



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

**Permanent International Secretariat**

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**BS/WG/C/R(2015)2**

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

**BSEC Headquarters, 22 October 2015**

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Culture was held at the BSEC Headquarters, on 22 October 2015.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mrs. Brândușa PREDESCU, Special Representative of the Romanian Chairmanship-in-Office to BSEC, Minister Plenipotentiary, Consulate General of Romania in Istanbul.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:  
  
Republic of Albania  
Republic of Armenia  
Republic of Azerbaijan  
Hellenic Republic  
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**

6. 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, 21 April 2015).

### **CULTURAL HERITAGE - CONSIDERATION OF CONCRETE PROPOSALS**

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

7. The Working Group considered and further amended the text of the Draft Memorandum of Understanding on the Protection of Cultural Heritage of the BSEC Member States, and decided to submit it to the next meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials (attached as **Annex III**).

#### **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**

8. The Working Group considered and further amended the text 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 (attached as **Annex IV**), and invited the Member States to communicate to BSEC PERMIS their final comments on the text by 31 December 2015 with a view to continuing the discussions during the next meeting of the Working Group.

9. The representative of the Republic of Armenia stated that the adoption of the draft Memorandum of Understanding on the issue is inexpedient, taking into account that it would generally duplicate the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property.

#### **c) Publishing a collection of the XX century works of the classic literature writers**

10. The Working Group took note of the information on the consideration of the proposal in the Working Group on Culture, presented by BSEC PERMIS.

11. The BSEC Member States were once again invited to communicate their comments/proposals on the issue in advance of the next Meeting of the Working Group making particular focus on the following issues raised by the proponent of the project, Republic of Moldova:

- types of pieces, quantity of authors, areas (poetry, dramatics, memories, fiction etc.);
- a common thread linking literature and art around the Black Sea that could serve as a guideline.

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE “ECONOMIC AGENDA TOWARDS AN ENHANCED BSEC PARTNERSHIP”**

- a. **Discussion of the existing proposals**
- b. **Future developments:**
  - **Priorities for the second medium-term (2016-2018)**
  - **Envisaged deliverables/projects**
  - **First medium-term (2013-2015) achievements report**

12. The BSEC PERMIS informed that the Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States (Chisinau, 18 June 2015) invited the Working Groups, in the second half of 2015, to redefine or confirm the priority areas of the “Economic Agenda 2012” preferably not more than three themes for each Goal for the next medium-term (2016-2018), to identify the envisaged deliverables/projects and to submit timely (by December 2015) their Medium-Term (2013-2015) Achievements Reports.

13. The Working Group considered, amended and agreed on the Medium-Term Achievements Report (2013-2015) on the implementation of the “BSEC Economic Agenda 2012”, prepared by BSEC PERMIS and decided to submit it to the next meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials. The Achievements Report is attached as **Annex V**.

14. The Working Group also considered the priorities of the “BSEC Economic Agenda 2012” on cooperation in culture and, in addition to the already chosen priority on ‘Promoting the restoration of major architectural monuments which are symbols of national and regional culture’, decided to focus in the next medium-term (2016-2018) on the following priorities:

-Encouraging Cultural tourism/Cultural routes projects in the Black Sea Region and their implementation; and,

-Developing cooperation in combating illicit trafficking of cultural property belonging to the archaeological, historical, ethnographical heritage and the arts, *inter alia* through exchange of information to facilitate the return of lost or illegally exported cultural values within the existing legislation.

### **YOUTH AND SPORTS ISSUES AND CULTURE**

15. The Working Group took note of the information presented by BSEC PERMIS on the consideration of Youth and Sports issues within BSEC and encouraged the Member States to propose projects reflecting the interconnection between Culture and Youth and Sports issues.

### **COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS**

16. The Working Group took note of the information presented by BSEC PERMIS, and requested BSEC PERMIS to continue consultations with the UNESCO with a view to strengthening the cooperation between the two organizations.

## **PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND (PDF) AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT (PMU) PROJECTS**

17. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS about the state of affairs with regard to the replenishment of the Project Development Fund (PDF), and on the Guidelines for the BSEC Project Management Unit.

18. The Working Group encouraged Member States to submit project proposals within PDF and in compliance with the Guidelines for PMU.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

19. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the Deputy Secretary General, Ambassador Alexander PRISHCHEPOV, regarding the results of the 45<sup>th</sup> Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee of the PABSEC, held in Tirana, on 19-20 October 2015.

20. The Working Group recalled the importance of holding a Meeting of Ministers in charge of Culture, if possible, in 2016.

21. The representative of Ukraine delivered two statements (attached as **Annex VI** and **Annex VII**).

22. The representative of the Russian Federation delivered a statement (attached as **Annex VIII**).

### **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING**

23. 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.