



BS/AG/WG/R(2001)1

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

Istanbul, 5-6 July 2001

1. The Meeting of the Working Group on Agriculture and Agro-Industry was held at the BSEC Headquarters, Istanbul, Turkey on 5-6 July 2001.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Dr. Vedat UZUNLU, Deputy Undersecretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the Republic of Turkey.
3. The Meeting was attended by the following BSEC Member States:
 - Georgia
 - Hellenic Republic
 - Republic of Moldova
 - Romania
 - Russian Federation
 - Republic of Turkey
 - Ukraine
4. The representatives of the BSEC Business Council (BSEC BC) and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) participated in the Meeting.
5. The Meeting was also attended by the representatives of the UN FAO as Guests.

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

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

PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF THE PROJECT ON ‘PROMOTION OF BEEKEEPING AMONG LOW INCOME RURAL FAMILIES FOR SUPPLEMENTARY EARNINGS IN THE BLACK SEA’

7. The Delegations appreciated the detailed presentation of the Concept Paper on the Project on ‘Promotion of Beekeeping Among Low Income Rural Families for Supplementary Earnings in the BSEC Member States’ made by the Turkish Delegation.

8. The Delegations exchanged their views on the Concept Paper. Certain contribution on the Concept were also been provided by the representatives of the UN FAO and the BSEC Business Council.

9. The Delegation of the Hellenic Republic expressed its readiness to provide relevant technical information on Beekeeping in the EU as a contribution to the project implementation.

10. The Delegations decided to convene their final contributions on the Concept Paper to the BSEC PERMIS, within two months, with a view to present it to the UN FAO for its possible elaboration.

PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF THE PROJECT ON THE ‘PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES’

11. The Delegations took note with interest of the presentation of the Project Idea on the ‘Plant Genetic Resources’ made by the Turkish Delegation.

12. They exchanged views on the Project Idea. Contributions on the Project Idea have been provided also by the representatives of the UN FAO and the BSEC Business Council.

13. The viability of the Project Idea was stressed. It was agreed that the first phase of implementation of the project could be more focused on cereal policy. The fundamental importance of Genetic Resources within the frame of Food Security principles was also stressed.

14. While considering the Project Idea, the Russian and Romanian Delegations invited the Member States to establish collaboration with the Vavilov’s All-Russian Plant Research Institute, located in St. Petersburg, and Romanian Gene Bank, located in Suceava.

15. The Delegations decided to convene their final contributions on the Draft Project Proposal to the BSEC PERMIS, within two months, with a view to present it to the UN FAO for its further elaboration.

PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF THE PROJECT ON THE ‘BREAD WHEAT NETWORK’

16. The Delegations took note with interest of the presentation of the Project on the ‘Bread Wheat Network’ made by the Turkish Delegation.

17. The Delegations welcomed the idea of establishing a Bread Wheat Network for the BSEC Member States and stressed the strategic aspect of wheat in Food Security.

18. They exchanged views on the Project Idea. Contributions on the Project Idea have been provided also by the representatives of the UN FAO and the BSEC Business Council.

19. While considering the Project Idea, the Georgian Delegation invited the Member States to establish collaboration with the Tavitavi Research Institute of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Georgia.

20. The Delegations decided to convene their final contributions on the Draft Project Proposal to the BSEC PERMIS, within two months, with a view to present it to the UN FAO for its possible elaboration.

REVISION OF THE STATUS OF THE PROJECT PROPOSAL ON 'AGRICULTURAL TRADE AND FOOD SECURITY POLICY ADVISE IN THE BSEC COUNTRIES' BY THE UN FAO

21. The UN FAO Representative informed the Delegations on the current situation of the status of the Project Proposal on 'Agricultural Trade and Food Security Policy Advise in the BSEC Countries' by the UN FAO. Due to the decision of the relevant departments of the UN FAO, the Project Proposal has to be more focused on the issues of fostering Agricultural Trade among the BSEC Member States.

22. The Delegations accepted the approach of the UN FAO on the revision of the Project Proposal and exchanged views on further contributions. The possibility of including issues related to the genetically modified food commodities in the Project Proposal was also welcomed.

23. The Delegations took note of the information of the UN FAO Representative on the dates of the final revision of the Project Proposal, with a view to submit the Project for the approval of the forthcoming Meeting of the Senior Officials Committee and the Fifth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC to be held in October 2001.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

24. Upon the proposal of the Turkish Delegation, the participants of the Meeting agreed to enhance cooperation in the area of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) as a pre-emptive measure to combat the possible spread of the FMD in the BSEC Region.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

25. The date and venue of the next Meeting of the Working Group on Agriculture and Agro-Industry will be communicated to the Member States at a later stage.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

26. The Delegations expressed thanks to the Chairman for his able and constructive chairing of the Meeting, the UN FAO Representatives for valuable contribution and to the PERMIS for preparation of the Meeting.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

27. The Working Group adopted the present report for the submission to the Fifth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs.
