



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, 24-25 May 2012

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Culture was held in Istanbul, at the BSEC Headquarters, on 24-25 May 2012.
2. The Meeting was co-chaired by Dr. Miroslav PRCOVIC, Consul General of the Republic of Serbia in Istanbul and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Serbia to the BSEC PERMIS, and Professor Delia MUCICA, Coordinator of Copyright and Creativity Policies, Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of Romania.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Bulgaria
Hellenic Republic
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Serbia
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine
4. The representative of the Republic of Poland attended the Meeting as the BSEC Observer.
5. The representative of the European Center of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Monuments attended the Meeting as the BSEC Official Guest.
6. The List of Participants is attached as **Annex I** to the present Report.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

7. 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 COUNCIL AND THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE DECLARATIONS AND JOINT STATEMENTS ADOPTED BY THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF CULTURE: DISCUSSION AND ASSESSMENT

8. The representative of the BSEC PERMIS 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 (Bucharest, 19 November 2011).

9. With regard to the implementation of the Action Plan of the BSEC Working Group on Culture, the representative of Romania proposed to host a Modern Art Exhibition in Romania, in autumn 2012, as its contribution to the 20th Anniversary of BSEC. The Member States were invited to confirm their participation by the end of July 2012.

10. The participants acknowledged information on the issue provided by the BSEC PERMIS and expressed the willingness to proceed with necessary 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.

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

11. The Working Group took note of the Progress Report on the Planning and Implementation of the Cultural Routes Projects, prepared by the BSEC PERMIS pursuant to the request by the last Meeting of the Working Group.

12. The representative of the Republic of Turkey informed that a Silk Road Conference is scheduled to be held in Istanbul in autumn 2012, back-to-back to the Joint Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Culture and the Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism, and invited the BSEC Member States to take part in it.

13. The representative of the Hellenic Republic informed that the Numismatic Museum of Athens is redesigning the Project “The Routes of Coinage” that will be shortly communicated to the BSEC Member States.

14. The participants welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation within the Project on “The Cultural Tourism Route of the Roman Emperors” by the Republic of Bulgaria, Romania, the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Croatia, on 24 February 2012, and requested the Memorandum to be circulated among the Member States.

15. The representative of the Republic of Serbia informed of the latest development following the signing of the said Memorandum of Understanding.

16. The representative of the Republic of Armenia informed of the activities in the country on the Project “Vine and Wine Routes of Armenia”.

17. The Working Group supported the proposal to organize a joint Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Culture and the Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism in autumn 2012 in Istanbul, in order to ensure the integrated approach and to maximize effectiveness in considering the cultural routes/cultural tourism projects.

CULTURAL HERITAGE: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON INVENTORY DATA, CONSERVATION AND OVERALL MONITORING OF THE CULTURAL ASSETS

18. The Working Group continued the discussion on the importance of the preservation of cultural assets.

19. The representative of Romania presented a proposal on the interactive online platform and newsletter (web-site) for the BSEC Working Group on Culture, attached as **Annex III**.

20. The Working Group invited the Member States to send through the BSEC PERMIS their views and comments on the proposal of Romania by the end of June 2012.

21. The representative of Romania informed on the activities regarding the preservation of movable and intangible cultural heritage and the international cooperation of Romania in this field. He emphasized the importance of the exchange of practice in the field of physical protection of archeological sites and digitization of cultural assets.

22. The representatives of the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Turkey informed on the activities in their respective countries with regard to the protection of the cultural assets.

23. The participants welcomed the presentation by the representative of the European Center of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Monuments (EKBMM) on the Black Sea Cross Border Cooperation Program Projects: 1. "OLKAS. From the Aegean to the Black Sea. Medieval Ports in the Maritime Routes of the East" and 2. "LIMEN. Cultural Ports from Aegean to the Black Sea", attached as **Annex IV**.

24. The representative of the Republic of Armenia proposed considering the Project XIII Century Sailing Ship "Cilicia" within the framework of the proposal by the EKBMM on "LIMEN. Cultural Ports from Aegean to the Black Sea".

STRENGTHENING AND BOLSTERING THE CULTURAL COOPERATION AND CONTACTS BETWEEN THE BSEC MEMBER STATES, ENCOURAGING CREATIVITY AND STIMULATING INNOVATION AND, CONSEQUENTLY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

25. The representative of Romania introduced the topic, stressing the importance of exchanging of experiences and good practices among the Member States in supporting SMEs in the cultural sector. The initiative will create a web site, a virtual library containing the cultural goods of the BSEC Member States. The Member States are invited to upload on the website relevant information regarding their cultural specificity. An intercultural and integrative approach will contribute to enhancing the attractiveness of the Black Sea region, for the local community and tourists alike, including actions of promotion for various cultural and creative industries.

26. The participants took note of the readiness of Romania to draft a Working Paper on the issue to be discussed at the next Meeting of the Working Group on Culture.

COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

27. The representative of the Hellenic Republic informed that the cooperation launched by the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Tourism in coordination with the European Translation Centre Literature and Human Sciences, in the framework of which the website of the Network of Professionals in the Field of Book and Literary Translation was announced, is not feasible to be implemented in the forthcoming period. Until a new organization undertakes the coordination, the contact point will be the Directorate of International Relations of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Tourism (dds@culture.gr).

28. The Working Group agreed on enhancing cooperation with international organizations in the field of culture and to invite the representatives of the Council of Ministers of Culture of South-East Europe and UNDP at its next Meeting.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND

29. The representative of the BSEC PERMIS informed that the Project Proposal on “Literary Ark: Ten Years Later”, submitted by the Republic of Armenia, was approved and is ready for implementation. He also recalled that the Working Group at its last Meeting agreed on the following priorities to be funded from the PDF: cultural routes, intangible heritage, cultural and creative industries.

30. The representative of the Republic of Armenia expressed her gratitude to the BSEC Member States for supporting the project, and informed that the above mentioned PDF project is a part of the Program “Yerevan – World Book Capital 2012 – 500th Anniversary of Armenian Printing”, which will be launched in autumn 2012.

31. The Working Group took note of the above mentioned information by the BSEC PERMIS representative and invited the Member States to present their project proposals for funding by the BSEC Project Development Fund.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

32. The Working Group took note of the readiness of Romania to host a Meeting of the Ministers in Charge of Culture, preceded by the Meeting of the Working Group on Culture, in Bucharest in autumn 2012.

33. It was noted that the organization of the said meetings should be coordinated with the incoming Chairman-in-Office (the Republic of Turkey).

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

34. The Working Group on Culture adopted the present Report and submitted it for consideration to the Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials of the BSEC Member States, to be held in Belgrade, on 9-10 June 2012.