



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: bsec@tnn.net / bsec1@tnn.net / info@bsec-organization.org

www.bsec-organization.org

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**REPORT OF THE
MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON
CUSTOMS MATTERS**

Istanbul, BSEC Headquarters, 15-16 March 2012

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group (WG) on Customs Matters was held in Istanbul, at the BSEC Headquarters, on 15-16 March 2012.
2. The Meeting was co-chaired by Ambassador Milisav PAIC, National Coordinator of the Serbian Chairmanship-in-Office of the BSEC, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia; and Ms. Hülya ERBAY, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Customs and Trade of the Republic of Turkey.
3. The following Member States of BSEC attended the Meeting:
 - Republic of Armenia
 - Republic of Azerbaijan
 - Republic of Bulgaria
 - Romania
 - Russian Federation
 - Republic of Serbia
 - Republic of Turkey
 - Ukraine
4. The following BSEC Observers attended the Meeting:
 - French Republic
 - Czech Republic
5. The following BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partner also participated in the Meeting:
 - Union of Road Transport Associations in the BSEC Region (BSEC-URTA)

The List of Participants is attached as Annex I.

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

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS RELATED TO CUSTOMS MATTERS

7. The WG took note of the information provided by BSEC PERMIS on the status of implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the Council.

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CUSTOMS MATTERS

8. The participants discussed, amended and agreed on the Draft Terms of Reference of the Working Group on Customs Matters, which is attached as Annex III.

9. The WG decided to submit to the Committee of Senior Officials the following draft resolution to be approved by the BSEC Council:

“The Council adopted the Terms of Reference of Working Group on Customs Matters. The Terms of Reference are attached as Annex ...”

CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBILITY TO ESTABLISH A MECHANISM OF EXCHANGE OF PRELIMINARY INFORMATION AMONG THE INTERESTED CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATIONS OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

10. The WG continued the consideration of the issue concerning the possibility of establishing a mechanism of exchange of preliminary information among the customs administrations of the interested BSEC Member States.

11. The participants emphasized the importance of exchange of information among the customs administrations of the Member States and exchanged their views on ways and means to promote this practice within the framework of BSEC.

12. The Republic of Turkey informed the WG on its intention to evaluate the results of its ongoing projects on exchange of information and will keep the Member States informed on the progress.

13. The WG invited interested Member States to inform, through the BSEC PERMIS, of the existing instruments that offer the legal basis for exchange of information between the EU and BSEC Member States.

14. The WG decided to continue consideration of this item at its next meeting, with a view to identifying information exchange mechanisms in which all the BSEC Member States could participate.

DISCUSSION ON THE REVISED POSITION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION CONCERNING THE EXCHANGE OF PRELIMINARY INFORMATION AMONG NON-EU MEMBER STATES

15. The WG took note of the presentation made by the representative of the European Commission concerning the position of the EU on preliminary exchange of information among the

EU and non-EU States, and the EU activities in support of preliminary exchange of information and customs cooperation among non-EU States.

PARTICIPATION OF THE MEMBER STATES IN THE INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS ON CUSTOMS MATTERS

16. The WG took note of the information provided by some Member States on their participation in the international conventions related to customs matters.

17. The WG requested the BSEC PERMIS to prepare an updated Table concerning the participation of the BSEC Member States in the international conventions related to customs matters, and distribute it to all the Member States as early as possible.

USE OF X-RAY TECHNOLOGY TO SCAN COMMERCIAL VEHICLES WHILE CROSSING THE BORDERS OF THE MEMBER STATES

18. The representative of the BSEC-URTA made a presentation on the extensive use of non-invasive inspection (X-ray) technology in borders and ports on commercial vehicles, expressing the concerns of the BSEC-URTA Member Associations on the long-term negative health consequences on professional drivers. The BSEC-URTA's proposals are: harmonization of inspection procedures, exchange of best practices among inspection authorities, provision of transparent information to drivers and companies, introduction of a certificate of recognition of a control already performed on route.

19. In this respect, the WG instructed the BSEC PERMIS to invite to its next meeting experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency, from the scanning control systems manufacturers, from customs administrations and public health authorities, provided that there will be no financial implications for the BSEC Budget.

APPOINTMENT OF A NEW COUNTRY-COORDINATOR OF THE WORKING GROUP

20. The WG welcomed the willingness of the Republic of Turkey to continue its task of Country-Coordinator of the Working Group on Customs Matters for a new two years term, beginning with 1 July 2012, and expressed its appreciation for activities accomplished in this capacity during the last two years.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

21. The WG took note of the information provided by the Republic of Turkey on the outcome of the Workshop on "Encouraging Cooperation among the Customs Laboratories of the BSEC Member States on Unification Methods for Analysis of Goods and Their Classification" (Ankara, 27-28 February 2012).

22. The WG expressed its appreciation to the Ministry of Customs and Trade of the Republic of Turkey for organizing and hosting this Workshop and took note of its recommendation that similar workshops should be organized in other BSEC Member States as well.

23. The WG invited the Member States to consider the possibility of organizing a second Workshop on cooperation among the Customs Laboratories of the BSEC Member States.

DATE AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

24. The date and venue of the next Meeting of the WG on Customs Matters will be communicated to the BSEC Member States through BSEC PERMIS.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

25. The Working Group adopted the present Report for its submission to the Committee of Senior Officials and the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs for their consideration.
