



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

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Kyiv, 18 March 2008

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE HEADS OF CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATIONS OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

Kyiv, 18 March 2008

1. The Meeting of the Heads of Customs Administrations of the BSEC Member States was held in Kyiv, Ukraine, on 18 March 2008. It was preceded by the Meeting of the BSEC Expert Group for preparation of the Meeting of the Heads of Customs Administrations of the BSEC Member States on 17 March 2008.

2. The following Member States of BSEC attended the Meeting:

Republic of Albania
Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Republic of Bulgaria
Georgia
Hellenic Republic
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Serbia
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine

3. The representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of BSEC (PABSEC) also participated in the Meeting as the BSEC Related Body.

4. The representative of the Commission of the European Communities took part in the Meeting as the BSEC Observer.

5. The representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) also participated in the Meeting as the Official Guests.

The list of participants of the Meeting is attached as Annex I.

6. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Valeriy KHOROSHKOVSKIY, Chairman of the State Customs Service of Ukraine.

7. The draft agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The agenda, as adopted by the Participants, is attached as Annex II.

STATEMENT OF THE HEADS OF CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATIONS OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

8. The Heads of Customs Administrations of the BSEC Member States adopted the “Statement of the Heads of Customs Administrations of the BSEC Member States” as a programme of cooperation among customs administrations of the BSEC Member States. The text of the Statement is attached as Annex III.

CONSIDERATION OF THE POSSIBILITY TO ESTABLISH A PRELIMINARY INFORMATION EXCHANGE MECHANISM BASED ON DRAFT MEMORANDUM AMONG CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATIONS OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (BSEC) MEMBER STATES REGARDING ORGANIZATION OF PRELIMINARY INFORMATION EXCHANGE ABOUT GOODS AND VEHICLES MOVED THROUGH THE STATE BORDER OF BSEC MEMBER STATES

9. The Heads of Customs Administrations of the BSEC Member States considered the possibility of establishing a preliminary information exchange mechanism based on the Memorandum among Customs Administrations of the BSEC Member States.

10. The Heads of Customs Administrations of the BSEC Member States considered that the idea of establishment of cooperation in the field of exchange of preliminary information on goods and vehicles, moved through the border of the BSEC Member States, seems an effective instrument to combat customs fraud and ensure proper implementation of customs legislation. The Heads of Customs Administrations of the BSEC Member States stated that due to the complexity of such cooperation, all relevant decisions require prior careful consideration.

11. The BSEC Member States, which are also members of the EU, as well as the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Turkey, stated that at the present stage it

is not feasible to establish such a multilateral mechanism due to the complexity of legal and technical issues.

12. At the same time some BSEC Member States expressed their positive reaction concerning the establishment of such a preliminary information exchange mechanism.

13. In this context, since a consensus could not be reached at the present stage, the Heads of Customs Administrations agreed to leave the issue to Ad Hoc Expert Group for further consideration at its future meetings.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14. The representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) made a presentation on the cooperation of the customs authorities in the sea ports of the Black Sea region. He mentioned the activities carried out under EU-UNDP Programme SCAD (South Caucasus Anti Drug) and the EU-UNDP Programme for Prevention of Drug Abuse and the Fight against Drug Trafficking in Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova (BUMAD).

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

15. The Heads of Delegations expressed their sincere thanks to the State Customs Service of Ukraine and personally to Mr. Valeriy KHOROSHKOVSKIY, Chairman of the State Customs Service of Ukraine, for the hospitality extended to the delegations and the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting in Kyiv.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

16. The present Report was adopted by the Meeting of the Heads of Customs Administrations of the BSEC Member States and submitted to the 17th Meeting of the BSEC Council of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, to be held in Kyiv on 17 April 2008.
