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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**

Moscow, 27 June 2006

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 Moscow, on 27 June 2006.

2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Alexander ELIN, Deputy Head of the Department of Organized Crime and Terrorism, Ministry of Interior of the Russian Federation.

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

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Bulgaria
Georgia
Hellenic Republic
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Serbia
Ukraine

4. Representatives of the International Organization for Migration attended the Meeting as guests.

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:

a) 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. PERMIS informed about the state of affairs regarding the Additional Protocol to the BSEC Agreement establishing the Network of Liaison Officers and the nomination of the Liaison Officers. So far nine out of ten BSEC Member States-signatories to the Additional Protocol have become parties to it. The Republic of Armenia informed that its national procedure is currently in the final stage and the instrument of ratification will be deposited with BSEC PERMIS in due time.

7. Furthermore, seven Member States namely, Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey, Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine and Greece have nominated their Liaison Officers. The Russian Federation informed that it will appoint its representative to the Network in the near future. Bulgaria notified its new representative to the Network. The List of the Liaison Officers appointed in compliance with the Additional Protocol is attached herewith as Annex III.

b) 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. PERMIS informed about the state of affairs regarding the Additional 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. The Additional Protocol entered into force with respect to Bulgaria, Georgia and Romania as of 16 October 2005 and with respect to the Hellenic Republic, as of 14 June 2006. The Working Group also took note of the fact that although Albania ratified the said Additional Protocol, it would enter into force with respect to it at the same day Albania becomes a party 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.

9. The delegations of the BSEC Member States-signatories of this Additional Protocol also provided information with respect to their national procedures on the ratification/approval of the Additional Protocol.

CONSIDERATION OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN BSEC AND THE SECI CENTER FOR COMBATING TRANS-BORDER CRIME

10. The Working Group deliberated on the Draft Memorandum of Understanding between BSEC and the SECI Center for Combating Trans-border Crime. The amended text of the Draft Memorandum of Understanding, as agreed by the Working Group on Combating Organized Crime is attached as Annex IV to the present Report to be submitted to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials for approval.

DISCUSSION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT DECLARATION OF THE MINISTERS OF INTERIOR / PUBLIC ORDER OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION (BSEC) ON STRENGTHENING COOPERATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST ORGANIZED CRIME, CORRUPTION AND TERRORISM (BUCHAREST, 24 MARCH 2006);

11. The Working Group exchanged information on the measures undertaken at national level for the implementation of the provisions of the “Joint Declaration of the Ministers of Interior/Public Order of the BSEC Member States on the Strengthening Cooperation in the Fight against Organized Crime, Corruption and Terrorism”, adopted in Bucharest on 24 March 2006.

12. The Russian Delegation briefed the participants about its national measures for the implementation of the said Declaration. The BSEC Member States were invited to communicate to BSEC PERMIS their respective national measures in written form.

13. Furthermore, the Chairmanship informed about its further initiative to organize additional events on combating organized crime, to be held during the Russian mandate as a contribution to the implementation of the said Declaration. Romania as the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group stressed its intention to organize a training course for experts in combating trafficking in human beings according to the agreed Action Plan of the Working Group, in the framework of the forthcoming Serbian BSEC Chairmanship.

CONSIDERATION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS:

a) JOINT BSEC – UNODC PROJECT ON STRENGTHENING OF THE CRIMINAL-JUSTICE RESPONSE TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE BLACK SEA REGION;

14. The Working Group deliberated on the “Joint BSEC – UNODC Project on Strengthening of the Criminal-Justice Response to Human Trafficking in the Black Sea Region”, expressed its support to it and recommended it to the Committee of Senior Officials for approval.

b) “BLACK SEA REGIONAL COOPERATION ON MIGRATION” (PROPOSED BY THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION);

15. The Working Group took note of the presentation of the representative of IOM on the project “Black Sea Regional Cooperation on Migration”. Furthermore, the Working Group expressed its general support to the said project and instructed BSEC PERMIS to disseminate an extended version of the said project to the Member States. The Member States agreed to communicate their assessment on the feasibility of the project to BSEC PERMIS at their earliest convenience so that it is submitted to the Committee of Senior Officials for approval and appropriate mandate, to be issued for its implementation.

CONSIDERATION OF THE “MODALITIES OF WORK” FOR THE ACTIVITY OF THE NETWORK OF THE LIAISON OFFICERS ON COMBATING CRIME

16. Within this agenda item, an informal parallel meeting of the participating Liaison Officers took place. Having agreed in general on the existing “Draft Modalities of Work” for the

activity of the Network of the Liaison Officers (LON) on Combating Crime, they suggested that an additional meeting of the Network is needed so that particular issues as exchange of classified information and the modalities of the written request are agreed.

17. The Working Group called upon the Member States to send their positions on the Standard Data Sheet/Questionnaire for Exchange of Information.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

18. The date of the next Meeting will be communicated in due time through BSEC PERMIS, after consultations with the Chairman-in-Office and the Country-Coordinator.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

19. The Participants expressed their gratitude to the Ministry of Interior of the Russian Federation for the hospitality extended to them during the Meeting.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

20. The present Report was adopted for submission to the Fifteenth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States (Moscow, 1 November 2006).
