



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

Istanbul, 13-14 October 2010

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 Istanbul on 13-14 October 2010.
2. The Meeting was co-chaired by Mrs. Ioanna BEKIARI, Police Brigadier General and Director of the Police Cooperation Division of the Police Headquarters of the Hellenic Ministry of Citizen Protection, and Ms. Vilhelmina LUCINESCU, Commissioner of the Directorate for European Affairs and International Relations of the Ministry of Administration and Interior of Romania.
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
Ukraine
4. The representative of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of BSEC (PABSEC) also participated in the Meeting.
5. The representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland participated in the Meeting as a Sectoral Dialogue Partner.

6. The representatives of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) attended the Meeting as Guests.

The list of participants is attached as Annex I.

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

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT ACTION PLAN OF THE WORKING GROUP ON COMBATING CRIME, IN PARTICULAR IN ITS ORGANIZED FORMS, FOR MAY 2009 – JUNE 2011

8. The Working Group finalized and approved the “Draft Action Plan of the Working Group on Combating Crime, in Particular in its Organized Forms, for May 2009 - June 2011”. The Plan of Action as finalized is attached as Annex III.

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

9. The participants noted the necessity to continue their efforts in developing interaction within the Additional Protocol on Combating Terrorism and agreed to proceed with deliberations on the issue of the Additional Protocol’s implementation at its next meeting.

10. BSEC PERMIS briefed the participants on the Joint BSEC-USA Workshop on Preventing Terrorist Travel – Sharing Best Practices (Istanbul, 27-28 April 2010) and the Sub-Regional Workshop for the BSEC Countries on Criminal Law Aspects of Countering Maritime Terrorism in Light of Relevant Universal Instruments (Odessa, 26-27 May 2010), organized by the OSCE Action Against Terrorism Unit (ATU) and UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB).

11. Further to the relevant decision of the BSEC Council (Sofia, 28 May 2010) the conclusions of the Joint BSEC-USA Workshop were brought to the attention of the Working Group.

12. Recognizing usefulness and value of the aforesaid events the participants expressed their interest in future meetings of this kind.

PRESENTATION OF A DRAFT ANNUAL REVIEW WITH THE ASSESSMENT OF THE TRENDS OF TRANS-NATIONAL CRIME IN THE BSEC REGION

13. Romania, in its capacity as the Country Coordinator of the Working Group, presented the draft Report regarding the annual review of the trans-national crime trends in the BSEC region, prepared on the basis of the data provided by eight Member States (Armenia, Bulgaria, Georgia,

Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russia, and Turkey). The draft Report as presented is attached as Annex IV.

14. The Working Group expressed its appreciation of the work done by Romania and invited the Member States that had not forwarded the requested information yet, to do so **as soon as possible**.

15. It was agreed that the Member States will transmit their comments to the draft Report by **the end of December 2010**.

16. Referring to Article 7 of the Agreement Among the Governments of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in Particular in its Organized Forms (Corfu, Greece, 2 October 1998), the Working Group also requested the Committee of Senior Officials to consider the issue of the possibility to provide translation of the final version of the Report on Trans-National Crime into Russian.

17. The participants also decided to forward by **the end of December 2010** their proposals on possible unification and clarification of statistical data defined in the Guidelines for Elaboration of an Annual Review of the Trans-National Crime Trends in the BSEC Region for the next reviews. The proposals of Romania are attached to Annex IV.

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN ANTICORRUPTION LEGISLATION IN THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

18. The delegations of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Hellenic Republic, Romania and the Russian Federation informed the participants on the latest developments in their anticorruption legislation and practices. The presentations provided are attached as Annex V.

19. The participants stressed the significance of anticorruption measures, including those that could facilitate prevention and raise public awareness of corrupt practices, and agreed to explore possible interaction with other regional and international organizations for promoting joint initiatives, projects and events in combating corruption.

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

20. The Working Group took note of the information delivered by the delegations of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Hellenic Republic, Romania and the Russian Federation regarding the implementation of the BSEC Regional Action Plan for Strengthening the Criminal Justice Response to Trafficking in Persons. The presentations provided are attached as Annex VI.

21. The Republic of Bulgaria informed the participants on the Working Visit to the Black Sea Border Coordination and Information Center in Burgas by the representatives of BSEC and Black Sea Cooperation Forum (BSCF) on 14-15 April 2010. Further to the relevant decision of the Council (Sofia, 28 May 2010) the Working Group will explore at its next meetings possible cooperation between the two organizations in the context of the Regional Action Plan.

22. Following the previous agreements the representatives of UNODC delivered the presentation on Joint BSEC – UNODC Project on Regional Action Plan and Possible Way Forward.

23. The Working Group welcomed the efforts of UNODC to provide additional technical assistance and to obtain funds for launching the next joint project. The Group agreed that the Member States will forward their comments and proposals **by the end of November 2010** on the project idea also presented by UNODC at the meeting. Further, the implementation plan of the project will be forwarded by UNODC subject to the availability of funds. The presentation and the project idea are attached as Annex VII.

ACTIVITIES OF THE NETWORK OF THE LIAISON OFFICERS ON COMBATING CRIME

24. The participants took note of the updated information provided by Azerbaijan and Bulgaria regarding their Liaison Officers.

25. The Member States that had not appointed their Liaison Officers yet, were requested to do so as soon as possible.

26. The Working Group decided to continue discussions on improvement of the Network's operation at its next meeting.

ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS IN THE FIELD OF COMBATING ORGANIZED CRIME

27. The participants took note of the information presented by the representative of the IOM on its Counter Trafficking Initiatives in the Black Sea Region and Recommendations for Joint Actions within BSEC. The presentation is attached as Annex VIII.

28. The Working Group reiterated its interest in developing practice of receiving from IOM triennial analysis on migration trends in the Black Sea Region and encouraged IOM to consider the possibility to launch the next joint project for updating the Countries' migration Profiles of 2008 as well as an Overview for the Region.

29. The participants appreciated the presentation of the representative of the OSCE ATU on its counter-terrorism activities and agreed to forward their proposals, if any, on topics for joint workshop to be discussed at the next meeting of the Working Group. The presentation is attached as Annex VIII.

30. The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) informed the Working Group on the Budapest Process and the joint EU-ICMPD initiative MIEUX (Migration: EU Expertise) and invited BSEC to consider the possibilities for cooperation within the framework of the initiative. The presentations are attached as Annex VIII.

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE JOINT DECLARATION OF THE MINISTERS OF INTERIOR/PUBLIC ORDER OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES (BUCHAREST, 24 MARCH 2006)

31. The participants took note of the evaluation report prepared by Romania on the status of implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the Council. The report is attached as Annex IX.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

32. BSEC PERMIS reminded the Working Group that the term-in-office of the current Country-Coordinator (Romania) will expire in June 2011. The Member States were invited to forward their application for the next term-in-office of the Country-Coordinator with the view that the issue may be considered at the meeting of the CSO scheduled for 24-25 November 2010 in Thessaloniki, Greece. The relevant Note will be forwarded to the Member States.

33. The participants of the meeting, attaching great importance to the further enhancement of cooperation in combating crime in the Black Sea Region, expressed their willingness to have the 8th Meeting of the Ministers of Interior of the BSEC Member States organized in the first half of 2011.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

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

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

35. The present Report was adopted for submission to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials and the Twenty-Third Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs.
