



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

**Permanent International Secretariat**

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

**Istanbul, BSEC Headquarters, 22-23 March 2012**

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Agriculture and Agro-Industry was held in Istanbul, at the BSEC Headquarters, on 22-23 March 2012.
2. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:  
  
Republic of Armenia  
Republic of Bulgaria  
Georgia  
Hellenic Republic  
Republic of Moldova  
Russian Federation  
Republic of Serbia  
Republic of Turkey  
Ukraine
3. The representative of the European Commission attended the Meeting as the BSEC Observer.
4. The representatives of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UN FAO) and the German International Organization (GIZ) attended the Meeting as the Official Guests.
5. The List of Participants of the Meeting is attached as Annex I.
6. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Miroslav PROCOVIC, Consul General of the Republic of Serbia in Istanbul.
7. An opening statement was made by Ambassador Leonidas CHRYSANTHOPOULOS, the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General.

## **AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

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

## **AGENDA ITEM 2: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL RELATED TO AGRICULTURE AND AGRO-INDUSTRY AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE JOINT DECLARATIONS OF THE MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES**

9. The Working Group took note of information provided by the BSEC PERMIS in the context of this item. The Working Group further emphasized the importance of constantly updating by the Member States of the National Contact Points to the Working Group on Agriculture and Agro-Industry.

## **AGENDA ITEM 3: ELABORATION OF A DRAFT TWO-YEAR ACTION PLAN OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON AGRICULTURE AND AGRO-INDUSTRY**

10. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS representative.

11. Participants exchanged views on possible elements of the Action Plan.

12. The representative of the Hellenic Republic made proposals regarding activities to be included in the Action Plan, attached as Annex III.

13. The representative of the Republic of Armenia underlined the importance of contributions by the BSEC Related Bodies to the Action Plan.

14. The Member States agreed upon the possibility to include in the Action Plan the relevant items from the PABSEC Recommendation 114/2010 “Food Security in the BSEC Member States” adopted at the 35<sup>th</sup> plenary session of the PABSEC General Assembly in Belgrade on 2 June 2010.

15. The Working Group agreed on the preparation of a Draft Action Plan to be guided by the Joint Declaration adopted by the Ministers of Agriculture in Moscow on 7 October 2011, taking also into account the proposals made by the representative of the Hellenic Republic during the meeting and the contributions to be received from the BSEC Related Bodies.

16. The Working Group agreed to include into the draft Action Plan respective item concerning the elaboration of a Joint Pilot Project using a financial mechanism of the BSTDB.

## **AGENDA ITEM 4: NOMINATION OF THE NEXT COUNTRY-COORDINATOR OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON AGRICULTURE AND AGRO-INDUSTRY**

17. The Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS launched an appeal to the Member States to mobilize their national authorities in order to submit their candidacies for assuming the duty of Country-Coordinator of the Working Group.

18. The delegation of the Russian Federation expressed its readiness to assume the mandate of the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group on Agriculture and Agro-Industry.

## **AGENDA ITEM 5: PROSPECTS OF THE BLACK SEA REGIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF FISHERIES**

19. The representative of the European Commission made a presentation on “EU Fisheries in the Black Sea: Current status and prospects”, which is attached as Annex IV.
20. The Working Group suggested that representatives of the BSEC PERMIS should attend the meetings of the Scientific Advice for Fisheries Management in the EU (STECF) Experts Working Group.
21. Stressing the importance of the topic, the Working Group requested for follow-up steps in the BSEC-EU cooperation and in developing cooperation with FAO and other international organizations active in the field of fisheries.
22. The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General proposed to continue the discussions on the issue of the fisheries in the Black Sea region within the framework of the BSEC WGAAI.

## **AGENDA ITEM 6: COOPERATION AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD OF FOOD SAFETY AMONG CENTRAL COMPETENT AUTHORITIES AND NATIONAL REFERENCE LABORATORIES OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES**

23. The representative of the Republic of Serbia proposed to examine practical mechanism of control at the borders, including the mutual recognition of certification issued in the BSEC Member States.
24. The representative of the FAO mentioned that the proposal by the Republic of Serbia should also take into account the responsibilities of importers.
25. The representative of the Hellenic Republic stressed the importance of exchange of visits of experts among the central competent authorities and the national veterinary reference laboratories, in order to share experience and know-how.
26. Furthermore, the representative of the Hellenic Republic stated that the Hellenic authorities could provide training to representatives of laboratories and relevant competent authorities of other BSEC Member States.
27. The representative of Georgia informed of ongoing reforms in Georgia with respect to food safety, such as the food safety strategy, which has been already elaborated, as well as harmonization of legislation to European regulation, etc.
28. The Working Group took note of the strategy paper on the field of food safety by the Czech Republic (the BSEC Observer), which was distributed to the BSEC Member States in May 2011.

## **AGENDA ITEM 7: DISCUSSION ON THE BSEC-FAO PILOT PROJECT ON PROMOTING RISK ASSESSMENT OF FOOD HAZARDS AT COUNTRY LEVEL AND STRENGTHENING THE ANALYTICAL CAPACITY OF NATIONAL LABORATORIES IN THE BSEC MEMBER STATES**

29. The representative of the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia made a presentation on “Harmonization of food safety monitoring and control: strengthening capacities of official laboratories in BSEC countries” (Annex V), outlining components of the

project and some questions, including the need to identify focal points in each BSEC Member States for project formulation, other issues to be addressed by the project, funding and technical partners in the project.

### **AGENDA ITEM 8: CONSULTATION ON ELABORATION OF HARMONIZING THE LABELING STANDARDS FOR FOOD PRODUCTS AS AN IMPORTANT PART OF FOOD QUALITY AND SAFETY**

30. The representative of the Republic of Serbia made a presentation on the “Protected Geographical Indications”, which is attached as Annex VI.

31. The representative of FAO informed that FAO has special program to support the development of geographic indication (GI) food and indicated available resources, including web-site ([www.foodquality-origin.org/europe](http://www.foodquality-origin.org/europe)), methodology for identification of special quality food linked to geographical origin and also informed about assessment of potential for GI food carried in the Republic of Albania and Ukraine.

32. The representative of the Hellenic Republic stressed the importance of Protected Geographical Indication (PGI), Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) and Traditional Specialty Guarantee (TSG) as significant tools of rural development. She informed that the Hellenic Republic was willing to provide information regarding the legislation on protection of certified products.

33. The Working Group recalled the Member States, Related Bodies, Observers and Sectoral Dialogue Partners to consider this issue and provide necessary information to the BSEC PERMIS.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

34. The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General drew attention to the issue of radiation control and GMO. He suggested considering these issues at the next Meeting of the Working Group.

35. The Working Group invited the Republic of Serbia to share experience and progress in the field of GMO control at the next WGAAI Meeting.

36. The representative of the Russian Federation proposed to make presentation on the issue of biotech and GMO at the next Meeting of the Working Group.

### **DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

37. 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**

38. 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.