



**Annex III to BS/IM/R(2006)1
BS/CCLO/WG/R(2006)1**

**REPORT
OF THE COMMON MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP
ON COOPERATION IN COMBATING CRIME, IN PARTICULAR IN ITS
ORGANIZED FORMS, AND OF THE
NETWORK OF THE LIAISON OFFICERS ON COMBATING CRIME**

Bucharest, 22 – 23 March 2006

1. The Common Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in particular in its Organized Forms, and of the Network of Liaison Officers on Combating Crime was held in Bucharest on 22-23 March 2006.

2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Corneliu ALEXANDRU, Director General, Ministry of Administration and Interior of Romania.

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

Republic of Albania
Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Republic of Bulgaria
Georgia
Hellenic Republic
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine

4. Representatives of the Republic of Belarus, the Federal Republic of Germany, the State of Israel, the Republic of Italy, the Republic of Poland, the Slovak Republic and the United States of America attended the Meeting as Observers.

5. Representatives of Ireland, Japan, Portugal, Spain, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the European Commission, the International Organization for Migration, the Stability

Pact for South-Eastern Europe and the SECI Regional Center for Combating Trans-Border Crime attended the Meeting as guests.

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

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 BSEC Member States have become parties to the Additional Protocol. Furthermore, seven Member States namely, Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey, Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine and Greece have nominated their Liaison Officers. The List of the Liaison Officers appointed in compliance with the Additional Protocol is attached herewith as Annex II.

8. The delegations provided information with respect to their national procedures on the signature/ratification/approval of the Additional Protocol and of the nomination of the Liaison Officers.

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

9. 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 Working Group took note of the fact that all the BSEC Member States signed the Additional Protocol. Moreover, it entered into force with respect to Bulgaria, Georgia and Romania as of 16 October 2005.

10. The delegations provided information with respect to their national procedures on the signature/ratification/approval of the Additional Protocol. The Greek delegation stated that its ratification procedure was completed and the relevant nomination to the depositary would be forwarded in the near future.

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT ACTION PLAN PRESENTED BY THE COUNTRY-COORDINATOR FOR THE ACTIVITY OF THE WORKING GROUP

11. The Working Group discussed the Draft Action Plan for 2005-2007 submitted by Romania as the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group.

12. Following the discussion, the Draft Action Plan was amended and adopted by the Working Group and attached as Annex III to the present Report. On the basis of the Action Plan the BSEC Member States may present further proposals.

DISCUSSION ON THE NEW DRAFT ‘TERMS OF REFERENCE’ FOR THE WORKING GROUP ON COMBATING CRIME

13. The Working Group discussed and agreed upon the draft text of its amended Terms of Reference to be submitted to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials and the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States for approval. The draft text of the amended Terms of Reference of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Combating Crime is attached as Annex IV to the Report.

ELABORATION OF THE ‘MODALITIES OF WORK’ FOR THE ACTIVITY OF THE NETWORK OF THE LIAISON OFFICERS ON COMBATING CRIME

14. The Working Group discussed and agreed on the “Draft Modalities of Work” for the activity of the Network of the Liaison Officers on Combating Crime, prepared by BSEC PERMIS in consultation with the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group on Combating Crime. The Working Group called upon the next Chairmanship to convene the next Meeting of the BSEC Network of the Liaison Officers as soon as possible. The exact date and venue will be communicated by PERMIS in due time. Furthermore, the Working Group instructed the Network to further elaborate on the document “Modalities of Work”, including *a Standard Data Sheet/Questionnaire for Exchange of Information*. The “Draft Modalities of Work” is attached as Annex V.

DISCUSSION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT DECLARATION ON THE FIGHT AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS ADOPTED BY THE MINISTERS OF INTERIOR/PUBLIC ORDER OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES IN ATHENS ON 3 DECEMBER 2004

15. The Working Group exchanged information on the measures undertaken at national level for the implementation of the provisions of the “Joint Declaration on the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings of the Ministers of Interior/Public Order of the BSEC Member States”, adopted in Athens on 3 December 2004.

16. The presentations pointed out that the measures undertaken by the BSEC Member States were focused on implementation of activities in key issues, according to the provisions of the above mentioned Ministerial Declaration. The Working Group also assessed in a positive manner the proposal of Greece to organize a seminar aiming at the training and education of personnel involved in countering trafficking in human beings and recommended its inclusion in the Calendar of Events of the next Chairmanship.

COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND REGIONAL INITIATIVES IN THE FIELD OF COMBATING

ORGANIZED CRIME AND ILLEGAL MIGRATION (EU, SECI CENTER FOR COMBATING TRANS-BORDER CRIME, UNODC ETC)

a) Joint BSEC UNODC Project on Strengthening of the Criminal-Justice Response to Human Trafficking in the Black Sea Region

17. The Working Group took note of the presentation made by the UNODC representative about a project idea on the Joint BSEC UNODC Project on Strengthening of the Criminal-Justice Response to Human Trafficking in the Black Sea Region to be developed and implemented in the BSEC framework with the financial support and expertise of UNODC. The participants expressed their gratitude to UNODC for the proposal for a Joint Project and considered it in a positive manner. The Member States instructed PERMIS to disseminate an elaborated version of the said project and 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. The presentation of the UNODC representative is attached as Annex VI.

b) Draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative Center for Combating Trans-border Crime

18. The Working Group took note of the Draft MoU between BSEC and the SECI Center for Combating Trans-border Crime, proposed by the Romanian Chairmanship and circulated by BSEC PERMIS (Note No: BS/INFO.2006.190 of 14 March 2006). It invited the Member States to communicate to BSEC PERMIS their opinions on the Draft by the end of April 2006. The Working Group decided to return on the matter at its next Meeting.

ELABORATION OF A DRAFT JOINT DECLARATION TO BE ADOPTED BY THE MINISTERS OF INTERIOR/PUBLIC ORDER OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

19. The Working Group considered the Draft 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, proposed by the Romanian Chairmanship-in-Office. It agreed on the final draft of the said Joint Declaration and submitted it to the Seventh Meeting of the Ministers of Interior/Public Order of the BSEC Member States for adoption. The Draft Joint Declaration is attached as Annex VII to the present Report.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

20. 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

21. The Participants expressed their gratitude to the Romanian Ministry of Administration and Interior for the hospitality extended to them during the Meeting.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

22. The present Report was adopted for submission to the Fourteenth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States (Bucharest, 26 April 2006).
