



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

Sakıp Sabancı Cad., Müşir Fuad Paşa Yalısı, Eski Tersane, 34460 İstinye – İstanbul/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

BS/WG/CEA/R(2012)1

**REPORT
OF THE MEETING OF THE
BSEC WORKING GROUP ON COOPERATION IN EMERGENCY
ASSISTANCE AND LIAISON OFFICERS OF THE BSEC NETWORK
ON EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**

Istanbul, BSEC Headquarters, 17-18 December 2012

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance and Liaison Officers of the BSEC Network on Emergency Assistance was held in Istanbul at the BSEC Headquarters, on 17-18 December 2012.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Ms. Makbule YALIN, Assistant Expert, Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency, Prime Ministry of the Republic of Turkey.
3. The Meeting of the Working Group was attended by the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Georgia
Hellenic Republic
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Turkey
4. The representative of the Parliamentary Assembly of the BSEC (PABSEC) participated in the Meeting in the capacity of a BSEC Related Body.
5. The List of Participants is attached as Annex I.
6. The Draft Agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The Agenda, as adopted by the Working Group, is attached as Annex II.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE DECLARATIONS AND JOINT STATEMENTS ADOPTED BY THE MINISTERS FOR EMERGENCIES AND HEADS OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

7. The Working Group took note of the information presented by the BSEC PERMIS representative on the implementation of the Resolutions and Decisions of the 25th meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States (Moscow, 16 December 2011) and the Meeting of the Ministers and Heads of Agencies on Emergency Situations of the Member States of the BSEC Organization (Sochi, 7 October 2011) regarding the activities of the Working Group.

State of affairs with respect to:

a. Implementation of the Plan of Action of the WG for 2011-2013

8. The Working Group took note of the information on the state of implementation of the Action Plan on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance for 2011-2013 presented by the delegation of the Russian Federation, in its capacity as a Country-Coordinator. The information is attached as Annex III.

9. The Working Group also took note of the Information of the BSEC PERMIS on the International Conference on “Seismic Safety of the Countries of the Black Sea Region” (Rostov-on-Don, Russian Federation on 27-30 November 2011), and, in particular, the proposal of its participants to establish an International Association of Seismologists on the basis of the proposal of the Southern Scientific Centre of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Rostov-on-Don.

10. The Russian delegation proposed, in the context of enhancing the cooperation among the BSEC Member States, to establish a Ring of Emergency Warning in the Black Sea region.

11. The Working Group invited the Russian Federation to elaborate a Concept paper on the issue to be circulated to the Member States well in advance of its next Meeting for their consideration.

b. The outcome of the Seminar on the issues of Emergency Response within the framework of BSEC (Anapa, Russian Federation, 18-21 September 2012)

12. The Working Group took note of the Proceedings of the Seminar on the Issues of Emergency Response within the framework of BSEC, which was organized by the EMERCOM of the Russian Federation in Anapa, on 18-21 September 2012, as an important step in the implementation of the decisions of the Ministerial Meeting, held in Sochi on 7 October 2011, and in further strengthening the cooperation of the BSEC Member States on emergencies.

c. Agreement among the Governments of the BSEC Participating States on Collaboration in Emergency Assistance and Emergency Response to Natural and Man-Made Disasters and Additional Protocol to it

13. Ten BSEC Member States (Republic of Albania, Republic of Armenia, Republic of Bulgaria, Georgia, Hellenic Republic, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Republic of Turkey and Ukraine) ratified the Agreement among the Governments of the

BSEC Participating States in Cooperation in Emergency Assistance and Emergency Response to Natural and Man-Made Disasters.

14. Ten BSEC Member States (Republic of Albania, Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Bulgaria, Georgia, Hellenic Republic, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Republic of Turkey and Ukraine) ratified the Additional Protocol to the Agreement, while one Member State (Republic of Azerbaijan) signed it.

15. The Working Group invited the Member States that have not yet done it, to accede to the Agreement and the Additional Protocol thereto.

d. Nomination by the BSEC Member States of their representatives to the Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance

16. Ten BSEC Member States (Republic of Armenia, Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Bulgaria, Georgia, Hellenic Republic, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Republic of Serbia and Republic of Turkey) nominated their representatives to the Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance.

17. The Working Group invited the Member States that have not yet done it, to nominate their representatives to the Working Group.

e. Nomination by the BSEC Member States of their Liaison Officers to the BSEC Network of Liaison Officers on Emergency Assistance

18. Nine BSEC Member States (Republic of Armenia, Republic of Bulgaria, Georgia, Hellenic Republic, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Republic of Turkey and Ukraine) nominated their Liaison Officers to the BSEC Network of Liaison Officers on Emergency Assistance.

19. The Working Group invited the remaining Member States to nominate their Liaison Officers to the BSEC Network of Liaison Officers on Emergency Assistance.

f. Submission of Data to the Unified Database

20. Ten Member States (Republic of Armenia, Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Bulgaria, Georgia, Hellenic Republic, Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Republic of Turkey and Ukraine) have submitted data to the form of the “Competent National Authorities/Focal Points”.

