



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, 17-18 September 2013

1. The Meeting of the Network of Liaison Officers on Combating Crime was held at the BSEC Headquarters in Istanbul on 17-18 September 2013.
2. The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Mikhail VARDANIAN, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia to the Organization of BSEC and by Mr. Mircea CIOBANU, Head of Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism Unit, General Inspectorate of Romanian Police, Directorate for Countering Organized Criminality.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Georgia
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Serbia
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 informed the participants on the BSEC Document “The way forward for an Action Plan on the implementation of the Economic Agenda: Towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership”, adopted at the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (December 2012). The participants agreed to focus on practical measures towards enhancing the efficiency of their Liaison Officers’ Network.

7. BSEC PERMIS informed the Member States of the invitation to participate in the forthcoming OSCE Counter-Terrorism Conference “Priority issues for International co-operation in the fight against terrorism” to be held in Kiev on 10-11 October 2013.

STATE OF AFFAIRS WITH RESPECT TO THE APPOINTMENT OF THE LIAISON OFFICERS ON COMBATING CRIME BY THE BSEC MEMBER STATES (ALBANIA AND SERBIA HAVE NOT YET APPOINTED THEIR LO)

8. The representative of Georgia informed of their appointee to the Liaison Officers’ Network.

9. The representative of the Russian Federation informed that the appointed point of contact to the Liaison Officers is temporary and that they will inform on their permanent representative in due course.

10. In compliance with items 2 and 3 of Article 6 of the Additional Protocol the Member State are requested to forward updated information regarding their appointees to the Network and invited those who have not yet appointed their permanent representatives to do so.

11. The updated list of the appointed Liaison Officers is attached 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:

12. The representative of the Republic of Turkey informed of their bilateral cooperation with almost 30 countries in countering illegal, cross-border, smuggling crime. The representative noted that the BSEC mechanism was not utilized to that extend in this field.

13. The Member States have agreed that the multilateral regional cooperation should be exercised focusing primarily on few fields of cooperation countering organized crime.

14. The representative of Georgia informed of the legal basis on cybercrime and terrorism in the country and the filed cases under the national regulations. They have proposed for the Member States’ consideration the possibility of training courses or seminars to be organized in the field of cybercrime and cyber-terrorism.

15. In this regard, the participants agreed that due funding is needed for elaboration and implementation of projects in the field of combating organized crime. It was suggested that such funding could be done through cooperation with international organizations and donors.

DISCUSSION ON PROSPECTS OF PRACTICAL WORK OF THE NETWORK

16. The representative of Georgia stated that the current network of cooperation is not competitive to the ones of other regional frameworks and called upon the Member States to join efforts to make it more functional and more effective.

17. The representative of Romania, in its capacity as the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group, made a presentation on the Report regarding the Annual Review of the Trans-National Crime Trends in the BSEC Region. The Report is attached as **Annex IV**.

18. The Report has been assessed positively by the participants of the Meeting, who recommended that all Member States should contribute to the study on trans-national crime trends in the region and to proceed with the review of the trans-national crime trend for another three-year period.

ANY OTHER BUSSINESS

19. No other issue was raised under this agenda item.

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.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

21. 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 (21-22 November 2013).
