



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**

Istanbul, 15 May 2015

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in Particular in Its Organized Forms, was held at the BSEC Headquarters on 15 May 2015.

2. The Meeting was co-chaired by Mrs. Vilhelmina LUCINESCU, Chief Police Commissioner, Directorate of European Affairs and International Relations, Ministry of Internal Affairs of Romania, and Mr. Petru BUTUCEL, Consul, Consulate General of the Republic of Moldova in Istanbul.

3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Republic of Bulgaria
Hellenic Republic
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Turkey

The list of participants is attached as **Annex I**.

4. 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 THE RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE JOINT DECLARATIONS OF THE MINISTERS OF INTERIOR/PUBLIC ORDER OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

5. The BSEC PERMIS informed the participants on the Status of Implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the Council and follow-up to the Joint Declarations of the Ministers of Interior/Public Order of the BSEC Member States.

6. The Member States were requested to forward updated information with contact details with respect to the existing List of Representatives - National Contact Points in the Working Group on Combating Crime, in Particular in Its Organized Forms. The list as of 15 May 2015 is attached as **Annex III**.

7. The Working Group submitted for consideration of the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials the following Draft Recommendation to be adopted at the Meeting of the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to be held in Chisinau on 18 June 2015:

“The Council took note of the Meeting of the Working Group on Combating Crime, in Particular in Its Organized Forms, held on 15 May 2015 and recommended the relevant national authorities, which have not done so, to appoint their contact points at the Network of the Liaison Officers on Combating Crime and at the Working Group on Combating Crime, in Particular in Its Organized Forms, and timely inform the Member States for the changes made”

8. The Working Group took note of the information presented by the BSEC PERMIS on the decision of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States on the “Way Forward for an Action Plan on the Implementation of the Economic Agenda towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership”.

9. The participants agreed that the provisions of the mentioned documents pertaining to the issues of combating crime should be taken into consideration in the future activities of the Working Group.

AGENDA ITEM 3: ACTIVITIES OF THE NETWORK OF THE LIAISON OFFICERS ON COMBATING CRIME

10. The Working Group discussed the modalities of the Network of the Liaison Officers on Combating Crime in accordance with the Additional Protocol to the Agreement among the Governments of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in Particular in Its Organized Forms, done in Kyiv on 15 March 2002.

11. The Working Group discussed proposals by the Member States for increasing the effectiveness of the Liaison Officers Network. The Country-Coordinator suggested that the next Meeting of the Network of Liaison Officers be focused on concrete themes in the field of combating crime.

12. The Working Group adopted the Report of the Meeting of the Network of Liaison Officers held at the BSEC Headquarters on 14 May 2015.

13. The Working Group proposed that the next Meeting of the Network of the Liaison Officers on Combating Crime be held a day before the Meeting of the Working Group.

AGENDA ITEM 4: IMPLEMENTATION OF 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

14. The Working Group decided to defer the issue to its next Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 5: DELIBERATIONS ON THE ANNUAL REVIEW WITH THE ASSESSMENT OF THE TRENDS OF TRANS-NATIONAL CRIME IN THE BSEC REGION

15. The Working Group took note that so far a few Member States have filled-up the relevant questionnaires.

16. It has been agreed that the content of the annual review has to be in conformity with the Agreement among the Governments of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in Particular in Its Organized Forms, Additional Protocol to the Agreement among the Governments of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in Particular in Its Organized Forms, as well as the Protocol on Combating Terrorism to the Agreement among the Governments of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in Particular in Its Organized Forms.

17. In order to elaborate the annual review, the Member States were invited to either send national reports concerning the trends of trans-national crime in their respective countries, or make use of the already-existing questionnaire where statistical data can be referred according to their national legislation.

18. The Country-Coordinator noted that the questionnaires are of indicative nature and the Member States are free to introduce or omit some of the items in the document.

19. The Country-Coordinator invited the Member States to contribute to the said document by the end of June 2015.

20. The Working Group considered the Report of the Meeting of the Network of Liaison Officers on Combating Crime, held at the BSEC Headquarters on 14 May 2015, and submitted the following Draft Recommendation to the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials for the adoption at the Meeting of the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to be held in Chisinau on 18 June 2015:

“The Council took note of the Report of the Meeting of the Working Group on Combating Crime, in Particular in Its Organized Forms, held on 15 May 2015 and recommended the relevant authorities to submit timely the information for elaboration of the regular Annual Review of the Trans-National Crime Trends in the BSEC Region, which is in conformity with the Agreement among the Governments of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in Particular in Its Organized Forms, Additional Protocol to the Agreement among the Governments of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in Particular in Its Organized Forms, as well as the Protocol on Combating Terrorism to the Agreement among the Governments of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in Particular in Its Organized Forms.”

AGENDA ITEM 6: FOLLOW-UP TO THE BSEC REGIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR STRENGTHENING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE TO TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN THE BLACK SEA REGION

21. The Working Group noted that a few Member States presented information on national activities in strengthening the criminal justice response to trafficking in persons and on the international cooperation in this field.

22. The Country-Coordinator invited the Member States who have not done yet so to officially submit the information for 2014 on their activities in strengthening the criminal justice response to trafficking in persons in the BSEC region by the end of June 2015 to enable the Country-Coordinator and the BSEC PERMIS to draft an annual report for 2014, according to Paragraph 6 of the said BSEC Regional Action Plan.

AGENDA ITEM 7: DRAFT BSEC ACTION PLAN ON REGIONAL EFFORTS TO PREVENT AND COMBAT CORRUPTION

23. The Country-Coordinator proposed that the agreed text of the draft BSEC Action Plan on Regional Efforts to Prevent and Combat Corruption be submitted for approval at the next Meeting of the BSEC Ministers of Interior/Public Order.

24. The draft BSEC Action Plan on Regional Efforts to Prevent and Combat Corruption will stay open for further inputs by the Member States till its adoption by the Ministers.

AGENDA ITEM 8: PLAN OF ACTIONS OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON COMBATING CRIME, IN PARTICULAR IN ITS ORGANIZED FORMS (JULY 2013 – JUNE 2015)

25. The Country-Coordinator informed of the accomplishment of the Plan of Action (July 2013 – June 2015). The document is attached as **Annex IV**.

26. Furthermore, the Country-Coordinator informed that the process of elaboration of the Action Plan for 2015-2017 is undergoing, and invited the Member States to contribute to the draft by the end of September 2015.

27. The Country-Coordinator suggested that the new Action Plan should involve concrete projects and events of common interest.

AGENDA ITEM 9: PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND (PDF) AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT (PMU) – COSIDERATION OF BSEC MEMBER STATES PROPOSALS FOR PROJECTS.

28. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on the Guidelines of the newly established BSEC Project Management Unit.

AGENDA ITEM 10: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

29. No issues were raised under this agenda item.

AGENDA ITEM 11: DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

30. The date and venue of the next Meeting will be communicated in due course.

AGENDA ITEM 12: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

31. The present Report was adopted for submission to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials (Chisinau, 16-17 June 2015).
