



## ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

### Permanent International Secretariat

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### REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE NETWORK OF LIAISON OFFICERS ON COMBATING CRIME

Istanbul, 16 October 2012

1. The Meeting of the Network of Liaison Officers on Combating Crime was held at the BSEC Headquarters in Istanbul on 16 October 2012.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Ambassador Bozkurt ARAN, National Coordinator of the Turkish Chairmanship-in-Office; Director of Center for Multilateral Trade Studies, Economic Policy Research Foundation of the Republic of Turkey (TEPAV).
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:  
  
Republic of Armenia  
Republic of Azerbaijan  
Georgia  
Hellenic Republic  
Romania  
Russian Federation  
Republic of Turkey  
Ukraine
4. The List of Participants is attached as **Annex I** to the present Report.
5. The Draft Agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The Agenda, as adopted, is attached as **Annex II**.

**STATUS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BSEC COUNCIL AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE DECLARATIONS AND JOINT STATEMENTS ADOPTED BY THE MINISTERS OF INTERIOR**

6. BSEC PERMIS briefed the participants on the status of the Implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the BSEC Council and Follow-Up to the Declarations and Joint Statements adopted by the Ministers of Interior, in particular Joint Declarations of 2004 and 2006.

7. The participants were also informed on the BSEC Economic Agenda: Towards and Enhanced BSEC Partnership, adopted by the BSEC Council (Belgrade, 11 June 2012) and endorsed by the BSEC Summit (Istanbul, 26 June 2012), on priority areas of action in the field of combating organized crime. The necessity to support the work of the BSEC Network of Liaison Officers on Combating Crime was underlined.

### **STATE OF AFFAIRS WITH RESPECT TO THE APPOINTMENT OF THE LIAISON OFFICERS ON COMBATING CRIME BY THE BSEC MEMBER STATES**

8. 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. The Additional Protocol is in force with respect to all BSEC Member States. The Protocol is attached as **Annex III**.

9. So far nine Member States namely, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine, have nominated their Liaison Officers.

10. PERMIS requested the Member States which have not appointed their Liaison Officers yet, to do so as soon as possible and to notify officially PERMIS.

11. The Russian Federation informed that it would appoint its representative to the Network in the nearest future.

12. The representatives of the Republic of Armenia, Romania and the Republic of Turkey informed that the updated information regarding newly appointed Liaison Officers will be forwarded shortly.

13. The List of the Liaison Officers, as of 16 October 2012, appointed in compliance with the Additional Protocol is attached herewith as **Annex IV**.

### **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:**

14. The representative of the Hellenic Republic informed that its Liaison Officer had notified the Greek law enforcement bodies and other relevant services regarding the BSEC Network of Liaison Officers in view that the Network's channels could be used in urgent organized crime cases, including combating trafficking in persons.

15. The representative of the Hellenic Republic also pointed out the high importance for their local authorities to be fully informed on this channel of cooperation and to be encouraged to use its capabilities.

16. The representative of the Republic of Turkey informed on the experience gained in using international and regional organizations in terms of police cooperation. The representative also proposed to hold bilateral meetings on specific cases and goal-oriented thematic events on enhancing the work of Network, in line with the articles of the BSEC Economic Agenda and the Additional Protocol, in order to promote the BSEC Network.

17. The representative of Romania informed about the "BITMAP" software project aimed at identifying printers used in counterfeiting documents and banknotes. With this regard the representative of Romania expressed the readiness to organize a training seminar in case the appropriate funding is provided.

18. The representative of the Russian Federation expressed interest to participate in this training seminar and requested comprehensive information on terms of participation.

19. The representatives of the Russian Federation informed the participants on the legal framework including practice in combating trafficking in human beings. In particular, it was underlined that the Russian Federation, being party to the main international treaties in combating trafficking, has more than 60 bilateral agreements with other countries for cooperation in this field. The participants are also briefed about activities on preventing illegal migration within CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States).

#### **ENHANCED COOPERATION AND DISCUSSION ON PROSPECTS OF PRACTICAL WORK OF THE NETWORK**

20. It was underlined that the meetings of the Network should be convened on a regular basis.

21. The participants agreed that in order to promote the efficiency of the Network they will notify and encourage their national and local relevant authorities about the Network, established by the multilateral BSEC agreement (the Additional Protocol of 2002).

#### **ANY OTHER BUSSINESS**

22. The representative of the Republic of Turkey briefed the participants on the forthcoming Meetings of the Ministers of Interior and the Working Group on Combating Crime, in Particular in Its Organized Forms, to be held in Istanbul on 21-23 November 2012. A draft agenda, tentative program, administrative arrangements of the events and a draft Ministerial Declaration will be communicated to the Member States in due course through the BSEC PERMIS.

23. The participants agreed to incorporate in an agenda of the next meeting of the Network the issue on preventing and combating cyber crime including cyber-terrorism.

#### **DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

24. 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**

25. 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, 21-22 November 2012) and to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials (Istanbul, 12-13 December 2012)

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