

Istanbul, 5 February 2007

BS/CCLO/WG/R(2006)2

**REPORT
OF THE MEETING
OF THE NETWORK OF LIAISON OFFICERS ON COMBATING CRIME WITH THE
PARTICIPATION OF THE HEADS OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES OF THE BSEC
MEMBER STATES**

Istanbul, 5 February 2007

1. The Meeting of the Network of Liaison Officers on Combating Crime with the participation of the Heads of Specialized Agencies of the BSEC Member States was held at the BSEC Headquarters in Istanbul on 5 February 2007.
2. The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Gabriel SOTIRESCU, Deputy Director General, General Directorate of Combating Organized Crime, General Inspectorate of the Romanian Police, and Mr. Mladen SPASIC, Head of the Service for Fighting against Organized Crime, Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Hellenic Republic
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Serbia
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine
4. Representatives of the Czech Republic and the Republic of Poland attended the Meeting as BSEC Observers.

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 APPOINTMENT OF THE LIAISON OFFICERS ON COMBATING CRIME BY THE BSEC MEMBER STATES.

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. After the Republic of Armenia deposited the instrument of ratification with BSEC PERMIS on 30 January 2007, the Additional Protocol will enter into force with respect to the Republic of Armenia on 1 March 2007.

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 would appoint its representative to the Network in the nearest future. Armenia informed about the nomination of its representative to the Network, which will become effective after the entering into force of the Additional Protocol with respect to this country. Romania updated the information with respect to its Liaison Officer.

8. PERMIS recommended the Member States to officially notify to PERMIS the appointment or the withdrawal of their Liaison Officers to the Network, in accordance to the Article 6 para. 3 of the Additional Protocol.

9. The updated List of the Liaison Officers appointed in compliance with the Additional Protocol is attached herewith as Annex III.

ENHANCED COOPERATION AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION UNDER 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 (ESTABLISHING THE NETWORK OF LIAISON OFFICERS), DONE IN KYIV ON 15 MARCH 2002:

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE ON MEASURES UNDERTAKEN BY THE BSEC MEMBER STATES AT NATIONAL LEVEL OR IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER BSEC MEMBER STATES OR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR COMBATING TRANSNATIONAL CRIME;

10. The participants made presentations and shared information and practical experience on the activities undertaken by the BSEC Member States, as well as their future priorities and perspectives in the field of preventing and combating organized crime, especially the trafficking in human beings, illegal migration, trafficking of weapons and ammunition and of drugs. These measures and actions are aiming at improving the legal framework and the necessary institutional capacities to efficiently prevent and combat organized crime, as well as at enhancing bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the BSEC region.

11. It has been expressed the necessity of enhancing regional cooperation among competent authorities of the BSEC Members States, through exchange of information and of experience (methods, strategies, analyses, studies); organization of trainings for specialists; contribution

through common actions to trace out and investigate activities with transnational character, by making full use of the established Network of Liaison Officers on Combating Crime.

12. The Country-Coordinator (Romania) informed the participants about its intention to organize a Special Training Course for Experts in Combating trafficking in Human Beings in Brasov, on 26 – 30 March 2007. The program of the said event will be communicated through PERMIS in due time.

13. The participants took note of the presentation made by the Turkish delegation on the “International Urgent Intervention Project” – ULAK and expressed their interest to learn more about this project, to be eventually considered as a model for the exchange of information within the Network, in the future.

14. The Hellenic Republic presented information on the project “ILAEIRA” on fighting trafficking in human beings implemented by the Greek Ministry of Public Order, with the participation of nine BSEC Member States and expressed its readiness to welcome the participation of all BSEC Member States.

15. The participants were invited to communicate to BSEC PERMIS their presentations in electronic version to be disseminated to the BSEC Member States.

CONSIDERATION OF TRENDS OF TRANS-NATIONAL CRIME IN THE BSEC REGION.

16. The Member States presented information and statistics on the recent developments and trends with respect to specific aspects of transnational crime in their countries and in the BSEC region.

17. The participants stressed the necessity and the usefulness of the elaboration of an annual review with an assessment of the trends of trans-national crime in the BSEC region, with an aim of identifying new forms of cooperation among the Law Enforcement Agencies of the BSEC Member States. This document should be prepared under the guidance of the Country-Coordinator and the BSEC Network of Liaison Officers would be the proper channel for the providing of information to that end.

18. The participants recommended to the Working Group on Combating Crime, in particular in its Organized Forms to consider this issue at its forthcoming Meeting.

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

- A) REQUEST FOR COOPERATION/INFORMATION (DATA SHEET/QUESTIONNAIRE);**
- B) SEIZURE NOTIFICATION;**
- C) SPECIFIC ASPECTS RELATED TO THE EXCHANGE OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION/DATA PROTECTION.**

19. The participants agreed that the “Modalities of Work” for the BSEC Network of Liaison Officers on Combating Crime, as approved by the Working Group, is a comprehensive guideline for the implementation of the tasks assigned to the Network.

20. Furthermore, while approaching the practical modalities of exchanging information, the participants considered the following draft papers: a) the Request of cooperation/Information (Data sheet questionnaire); b) Seizure notification, and made amendments to them; c) Template. They agreed to submit the said documents to the Working Group for approval. The said documents, as agreed, are attached as Annexes IV, V and VI to the Report.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

21. 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.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

22. The present Report was adopted for submission to the next Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Combating Crime, in particular in its Organized Forms (Istanbul, 19-20 February 2007).
