



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

Sakıp Sabancı Cad., Müşir Fuad Paşa Yalısı, Eski Tersane, 34467 Emirgan – Istanbul/Turkey

Tel: ++90 212 2296330-35 Fax: ++90 212 2296336

E-mail: info@bsec-organization.org

www.bsec-organization.org

BS/C/WG/R(2013)2

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

Istanbul, BSEC Headquarters, 4 November 2013

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Culture was held in Istanbul, at the BSEC Headquarters, on 4 November 2013.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Mikhail VARDANIAN, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia to the Organization of the BSEC.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Georgia
Hellenic Republic
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine
4. The representatives of the BSEC Business Council participated at the Meeting as the BSEC Related Body.
5. The representative of the European Center of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Monuments also participated at the Meeting as the BSEC 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 BSEC COUNCIL, AND THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE DECLARATIONS AND JOINT STATEMENTS ADOPTED BY THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF CULTURE: DISCUSSION AND ASSESSMENT

8. 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, 19 March 2013).

9. The participants acknowledged the 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.

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

10. The Working Group considered, amended and adopted the Report on the activities of the Working Group on the implementation of the BSEC Economic Agenda and decided to forward it to the Council through the Committee of Senior Officials. The Report is attached as **Annex III**.

11. The Working Group considered the Draft Memorandum of Understanding on the Protection of Cultural Heritage among the BSEC Member States, elaborated by Ukraine, attached as **Annex IV**.

12. The delegation of Romania reiterated their comments on the draft MoU, communicated earlier by the Note on 19 September 2013, attached as **Annex V**.

13. The Working Group took note of 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 arts, elaborated by BSEC PERMIS, attached as **Annex VI**.

14. The Working Group invited the Member States to send their comments/observations on the above mentioned draft texts of Memoranda (*paragraphs 11 and 13*) well in advance of its next Meeting.

15. The representative of the Republic of Moldova informed that the pilot project on cultural and creative industries, proposed at the last Meeting of the Working Group, will be soon finalized and submitted for consideration of the Working Group.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BSEC PUBLIC COMMUNICATION STRATEGY – CONSIDERATION OF CONCRETE PROPOSALS

16. The Working Group considered the Draft Paper for the BSEC webpage on Culture, elaborated by the BSEC PERMIS, attached as **Annex VII**, and invited the Member States to send their comments/observations on the Draft Paper by 20 November 2013.

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

17. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS representative on the state of affairs of the consideration of the issues of Cultural Routes.

18. The delegation of the Republic of Armenia informed on Annual Festival on “BBQ and Music” (City of Akhtala, 7 September 2013) and “Areni Wine Festival” (Areni, 5 October 2013) as the activities within the framework of the cultural tourism project “Vine and Wine Routes of Armenia”.

19. The delegation of the Hellenic Republic introduced the revised proposal on the project on “The Routes of Coinage” which is attached as **Annex VIII**.

20. The representative of the Republic of Moldova informed that the project on the “BSEC Wine Museum Map” will be soon finalized and submitted for consideration of the Working Group.

21. The representative of the European Center of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Monuments made a presentation on “Olkas: From Aegean to the Black Sea. Medieval Ports in the Maritime routes of the East” and on “Limen: Cultural Ports from Aegean to the Black Sea”, attached as **Annex IX**.

22. The representative noted that the Organization of the BSEC is an official associate partner for the “Limen” project and invited the Member States to take part in it.

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

23. The Working Group further considered the proposal of Romania on the interactive online platform and newsletter (web-site) on culture for the BSEC Member States and decided to launch a “Silence Procedure” on this proposal, attached as **Annex X**.

24. The Working Group instructed the BSEC PERMIS to elaborate concept papers on the Latter’s proposals on:

- publishing a collection of XX century works of the classic literature writers;
- hospitality traditions in the BSEC Member States.

25. The concept papers will be submitted for consideration at the next Meeting of the Working Group.

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

26. The Working Group decided to defer the consideration of the proposal, made by Romania at the previous Meeting of the Working Group, on “Developing and supporting creativity culture” to its next Meeting.

27. The representative of the Republic of Armenia presented information on the “Golden Apricot” Annual International Film Festival (Yerevan, 7-14 July 2013).

COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

28. The Member States were invited to explore the possible ways and means of cooperation between the BSEC and UNESCO and make relevant proposals to be discussed at its next Meeting.

29. The BSEC PERMIS informed on the final stage of elaboration of the Draft Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the BSEC PERMIS and the Secretariat of the Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC).

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND (PDF)

30. The representative of the Republic of Armenia presented information on the outcomes of the PDF project “Literary Ark: Ten Years Later” and invited the BSEC Member States to take part in the relevant program to be implemented in 2014.

31. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS representative about the state of affairs with the issue of replenishment of the Project Development Fund and the decision by the PDF Steering Committee to temporarily postpone submission of the project applications.

COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN BSEC PERMIS AND MEMBER STATES

32. The Working Group took note of the information presented by the BSEC PERMIS Deputy Secretary General regarding the improvement of the communications between the BSEC PERMIS and BSEC Member States and decided to consider this issue at its next Meeting.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

33. The Working Group instructed the BSEC PERMIS to explore with the Chairmen-in-Office and Country-Coordinator the possibility to organize a Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Culture in 2014, possibly side by side with the relevant international events, unless otherwise decided.

34. BSEC PERMIS representative provided information on the issue of publishing the 2014 BSEC Calendar with the theme of classical landscape paintings of the BSEC Member States.

35. The Member States were invited to appoint their focal points to the BSEC Working Group on Culture.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

36. 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.