



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

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

BSEC Headquarters, 5-6 October 2016

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Culture was held at the BSEC Headquarters, on 5-6 October 2016.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Vladan LAZOVIC, Minister Counsellor, Special Representative of the Serbian Chairmanship-in-Office of 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
Republic of Serbia
Republic of Turkey
4. The representative of PABSEC attended as BSEC Related Body.
5. The representative of the Republic of Austria attended as BSEC Observer.
6. The representatives of the Geo Routes Cultural Institute of Athens, the Hellenic Republic, attended as Guests.

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

AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

7. The Draft Agenda of the Meeting was discussed 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

8. 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, 22 October 2015).

9. The Working Group took note of the Evaluation Report on the activities of the BSEC Working Group on Culture (1 January 2015 – 31 December 2016), elaborated by the Country-Coordinator (the Republic of Moldova). The Evaluation Report is attached as **Annex III**.

10. The representative of the Republic of Armenia made an objection to the part of the Evaluation Report (**attached as Annex IV**).

11. The Working Group expressed its appreciation for the work done by the Republic of Moldova as the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group for the two consecutive terms.

AGENDA ITEM 3: CULTURAL HERITAGE - CONSIDERATION OF CONCRETE PROPOSALS

a) Draft Memorandum of Understanding on the Protection of Cultural Heritage of the BSEC Member States

12. Upon instruction of the Committee of Senior Officials, the Working Group considered the only pending issue (paragraph 3 of the Preamble) of the Draft Memorandum of Understanding on the Protection of Cultural Heritage of the BSEC Member States, including the newly submitted amendments to it. No consensus was reached on the text. The text of the draft MoU is attached as **Annex V**.

13. The Working Group took note of the proposal of the delegation of Greece to convene a Meeting of an Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Cultural Heritage in order to try to find a solution to the pending issue, and suggested to the Committee of Senior Officials to examine the feasibility of convening such a meeting.

b) Draft Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Combating Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property Belonging to the Archaeological, Historical, Ethnographical and Paleontological Heritage and Arts among the BSEC Member States

14. The Working Group considered and further revised the text of the Draft Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Combating Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property Belonging to the Archaeological, Historical, Ethnographical and Paleontological Heritage and Arts among the BSEC Member States (attached as **Annex VI**).

15. The Working Group requested the BSEC PERMIS to revise the final provisions of the Draft MoU (Articles 10 to 15) before circulating the Revised Draft MoU to the Member States for final drafting comments.

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

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

17. The representative of the Republic of Moldova suggested submitting the issue to a Meeting of Ministers in charge of Culture for consideration and decision.

18. The BSEC Member States are 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:

- 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.

d) National Traditions of Hospitality in the BSEC Region

19. The Working Group took note of information presented by BSEC PERMIS on the project proposal “National Traditions and Hospitality in the BSEC Region”.

20. The representative of the Republic of Moldova proposed to continue the consideration of the topic in cooperation with the Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism and suggested to make documentary films, presentations, tourist guides as a means of expressing national traditions of hospitality.

21. The BSEC Member States are once again invited to communicate their comments/proposals on the issue in advance of the next Meeting of the Working Group.

AGENDA ITEM 4: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE “BSEC ECONOMIC AGENDA 2012”: FIRST YEAR OF THE SECOND MEDIUM-TERM (2016-2018)

22. The participants took note of information on the developments with regard to the implementation of the “BSEC Economic Agenda 2012” and the priorities for the second medium-term (2016-2018), provided by the BSEC PERMIS.

23. The Working Group approved the Achievements Report on the implementation of the “BSEC Economic Agenda 2012” for 2016, prepared by the BSEC PERMIS. The Achievements Report is attached as **Annex VII**.

AGENDA ITEM 5: CULTURAL ROUTES: DISCUSSION ON THE WAYS AND MEANS TO IMPLEMENT THE PROJECTS

24. The Working Group took note of information, presented by the BSEC PERMIS, on the consideration of the Cultural Routes / Cultural Tourism projects at the Joint Meeting of the Working Groups on Culture and on Cooperation in Tourism (BSEC Headquarters, 21 October 2015).

25. The BSEC PERMIS distributed to the participants updated information on the project "LIMEN - Cultural Ports from Aegean to the Black Sea", prepared by the European Centre for Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Monuments. In this context, it was recalled that the Ministers in charge of Culture and Tourism in the Joint Declaration (Sochi, 23 June 2016) encouraged the implementation of Cultural tourism / Cultural routes projects in the Black Sea Region and, in this context, supported the establishment of an institution called "the Cultural Port of the Black Sea".

26. The BSEC PERMIS reiterated the importance of BSEC participation in the establishment of the above institution as, if implemented, it will have a far reaching influence in the cultural and tourism cooperation among Member States and city ports on the Black Sea coast line.

27. The representatives of the Geo Routes Cultural Institute of Athens delivered presentations on their NGO and on the Balkans and Black Sea Cooperation Forum with an emphasis on the Conference to be held at Serres, Central Macedonia, Greece, on 25-26 May 2017, attached as **Annex VIII and Annex IX**. The Institute requested the involvement of BSEC in this initiative and its participation in the forthcoming Conference.

28. The participants took note of the information with interest and suggested to the proponent of the initiative to inform the Working Group on any further development.

AGENDA ITEM 6: YOUTH AND SPORTS ISSUES AND CULTURE

29. The Working Group took note of information on the consideration of Youth and Sports issues within BSEC, presented by the BSEC PERMIS, and decided to consider this item once substantive proposals on the issue are received.

AGENDA ITEM 7: COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

30. 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.

31. The representative of the Republic of Serbia suggested enhancing cooperation with the UNESCO Regional Office in Venice and the Council of Ministers of Culture of South-East Europe.

AGENDA ITEM 8: PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND (PDF) AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT (PMU) PROJECTS

32. 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.

AGENDA ITEM 9: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

33. The Working Group took note of information by the BSEC PERMIS on the plans to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the BSEC in 2017.

AGENDA ITEM 10: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

34. 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.