amended and approved the Action Plan for the Working Group for the period 1 May 2007 – 30 April 2009.

8. In conformity with the recommendation of the Council, the Working Group took note of the information presented by the Republic of Bulgaria as the outgoing Country-Coordinator of the Working Group, concerning contacts and exchange of information between the representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Supply of the Republic of Bulgaria and the representative of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation.

9. The participants also took note of the results of an Informal Meeting between the representatives of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Russian Federation as outgoing and present Countries-Coordination held in Istanbul on 19 February 2008, aimed at transferring the experience and knowledge acquired during the two-year period of coordination in order to ensure the continuity of the activities of the Working Group.

CONSIDERATION OF PROJECT APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING BY THE BSEC PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND

10. The Working Group noted with appreciation the approval by the BSEC Project Development Fund (BSEC PDF) Steering Committee of two project applications, namely

“A Feasibility Study for Variable Rate Irrigation in the Black Sea region: Economical and Environmental Benefits” by Greece (Lead Partner), Turkey and Bulgaria; and

“Fatty liver incidence on mini dairy cow farms in the Republic of Serbia, Romania and the Republic of Moldova” by Serbia (Lead Partner), Romania and Moldova.

11. The Project Coordinator of BSEC PERMIS informed the Working Group on the operational aspects of the BSEC PDF as well as on the requirements for initiating and submitting project proposals for funding from the BSEC PDF.

12. The participants agreed to communicate to the interested organizations of their respective countries the procedures of preparation, submission and evaluation of the project proposals, as well as on the mechanisms of their financing and implementation.

CONSIDERATION OF THE 2-YEAR ACTION PLAN IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURE AND AGRO-INDUSTRY

13. The participants discussed, amended and adopted the 2-year Action Plan in the field of agriculture and agro-industry presented by the Russian Federation. The text of the Action Plan, as approved by the Working Group, is attached as Annex III.

14. The Working Group invited all the Member States to contribute to its implementation.

FOOD SAFETY PRIORITIES IN THE AGRICULTURAL POLICY OF THE MEMBER STATES

15. The Working Group continued the discussion of this issue, which was initiated at the previous Meeting in Sofia on 11-12 April 2007.

16. The representative of the Republic of Turkey made a presentation on food safety priorities in the agricultural policy of the Republic of Turkey. The presentation is attached as Annex IV.

17. The representative of the Republic of Bulgaria made a presentation on food quality and food safety in the Republic of Bulgaria. The presentation is attached as Annex V.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOCIAL PARTNERSHIP IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURE AND AGRO-INDUSTRY

18. The participants agreed to discuss this issue at the next Meeting of the Working Group.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

19. No issues were raised under this Agenda Item.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

20. The date and venue of the next Meeting of the Working Group on Agriculture and Agro-Industry will be communicated to the BSEC Member States through BSEC PERMIS.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

21. The Working Group adopted the present Report for submission to the next Meeting of the Committee of the Senior Officials of the BSEC Member States to be held in Istanbul on 26-28 February 2008.