



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

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**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON CULTURE**

Istanbul, BSEC Headquarters, 3 April 2014

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Culture was held at the BSEC Headquarters on 3 April 2014.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Branimir RADEV, Minister Plenipotentiary, Coordinator of the Bulgarian Chairmanship of the Organization of BSEC, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Albania
Republic of Armenia
Republic of Bulgaria
Georgia
Hellenic Republic
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Serbia
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine
4. The List of Participants is attached as **Annex I** to the present Report.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. The Draft Agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The Agenda, as adopted, is attached as **Annex II**.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BSEC COUNCIL, AND THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE DECLARATIONS AND JOINT STATEMENTS ADOPTED BY THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF CULTURE: DISCUSSION AND ASSESSMENT

6. The BSEC PERMIS representative informed on the ways and dynamics of the implementation of the Resolution of the 15th BSEC Council (Moscow, 1 November 2006) since the last Meeting of the Working Group on Culture (BSEC Headquarters, 4 November 2013).

7. The participants acknowledged the information on the issue provided by the BSEC PERMIS and expressed the willingness to proceed with steps needed to secure the dynamics of the implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the Council and the Declarations and the Statements of the Ministers in charge of Culture.

THE “WAY FORWARD FOR AN ACTION PLAN ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE “ECONOMIC AGENDA TOWARDS AN ENHANCED BSEC PARTNERSHIP”

8. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS representative on the activities of the Working Group on the Action Plan in implementation of the BSEC Economic Agenda.

9. The Working Group took note of the presentation on the pilot project “Black Sea Creative Industry Support Networks”, delivered by the representative of the Republic of Moldova, and decided to remain informed on the project at its next Meeting. The presentation is attached as **Annex III**.

10. The representative of the Republic of Bulgaria expressed the readiness of her country to join the project as partner.

11. The representative of the Republic of Bulgaria briefed the participants on participation of the Bulgarian experts in the International Festival on “Literary Ark”, held in Armenia on 23-31 October 2013.

12. The representative of the Hellenic Republic asked for clarification regarding the text of the BSEC webpage on culture that was discussed at the last meeting of the Working Group; corresponding clarification was given by the BSEC PERMIS representative.

CULTURAL HERITAGE – CONSIDERATION OF THE CONCRETE PROPOSALS:

a) Draft Memorandum of Understanding on the protection of cultural heritage of the BSEC Member States

13. The Working Group considered, amended and finalized ad referendum the Draft Memorandum of Understanding on the Protection of Cultural Heritage among the BSEC Member States, attached as **Annex IV**.

14. The Working Group invited the Member States to communicate to BSEC PERMIS their final drafting comments on the document by 30 May 2014.

b) Draft Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in combating illicit trafficking of cultural property belonging to the archaeological, historical, ethnographical heritage and arts among the BSEC Member States

15. The Working Group invited the Member States to communicate to BSEC PERMIS their comments regarding the amendments submitted to the Draft Memorandum of Understanding among the BSEC Member States on cooperation in combating illicit trafficking of cultural property belonging to the archaeological, historical, ethnographical heritage and the arts, by 30 May 2014. The draft document is attached as **Annex V**.

c) Hospitality traditions in the BSEC Member States

16. The Working Group welcomed the readiness of the Republic of Bulgaria to prepare a questionnaire on the Hospitality traditions in the BSEC Member States, to be circulated to the Member States by 30 May 2014, to serve for the eventual preparation of a concept paper on the issue.

d) Publishing a collection of XX century works of the classic literature writers

17. The Working Group took note of the proposal of BSEC PERMIS on publishing a collection of XX century works of the classic literature writers, and welcomed the readiness of the representative of the Republic of Moldova to consider the possibility of preparing a concept/terms of reference for the project, in cooperation with other participants.

CULTURAL ROUTES: DISCUSSION ON THE WAYS AND MEANS TO IMPLEMENT THE PROJECTS

18. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS representative on the issue and invited the Member States to communicate the updated information on their respective projects in advance of the next Meeting of the Working Group.

19. The representative of the Republic of Moldova informed that the project on the “BSEC Wine Museum Map” is in the process of finalization.

20. The representative of the Republic of Armenia informed that a number of events will be organized this year in Armenia within the project “Vine and Wine routes of Armenia”, and invited the Member States to participate in the events.

STRENGTHENING AND BOLSTERING THE CULTURAL CO-OPERATION AND THE CONTACTS BETWEEN THE STATES IN THE WIDER BLACK SEA AREA, ENCOURAGING CREATIVITY AND STIMULATING INNOVATION AND, CONSEQUENTLY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

21. The Working Group suggested to consider the possibility of taking ideas, as presented in the concept paper by Romania in 2011, within the framework of the pilot project “Black Sea Creative Industry Support Networks” of the Republic of Moldova, and decided to remain informed on the matter at its next Meeting.

HOW TO INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE WORK OF THE WORKING GROUP? – OBSERVATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

22. The Working Group took note of the information on the issue delivered by the BSEC PERMIS representative and exchanged views on the ways and means of increasing the efficiency of the Working Group.

23. The representative of the Republic of Turkey suggested to create ad hoc working groups for consideration of specific issues raised in the Working Group on Culture.

24. The representative of the Republic of Serbia suggested to enhance the role and give more prominence to collaboration among the relevant cultural institutions of the BSEC Member States.

25. The Chairperson of the Meeting stressed on the need to have better and synchronized preparation for the meetings of the different working groups, in formulating their agenda and especially the annotated agenda, as well as the necessity to dedicate special expert meetings to the elaboration of draft documents of the organization.

26. The Member States were invited to check the List of Representatives/Focal Points of the Working Group, attached as **Annex VI**, and to communicate to the BSEC PERMIS the updated information.

COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

27. The Working Group decided to defer this agenda item to its next Meeting.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND (PDF)

28. The Working Group decided to defer this agenda item to its next Meeting.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

29. The representative of the Republic of Armenia made an announcement regarding the 6th International Contest-Festival “Renaissance” of musician-performers, to be held in Armenia on 10-18 April 2014, and invited the participants to take part in the mentioned event.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

30. The Working Group on Culture adopted the present Report and submitted it for consideration to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials of the BSEC Member States.