

**Istanbul, 20 February 2007**

**BS/CC/WG/R(2007)1**

**REPORT  
OF THE MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP  
ON COOPERATION IN COMBATING CRIME,  
IN PARTICULAR IN ITS ORGANIZED FORMS**

**Istanbul, BSEC Headquarters, 19-20 February 2007**

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in Particular in its Organized Forms was held in Istanbul, at the BSEC Headquarters, on 19-20 February 2007.
2. The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Dražen MARAVIĆ, Chief of the Bureau for International Cooperation and EU Integration, Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia, and Mr. Gabriel SOTIRESCU, Deputy General Director, General Directorate of Combating Organized Crime, General Inspectorate of Romanian Police, 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
  - Romania
  - Russian Federation
  - Republic of Serbia
  - Republic of Turkey
  - Ukraine
4. Representatives of the Republic of Austria, the Czech Republic and the Republic of Poland attended the Meeting as Observers.
5. Representatives of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the SECI Center for Combating Trans-border Crime and United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) attended the Meeting as Guests.

The list of participants is attached as Annex I.

6. 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;**

7. 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.

8. Furthermore, seven Member States namely, the Republic of Bulgaria, Romania, the Republic of Turkey, the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine and the Hellenic Republic have nominated their Liaison Officers. Romania informed about the appointment of a new Liaison Officer to the Network. 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. Azerbaijan informed about its readiness to appoint a Liaison Officer to the Network after the completion of the national procedures and the deposition of the instrument of ratification with PERMIS.

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

10. The updated 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;**

11. 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 the Republic of Bulgaria, Georgia and Romania as of 16 October 2005 and with respect to the Hellenic Republic, as of 14 June 2006. Since the last Meeting of the Working Group on Combating Crime

(Moscow, June 2006) the Additional Protocol was also ratified by the Republic of Turkey and entered into force with respect to this BSEC Member State on 21 February 2007. The Working Group also took note of the fact that although the Republic of Albania ratified the said Additional Protocol, it would enter into force with respect to it at the same day the Republic of 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.

12. The Working Group called upon the Member States, which have not yet done so, to speed up their national procedures for the ratification/approval of the Additional Protocol.

**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)**

13. Romania reminded of the written report on the measures undertaken in implementing the provisions of the abovementioned Joint Ministerial Declaration, as transmitted in August 2006 and presented an updated report on the actions undertaken in view of implementation of the Ministerial Declaration. The Romanian reports are attached as Annex IV and V.

14. The Working Group called upon the Member States to provide additional information to the draft report to be elaborated by the Country-Coordinator and to send to PERMIS their contributions by 15 March 2007, so that Romania could submit, in due time, the final Report on the measures undertaken by the BSEC Member States for the implementation of the Joint Ministerial Declaration to be taken into account in the Progress Report of the Secretary General and the Chart of Implementation of the BSEC Economic Agenda.

15. The Working Group exchanged opinions with respect to the necessity of adopting a uniform methodology of reporting, following the best practices existing in international organizations. The Working Group discussed the possibility to elaborate a Questionnaire to be used in the future for this purpose.

16. The Country-Coordinator will propose a Questionnaire in due time to be considered by the Working Group at its next Meeting.

**PROGRESS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BSEC ACTION PLAN ON COOPERATION IN COMBATING CRIME, IN PARTICULAR IN ITS ORGANIZED FORMS DURING ROMANIA'S MANDATE AS THE COUNTRY COORDINATOR OF THE WORKING GROUP (MAY 2005 – APRIL 2007)**

17. The delegation of Romania in its capacity as the Country-Coordinator presented its Report on the state of implementation of the Action Plan of the Working Group for the period 2005-2007, as well as a Preliminary Evaluation Report of the Activities of the Working Group on Combating Crime, in Particular in its Organized Forms during Romania's mandate as the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group. The said documents are attached as Annex VI and VII.

18. The Country-Coordinator provided information on the activities of the WG as well as its assessment of the progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan and analysis and recommendations of what is needed to be done to enhance cooperation within BSEC.

