



BS/AG/WG/R(2003)1

REPORT
OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON AGRICULTURE AND AGRO-INDUSTRY
AND THE MEETING OF HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS OF THE MINISTRIES OF
AGRICULTURE OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES
(Istanbul, 16-17 December 2003)

1. The Meeting of the Working Group on Agriculture and Agro-Industry/the Meeting of the High-level Officials of the Ministries of Agriculture of the BSEC Member States and the Concluding Workshop of the BSEC – UN FAO Project on Institutional Strengthening to Facilitate Inter- and Intra-Regional Agricultural Trade among BSEC Member States was held in Istanbul at the BSEC Premises on 16-17 December 2003, according to the relevant resolution of the Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States, held in Baky, Republic of Azerbaijan on 31 October 2003.
2. The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Elnur ALIYEV, Desk Officer on the BSEC issues, Department for Economic Cooperation and Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Dr. Holger KRAY, Project Team Leader and Mr. Bernhard d'AVIS, the Project Backstopping Officer.
3. H.E. Ambassador Valeri CHECHELASHVILI, Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS, and Mr. Bernhard d'AVIS, Former Chief, REUP, UN FAO, delivered welcome speeches.
4. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States :
 - Republic of Albania
 - Republic of Armenia
 - Republic of Azerbaijan
 - Republic of Bulgaria
 - Georgia
 - Republic of Moldova
 - Romania
 - Republic of Turkey
 - Ukraine
5. The Secretary General of the BSEC Business Council participated at the Meeting in capacity of the BSEC Related Body.

6. The UN FAO was represented by Mr. David SEDIK, Chief, REUP, Mr. Victor MOSOTI, Legal Department.

The list of participants of the Meeting is attached as Annex I.

7. The draft agenda of the Meeting was discussed, amended and adopted. The agenda, as adopted, is attached as Annex II.

PRESENTATION OF THE FINAL DRAFT MAIN REPORT OF THE BSEC-FAO PROJECT ON “INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING TO FACILITATE INTRA- AND INTER-REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL TRADE AMONG BSEC MEMBER STATES” BY THE INTERNATIONAL TEAM LEADER

8. In line with the outcome of the Second Workshop of the Project, and based on the relevant contributions of National and International Experts, the Draft Final Main Report of the Project on “Institutional Strengthening to Facilitate Intra- and Inter- Regional Agricultural Trade of the BSEC Member States”, with Policy Recommendations was presented by the Project Team Leader, Dr. Holger KRAY.

9. The High-level Officials and experts discussed the Draft Final Main Report and presented their comments of technical, analytical and informative character. It was agreed that the Project Team Leader will present the revised Final Main Report to the BSEC PERMIS by 20 January 2004, incorporating all the relevant alterations.

10. The High-level Officials and experts expressed their appreciations to the Project Team Leader, Dr. Holger KRAY for an outstanding Presentation and highly valued his efforts in preparing the Draft Final Main Report of the Project.

CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BSEC-FAO PROJECT

11. The Participants of the Meeting discussed, amended and adopted the Policy Recommendations of the Project. The Policy Recommendations as adopted are attached to the Report as Annex III.

12. The High-level Officials further requested the Council to consider the Policy Recommendations of the Project with a view of their endorsement. They also requested the UN FAO Team to consider the possibility of participation of the International Team Leader to the forthcoming Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials, with a view to present the recommendation on establishing of a BSEC Trade Facilitation Body.

13. The High-level Officials also noted the importance of the continuation of the established cooperation between the BSEC and UN FAO.

14. The High-level Officials also expressed their appreciation to Messrs. Bernhard d’AVIS, former and Mr. David SEDIK, current Chiefs REUP, UN FAO and Dr. Holger KRAY, the International Team Leader of the Project for their personal efforts in successful implementation of the Project.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

15. No issues were discussed under this Agenda Item

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

16. The experts agreed that the exact dates of the next Meeting of the Working Group will be communicated via diplomatic channels at a later stage.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

17. The Report was adopted for submission to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials of the BSEC Member States.