



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

BS/WG/C/R(2017)1

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON CULTURE

BSEC Headquarters, 14 June 2017

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Culture was held at the BSEC Headquarters, on 14 June 2017.
2. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Ms. Serap ÖZCOŞKUN, Special Representative of the Turkish Chairmanship-in-Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Hellenic Republic
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Serbia
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine
4. The representative of PABSEC International Secretariat attended as BSEC Related Body.
5. The representative of the Republic of Austria participated at the Meeting as a BSEC Observer.

List of Participants is attached as **Annex I** to the present Report.

AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

AGENDA ITEM 2: 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

7. The BSEC PERMIS informed on the implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the Council and the follow-up of Declarations adopted by the Ministers in charge of Culture, since the last Meeting of the Working Group on Culture (BSEC Headquarters, 5-6 October 2016).

AGENDA ITEM 3: CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT PLAN OF ACTION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CULTURE (1 JANUARY 2017 – 31 DECEMBER 2018)

8. The Working Group considered, amended and adopted the Draft Plan of Action of the Working Group on Culture for the period from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2018, elaborated by the Country-Coordinator (Republic of Serbia). The Plan of Action is attached as **Annex III**.

AGENDA ITEM 4: CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CULTURE

9. The Working Group considered, amended and adopted the Draft Revised Terms of Reference of the Working Group on Culture, elaborated by the BSEC PERMIS. The Draft Revised Terms of Reference, which will be submitted for consideration to the next meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials, are attached as **Annex IV**.

AGENDA ITEM 5: CULTURAL HERITAGE - CONSIDERATION OF CONCRETE PROPOSALS

a) 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

10. As no consensus was reached, the Working Group decided to suspend the consideration of the Draft Memorandum until further notice. In the meantime, the Member States were encouraged to informally continue their efforts for reaching consensus on the issue. The draft MoU is attached as **Annex V**.

b) National Traditions of Hospitality in the BSEC Region

11. The Working Group decided to suspend the consideration of the issue until further notice.

AGENDA ITEM 6: CULTURAL ROUTES: DISCUSSION ON THE WAYS AND MEANS TO IMPLEMENT THE PROJECTS

12. The Working Group took note of information presented by the BSEC PERMIS on the consideration of the Cultural Routes / Cultural Tourism projects within BSEC.

13. The BSEC PERMIS informed on the developments of the project proposal “PORTUS: The Black Sea Cultural Port”, submitted for funding to the EU by the European Centre for Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Monuments of Thessaloniki, Greece, together with partners from Turkey, Georgia, Romania and Bulgaria.

14. The Working Group requested the authors of the project to keep it informed on further developments.

15. The BSEC PERMIS informed on the outcome of the “Balkans and Black Sea Cooperation Forum”, held on 25-28 May 2017 in Serres, Greece.

16. The Working Group agreed to introduce at its next meeting a new Agenda Item on the cultural dimension of the New Silk Road project.

17. The BSEC PERMIS informed the Member States on its intention to organize in Istanbul, in collaboration with the University of Valencia, a meeting among the participants of the “Silk Road Universities Network” and interested academic entities of the BSEC Member States.

AGENDA ITEM 7: CONTEMPORARY ARTS - CONSIDERATION OF CONCRETE PROPOSALS:

- Publishing a collection of the XX century works of the classic literature writers

18. In order to expedite the publication of a collection of literary works, the Working Group proposed the following:

- the selection of literary works shall be the responsibility of the Ministries of Culture of the BSEC Member States;

- the Member States shall send to the BSEC PERMIS five works of their most representative writers/poets in the original and English language, by 31 December 2017, according to the uniform technical details to be provided until 15 July 2017 by the BSEC PERMIS.

19. The BSEC PERMIS, after collecting the works contributed, will provide the Member States with the relevant financial conditions for publishing.

AGENDA ITEM 8: PROPOSALS FOR THE REVISION OF THE PRIORITIES OF THE WORKING GROUP

20. The Country-Coordinator informed on the intention to present concrete proposals, based on the new Plan of Action, on how to organize the future work of the Working Group, well in advance of its next Meeting.

21. The Country-Coordinator was encouraged in its intention to get in touch directly with the relevant experts from the Member States, in order to facilitate the future work.

AGENDA ITEM 9: COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

22. The Working Group took note of the information presented by the BSEC PERMIS and requested the BSEC PERMIS to continue its efforts aimed at developing cooperation with other international organizations, associations and institutions in the field of culture.

AGENDA ITEM 10: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

23. The BSEC PERMIS delivered to the Working Group information, prepared by the ICBSS, on its activities within the “BSEC Month of Culture”.

24. The BSEC PERMIS also informed on the outcome of the 25th Anniversary BSEC Summit, held in Istanbul on 22 May 2017.

25. The delegation of Ukraine proposed to consider the continuation of further elaboration of the 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 and the Draft Memorandum on the Protection of Cultural Heritage of the BSEC Member States in package.

AGENDA ITEM 11: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

26. 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.