



## 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](mailto:info@bsec-organization.org) [www.bsec-organization.org](http://www.bsec-organization.org)

---

---

5 March 2015

BS/WG/CM/R(2015)1

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

(BSEC Headquarters, 5 March 2015)

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group (WG) on Customs Matters was held at the BSEC Headquarters, on 5 March 2015.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Ms. Natalia CALENIC, Deputy Head of Revenues and Customs Control Department, Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova.
3. The following BSEC Member States attended the Meeting:  
  
Republic of Armenia  
Republic of Azerbaijan  
Hellenic Republic  
Republic of Moldova  
Romania  
Russian Federation  
Republic of Turkey  
Ukraine
4. The following BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partner also participated in the Meeting:  
  
Union of Road Transport Associations in the BSEC Region (BSEC-URTA)
5. The following Guest attended the Meeting:  
  
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

6. The List of Participants is attached as **Annex I**.

### **AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

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

### **AGENDA ITEM 2: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS RELATED TO CUSTOMS MATTERS AND FOLLOW-UP OF THE DECLARATIONS ADOPTED BY THE HEADS OF CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATIONS OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES**

8. The BSEC PERMIS informed on the state of implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the 16<sup>th</sup> BSEC Council (Belgrade, 19 April 2007), 28<sup>th</sup> BSEC Council (Odessa, 21 June 2013) and 31<sup>st</sup> BSEC Council (Thessaloniki, 12 December 2014), and the Baku Declaration of the Heads of Customs Administrations of the BSEC Member States “Initiatives of Customs Administrations in Trade Facilitation” (Baku, 26 November 2014).

9. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS and expressed its commitment to take appropriate measures in order to secure proper implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the Council.

10. The Working Group stressed the importance to follow up the recommendations of the Baku Declaration and the provisions of the Plan of Action of the Working Group on Customs Matters for the period 2014-2016.

11. The Republic of Azerbaijan, in its capacity as the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group, was invited to undertake appropriate measures for exchanging experiences on methodology of Time Release Study (TRS).

12. The delegations of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine provided the BSEC PERMIS with updated information on their representatives to the Working Group on Customs Matters. The List of Representatives of the Member States to the Working Group, as amended, is attached as **Annex III**.

### **AGENDA ITEM 3: REVIEW OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CUSTOMS MATTERS (BAKU, 25 NOVEMBER 2014)**

13. Following the decision by the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials at its Meeting held in Thessaloniki on 10-11 December 2014, the Working Group proposed to introduce following amendments into the Report of the Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Customs Matters held in Baku on 25 November 2014:

1. To re-draft paragraph 2 of the Report as follows:

“The Meeting was chaired by Prof. Igbal BABAYEV, Chief of the Head Department for Statistics and Information Technologies, State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The Working Group expressed its appreciation to the Deputy Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS, Ambassador Traian CHEBELEU, for his valuable contribution to the discussions provided during the Meeting.”

2. To re-draft paragraph 17 of the Report as follows:

“The Working Group took into account the fact that with regard to the three EU Member States, which are also BSEC Member States, all customs issues that fall within the exclusive competence of the EU are subject to its approval. In this regard, a European Commission representative is encouraged to participate in the meetings of the BSEC Working Group on Customs Matters.”

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4: HARMONIZATION AND SIMPLIFICATION OF CUSTOMS PROCEDURES**

14. The representative of Ukraine presented information on measures taken at national level for the harmonization and simplification of customs procedures.

15. The representative of the UNECE emphasized the importance of the Single Window instrument for the simplification of customs procedures.

16. The representative of the BSEC-URTA underlined the importance of the measures of harmonization and simplification of customs procedures for the transport business community and for using such tools like TIR Procedure, TIR Electronic Pre-Declaration (EPD) and Green Corridors.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5: DISCUSSION ON THE COORDINATED BORDER MANAGEMENT CONCEPT**

17. The representatives of the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Turkey and Ukraine provided information on measures taken by their Customs Administrations for implementing the Coordinated Border Management Concept.

18. The Working Group expressed its appreciation for the promotion of this concept by the World Customs Organization for the year 2015 and invited the Member States to continue their efforts in this regard.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6: DISCUSSION ON PREPARATION OF THE ROAD MAP ON ENHANCING INTEGRITY OF CUSTOMS OFFICIALS**

19. The representative of the Republic of Turkey emphasized on the relevance of the issue of integrity in customs in relation to trade facilitation.

20. The representative of the Hellenic Republic informed on the measures undertaken by the General Secretariat of Public Revenue for managing the risks within the Customs Administration, including integrity issues.

21. The Working Group invited the Country-Coordinator to work on possible ways of promoting cooperation among the Member States in enhancing the integrity of officials of Customs Administrations in the BSEC Region.

**AGENDA ITEM 7: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT OF THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO) BY CONTRACTING PARTIES**

22. The representatives of the Republic of Moldova, the Republic of Turkey and Ukraine provided information on measures taken by their Customs Administrations for implementing the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA).

23. The representative of the UNECE informed on the possibility to carry out studies on the readiness of countries to implement the WTO TFA in the BSEC Region in 2015, following the United Nations methodology. The BSEC Member States are invited to carry out such studies following the example of Ukraine.

**AGENDA ITEM 8: RELEVANCE OF THE WORLD BANK'S "DOING BUSINESS" REPORT FOR THE CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATIONS IN THE BSEC MEMBER STATES**

24. The delegations of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine expressed their concerns on the accuracy of data used in the Chapter Trading Across Borders of the World Bank's "Doing Business" Report.

25. The participants requested the BSEC PERMIS to explore the possibility to invite a representative of the World Bank to the next meeting of the Working Group on Customs Matters to discuss the modality of data collection as well as the methodology.

26. The representative of the UNECE noted that the purpose of reports on implementing trade facilitation measures was to find common indicators for all countries to assess progress. In addition to World Bank methodologies other ones should be explored.

**AGENDA ITEM 9: CONSIDERATION THE POSSIBILITY TO ESTABLISH A BSEC AD-HOC WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS FOR STUDYING THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE ON BENCHMARKING OF CUSTOMS PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES**

27. The delegation of Ukraine provided information on conducting benchmarking in the country.

28. The Working Group agreed to consider the issue on conducting the benchmarking of customs processes and procedures at its next meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 10: PARTICIPATION OF THE MEMBER STATES IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS ON CUSTOMS MATTERS**

29. The Member States were invited to present relevant information with the aim to further update the Table on "Participation of the Member States in the International Conventions on Customs Matters".

30. The Table, updated as of 5 March 2015, is attached as **Annex IV**.

**AGENDA ITEM 11: BSEC PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND (PDF) AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT (PMU) PROJECTS**

31. The Working Group considered the Template on the “Project on Conducting Benchmarking Exercises among the BSEC Member States” and took note of the proposals for amendments to the text submitted by the Republic of Turkey.

32. The Working Group invited the Member States to send their comments and proposals regarding the content of the Project, updated by the BSEC PERMIS, until 31 May 2015. The amended Project Proposal Template is attached as **Annex V**.

**AGENDA ITEM 12: ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

33. No issue was raised under this agenda item.

**AGENDA ITEM 13: DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

34. The date and venue of the next meeting of the Working Group will be communicated to the BSEC Member States through the BSEC PERMIS.

**AGENDA ITEM 14: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING**

35. 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.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_