



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**

Istanbul, 26-27 November 2015

AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in Particular in Its Organized Forms, was held at the BSEC Headquarters on 26-27 November 2015.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mrs. Brandușa PREDESCU, Minister Plenipotentiary, Special Representative of the Romanian Chairmanship-in-Office to BSEC, and co-chaired by Mrs. Vilhelmina LUCINESCU, Chief Commissioner from Ministry of Internal Affairs 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
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Turkey
4. 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**.

AGENDA ITEM 2: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE JOINT DECLARATIONS OF THE MINISTERS OF INTERIOR/PUBLIC ORDER OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

6. The BSEC PERMIS informed the participants on the Status of Implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the Council and follow-up to the Joint Declarations of the Ministers of Interior/Public Order of the BSEC Member States.

7. The Member States were requested to forward updated information with contact details with respect to the existing List of Representatives - National Contact Points in the Working Group on Combating Crime, in Particular in Its Organized Forms. The list as of 26 November 2015 is attached as **Annex III**.

8. The Working Group took note of the information presented by the BSEC PERMIS on the decision of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States on the “Way Forward for an Action Plan on the Implementation of the Economic Agenda towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership”.

9. The Working Group discussed and agreed on the Achievements Report for 2013-2015 presented by the Country-Coordinator. The Achievements Report is attached as **Annex IV**.

10. The Working Group discussed and agreed on the following priorities for the second Medium-Term (2016-2018) of implementation of the “BSEC Economic Agenda 2012”:

- strengthening the cooperation among the BSEC Member States in combating organized crime activities, such as the trafficking of human beings, drugs, weapons and radioactive materials, corruption, smuggling of motor vehicles and cyber-crime as well as the money laundering and illicit financial activities.

- enhancing cooperation with other international organizations on combating organized crime, corruption and terrorism and using their expertise and the expertise of the networks of law enforcement agencies involved in these fields.

- supporting the work of the BSEC Network of Liaison Officers on Combating Crime.

11. The Working Group was informed by the special representative of the Chairmanship-in-Office of the letter addressed by the Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania from 14 September 2015 on the issue of refugees. The participants expressed views that the BSEC has no instruments for dealing with the issue mentioned in the letter and that this could be a separate subject of informal exchange of views and best practices on an expert level within the Working Group.

AGENDA ITEM 3: 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

12. The Working Group decided to defer the issue to the next Meeting of the Working Group.

AGENDA ITEM 4: DELIBERATIONS ON THE ANNUAL REVIEW WITH THE ASSESSMENT OF THE TRENDS OF TRANS-NATIONAL CRIME IN THE BSEC REGION

13. The Country-Coordinator informed that so far a few Member States have sent the national contributions for the annual review and a Report could not be produced for that reason.

14. The Country-Coordinator invited the Member States to contribute to the said document by the end of 2015.

AGENDA ITEM 5: FOLLOW-UP TO THE BSEC REGIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR STRENGTHENING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE TO TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN THE BLACK SEA REGION

15. The Representative of the Hellenic Republic presented information on “*2015 Hellenic Initiatives, Referring to the Strengthening the Criminal Justice Response to Trafficking in Persons*”. The presentation is attached as **Annex V**.

16. The representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan presented information on the national activity in Strengthening the Criminal Justice Response to Trafficking in Persons. The presentation is attached as **Annex VI**.

17. The representative of the Republic of Bulgaria presented information on the national activity in Strengthening the Criminal Justice Response to Trafficking in Persons. The information will be circulated in due course.

18. The representative of the Russian Federation presented information on the national activity in Strengthening the Criminal Justice Response to Trafficking in Persons. The presentation is attached as **Annex VII**.

19. The representative of the Republic of Turkey presented information on national activity in Strengthening the Criminal Justice Response to Trafficking in Persons. The presentation is attached as **Annex VIII**.

20. The Country-Coordinator invited the Member States who have not yet done so to officially submit the information for 2014 on their activities in strengthening the criminal justice response to trafficking in persons in the BSEC Region by the end of 2015 to enable the Country-Coordinator and the BSEC PERMIS to draft an annual report for 2014, according to Paragraph 6 of the said BSEC Regional Action Plan.

AGENDA ITEM 6: DRAFT BSEC ACTION PLAN ON REGIONAL EFFORTS TO PREVENT AND COMBAT CORRUPTION

21. The Country-Coordinator proposed that the agreed text of the draft BSEC Action Plan on Regional Efforts to Prevent and Combat Corruption be submitted for approval at the next Meeting of the BSEC Ministers of Interior/Public Order.

22. The Republic of Azerbaijan made a presentation on the national efforts in combating corruption. The presentation is attached as **Annex IX**.

23. The Working Group appreciated the information presented by the representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

AGENDA ITEM 7: PLAN OF ACTION OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON COMBATING CRIME, IN PARTICULAR IN ITS ORGANIZED FORMS (2015–2017)

24. The Country-Coordinator presented a draft Action Plan for 2015-2017.

25. The Working Group discussed, amended and agreed the Plan of Action of the Working Group on Combating Crime, in Particular in Its Organized Forms (2015-2017) and submitted for consideration of the next Committee of Senior Officials a draft Decision of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, to be held on 11 December in Bucharest:

“The Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs adopted the Plan of Action of the Working Group on Combating Crime, in Particular in Its Organized Forms (2015-2017) agreed upon at the meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in Particular in Its Organized Forms, held on 26-27 November, 2015 and instruct the Working Group to implement it.”

The agreed Action Plan for 2015-2017 is attached as **Annex X**.

AGENDA ITEM 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

26. The Representative of the Hellenic Republic delivered a presentation on “*Hellenic Initiatives on Combating Cyber-Crime*”. The presentation is attached as **Annex XI**.

AGENDA ITEM 9: DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

27. The date and venue of the next meeting will be communicated in due course.

AGENDA ITEM 10: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

28. The Working Group adopted the present Report for submission to the next Meeting of the Committee of the Senior Officials of the BSEC Member States.