



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

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REPORT

OF THE MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON COOPERATION IN COMBATING CRIME, IN PARTICULAR IN ITS ORGANIZED FORMS, WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF THE LIAISON OFFICERS ON COMBATING CRIME

Bucharest, 12-13 April 2011

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in Particular in Its Organized Forms, with the Participation of the Liaison Officers on Combating Crime, was held in Bucharest on 12-13 April 2011.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Dragos Bogdan AGAPIE, Director, Directorate of European Affairs and International Relations, Ministry of Administration and Interior.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Republic of Bulgaria
Georgia
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Serbia
Republic of Turkey
4. The representative of the Republic of Hungary participated in the Meeting as a Sectoral Dialogue Partner.

The list of participants is attached as Annex I.
5. The draft agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The agenda, as adopted, is attached as Annex II.

STATE OF AFFAIRS WITH RESPECT TO THE ENTERING INTO FORCE OF:

THE ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE AGREEMENT AMONG THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE BSEC PARTICIPATING STATES ON COOPERATION IN COMBATING CRIME, IN PARTICULAR IN ITS ORGANIZED FORMS, ESTABLISHING THE NETWORK OF LIAISON OFFICERS AND THE NOMINATION OF THE LIAISON OFFICERS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL

6. The participants took note that as of 12 April 2011, 11 Member States have ratified/approved the aforesaid Additional Protocol. The table on the state of affairs with respect to the Additional Protocol in question is attached as Annex III.

7. So far, 10 Member-States have nominated their Liaison Officers on Combating Crime. The Republic of Bulgaria informed on its new appointment of the Liaison Officer. The List of the Liaison Officers appointed is attached as Annex IV.

THE ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL ON COMBATING TERRORISM TO THE AGREEMENT AMONG THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE BSEC PARTICIPATING STATES ON COOPERATION IN COMBATING CRIME, IN PARTICULAR IN ITS ORGANIZED FORMS

8. The participants took note that as of 12 April 2011, 10 Member States have ratified/approved the aforesaid Additional Protocol. The table on the state of affairs with respect to the Additional Protocol in question is attached as Annex III.

9. The Working Group agreed to continue its endeavors for implementation of the both Additional Protocols and invited the Member States that had not ratified/approved those agreements yet to do so as soon as possible.

DISCUSSIONS REGARDING THE FIRST ANNUAL REVIEW WITH THE ASSESSMENT OF THE TRENDS OF TRANS-NATIONAL CRIME IN THE BSEC REGION

10. The Country Coordinator presented the updated draft Report regarding the annual review with the trans-national crime trends in the BSEC Region in 2009.

11. The Working Group commended the work done by Romania and instructed BSEC PERMIS to request those Member States that had not forwarded their inputs to the initial draft document yet to do so by 1 June 2011.

12. The participants also agreed that they will send their comments to the updated draft Report by 1 June 2011 with the aim to enable Romania to disseminate a revised draft document two months prior to the next meeting of the Working Group.

13. It was noted that it is necessary to finalize the first draft Review of 2009 and to launch preparation of a draft Review of 2010 as soon as possible.

14. Romania requested the Member States to envisage possible participation of their experts in statistics for consideration the draft document at the next meeting of the Working Group.

FOLLOW-UP TO THE BSEC REGIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR STRENGTHENING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE TO TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN THE BLACK SEA REGION

15. The Working Group took note of the information delivered by the delegations of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Russian Federation on the latest developments in their legislation regarding combating trafficking in persons.

ACTIVITIES OF THE NETWORK OF THE LIAISON OFFICERS IN COMBATING CRIME

16. Underlining the importance of effective operation of the Liaison Officers Network on Combating Crime the participants decided to continue the deliberations on the issue at the next meeting of the Working Group.

17. The Member States were invited to forward their proposals and views on function improvement of the Network.

COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, ORGANIZATIONS AND REGIONAL INITIATIVES IN THE FIELD OF PREVENTING AND COMBATING CORRUPTION

18. Romania informed that it had invited the representatives of EPAC and RAI but they could not take part in this meeting.

19. It was agreed that BSEC PERMIS would invite representatives of international institutions specializing in preventing and combating corruption to the future meetings of the Working Group.

DRAFT JOINT DECLARATION ON REGIONAL EFFORTS ON PREVENTING AND COMBATING CORRUPTION TO BE ADOPTED BY THE MINISTERS OF INTERIOR OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES, PROPOSED BY ROMANIA

20. The Working Group discussed and finalized the draft Joint Declaration on Regional Efforts on Preventing and Combating Corruption that will be submitted for adoption by the eighth Meeting of the Ministers of Interior of the BSEC Member States to be convened in Bucharest on 14 April 2011. The text of the draft Declaration is attached as Annex V.

21. The Working Group also agreed that the next Country Coordinator will elaborate a draft BSEC Action Plan on regional efforts to prevent and combat corruption to be considered at its ad-hoc meeting.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

22. The Working Group took note of the Reports on the implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the Council and on the activities of the Working Group performed during May 2009 – April 2011. The Reports are attached as Annex VI.

23. The Republic of Turkey delivered a presentation on the activities of the Anti-Smuggling and Organized Crime Department of the Turkish National Police and TADOC. The presentation is attached as Annex VII.

24. The participants welcomed the application of Romania for the next term of the Country Coordinator of the Working Group on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in Particular in Its Organized Forms for a period of 2011-2013, as of July 1, 2011.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

25. The date and venue of the next meeting will be communicated to the Member States in due course by BSEC PERMIS.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

26. The participants expressed their gratitude to the Romanian Ministry of Administration and Interior for the hospitality extended to them during the meeting.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

27. The present Report was adopted for submission to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials and the Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to be held in Bucharest on 8 June 2011.