19. The Country-Coordinator invited the participants of the WG for their comments and suggestions on the Preliminary Evaluation Report. The final version of the Evaluation Report will be submitted by end of March by the Country-Coordinator to the Committee of Senior Officials and the BSEC Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs for consideration.

20. The participants expressed their appreciation to Romania as the Country-Coordinator for its contribution to the process of the development of regional cooperation in the field of combating crime.

21. The Working Group took note of the application submitted by Romania to reassume its responsibility of Country-Coordinator of the Working Group as of 1 May 2007 for the period 2007-2009.

#### **ACTIVITY OF THE NETWORK OF THE LIAISON OFFICERS ON COMBATING CRIME**

22. The Working Group took note of the Report of the Meeting of the BSEC Network of Liaison Officers on Combating Crime (Istanbul, 5 February 2007).

23. The Working Group approved the “Modalities of Work” for the activity of the Network of Liaison Officers and the documents: a) the Request of cooperation/Information (Data sheet questionnaire); b) Seizure notification; c) Template; and instructed the Network to start its practical work under the coordination of the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group, as soon as possible.

24. The participants considered in a positive manner the proposal regarding the elaboration of an annual review with an assessment of the trends of transnational crime in the BSEC region and decided to consider the issue at its next meeting, based on the guidelines to be elaborated and disseminated, in due time, by the Country-Coordinator.

25. The Working Group recommended to the next BSEC Chairmanships-in-Office to convene, in the future, back-to-back meetings of the Working Group on Combating Crime and of the Network of Liaison Officers.

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

26. The participants took note of the presentation made by the Director of the SECI Center for Combating Trans-border Crime on the activities carried out at regional level in the field of combating organized crime. The Director of the SECI Center emphasized that he was mandated by the SECI Center Joint Cooperative Committee to conclude a Memorandum of Understanding with BSEC for cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

27. The Working Group deliberated on the Draft Memorandum of Understanding between BSEC and the SECI Center for Combating Trans-border Crime and decided to defer the issue to its next meeting.

28. The Working Group called upon the Member States to transmit to PERMIS their suggestions on the draft MoU at least 30 days before its next Meeting. These suggestions may also include clarification of possible financial implication for BSEC and the added value of the said MoU to the activities and tasks assigned to the BSEC Network of Liaison Officers, in order to avoid eventual duplications. The said Draft MoU is attached as Annex VIII.

#### **DISCUSSION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION POSSIBILITIES OF PROJECTS:**

##### **c) Joint BSEC – UNODC Project on Strengthening of the Criminal-Justice Response to Trafficking in Persons in the Black Sea Region;**

29. The Working Group deliberated on the Implementation Plan for the *Joint BSEC – UNODC Project on Strengthening of the Criminal-Justice Response to Trafficking in Persons in the Black Sea Region* proposed by UNODC and made amendments to it. The Implementation Plan as agreed is attached as Annex IX.

30. The Working Group called upon the Member States to stick to the agreed schedules so that the implementation of the project could be launched latest by 15 July 2007.

##### **d) “Black Sea Regional Cooperation on Migration” (proposed by the International Organization for Migration);**

31. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the IOM with respect to the efforts undertaken for securing financing of the project entitled “Black Sea Regional Cooperation on Migration”.

32. The Working Group expressed its support and agreed to continue exploring the options for the implementation of the project after additional information on financing possibilities is provided by IOM.

#### **ACTIVITIES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, INSTITUTIONS AND REGIONAL INITIATIVES IN THE FIELD OF COMBATING ORGANIZED CRIME (PRESENTATION MADE BY SECI CENTER FOR COMBATING TRANS-BORDER CRIME, IOM, UNODC, ETC)**

33. The participants took note of the presentations made by the representatives of IOM and UNODC.

34. The necessity to enhance cooperation of BSEC with relevant international and regional organizations and other initiatives, as well as to secure funds from all available resources for the regional action oriented projects was emphasized.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

35. The Working Group took note of the presentation made by Romania with the respect of the activities of the Romanian National Anti-Drug Agency. The BSEC Member States were also invited to send relevant information in order to enhance the cooperation in this field.

**DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

36. The date and the venue 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**

37. The present Report was adopted for submission to the next Meeting of the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (Belgrade, 19 April 2007).

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