21. The Working Group invited the Member States which have not yet done so to submit the relevant data to the Unified Database or to update them every year at the end of January.

g. Implementation of the provisions of the “BSEC Economic Agenda: Towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership”

22. The BSEC PERMIS representative informed on the “BSEC Economic Agenda: Towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership”, adopted by the BSEC Council in Belgrade, on 11 June 2012, as a strategic document for guiding the cooperation in the BSEC framework in the years to come. He made particular reference to Goal 17: Cooperation in Emergency Assistance, the “Working Groups’ Programme Implementation and Impact Survey” and the “Medium-Term (2013-2015) Orientation Survey”.

23. The Working Group agreed to consider updating the existing Terms of Reference and drafting a new Plan of Action (2013-2015) in conformity with the outcome of the Survey and the goals of the BSEC Economic Agenda.

h. Implementation of the BSEC Public Communication Strategy

24. The Working Group took note of information provided by the BSEC PERMIS representative regarding the BSEC Public Communication Strategy adopted by the Council (Belgrade, 11 June 2012) and the outcome of the Meeting of the Communication Officers held in Istanbul on 15 October 2012. The PERMIS informed the participants that the text of the BSEC Public Communication Strategy has been added to the new Manual prepared by the PERMIS for the Country-Coordination of the Working Groups.

25. The Working Group agreed to exert efforts to enhance the image of the BSEC Organization as an important instrument of cooperation on emergency assistance.

RESPONSE TO EMERGENCIES. PRESENTATIONS BY THE BSEC MEMBER STATES ABOUT THEIR ACTIVITIES TO PREVENT/OVERCOME EMERGENCIES

26. The representative of Romania delivered a presentation, describing the activities of emergency services during heavy snow falls and forest fires in Romania in 2012. The presentation is attached as Annex IV.

27. The representative of the Republic of Turkey delivered a presentation on the disaster management during the Van earthquake in Turkey in 2011. The presentation is attached as Annex V.

28. The representative of the Hellenic Republic delivered a presentation on the activities carried out by the national emergency services in fighting massive forest fires in Greece in 2012, and the international assistance. The presentation is attached as Annex VI.

29. The representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan delivered a presentation on the activities of the national emergency services during the earthquake in Azerbaijan in 2012, and its assistance to Turkey in the Van earthquake of 2011. The presentation is attached as Annex VII.

30. The representative of the Russian Federation delivered a presentation on the activities of the EMERCOM of Russia in eliminating consequences of the catastrophic flood in Krasnodar region (town of Krymsk) in 2012. The presentation in Russian is attached as Annex VIII.

31. The representative of Georgia delivered a presentation of the activities of the emergency risks and response infrastructure in Georgia, laws and regulations of disaster management in Georgia, as well as receiving international assistance. The presentation in Russian is attached as Annex IX.

FURTHER MODALITIES OF WORK OF THE BSEC NETWORK OF THE LIAISON OFFICERS ON EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

32. The Working Group emphasized the importance of continuing deliberation on the modalities of work of the Network, its future activities and interaction in detail, including the issues of mechanisms of communication and information exchange.

33. In this regard the Member States agreed to hold separate meetings of the Network of the Liaison Officers on Emergency Assistance in order to exchange information and discuss practical activities.

COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

34. The Working Group underlined the importance of increasing the BSEC institutional capacity in emergencies and reiterated its interest in cooperation with the United Nations and other relevant international organizations.

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE OF:

a) Ad hoc Working Group of Experts on Seismic Risk

35. The Working Group considered and finalized *ad referendum* the Draft Terms of Reference of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts in Seismic Risk. The said Terms of Reference, as finalized, is attached as Annex X.

36. The Working Group requested BSEC PERMIS to circulate the Draft Terms of Reference to the Member States in conformity with the 'silence procedure' (Article 16 of the BSEC Rules of Procedure). If no objections or comments are received within a 30 days period since the circulation, the Draft Terms of Reference will be considered approved.

b) Ad Hoc Working Group on Massive Forest Fires

c) Ad Hoc Working Group on Floods and Torrents

37. The Working Group invited the Country-Coordinator (Russian Federation) to elaborate by the end of February 2013 the Draft Terms of Reference for the Ad Hoc Working Group on Massive Forest Fires and the Ad Hoc Working Group on Floods and Torrents, taking into account the views and comments submitted by the Member States, BSEC Related Bodies and BSEC PERMIS.

38. The delegation of the Russian Federation requested the Member States, BSEC Related Bodies and BSEC PERMIS to forward their written contributions to the above-mentioned Drafts in due course.

39. The Member States agreed to consider the Drafts at the next Meeting of the Working Group.

PREPARING THE WG'S WORK PROGRAM FOR 2013

40. The Working Group agreed to organize in 2013 practical exercises, trainings and seminars, in particular, for the Liaison Officers.

41. The representative of BSEC PERMIS informed the delegations on the proposal by Japan (BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partner) to organize in 2013 for the BSEC Member States seminars on emergency assistance with the participation of the Japanese experts (17 February – 1 March) in Istanbul.

42. The Working Group took positive note of the proposal by Japan and decided to include this event in its Work Program for 2013.

43. The Working Group instructed BSEC PERMIS to continue cooperation with the Japanese side in order to obtain all the necessary details regarding the said seminar (concept, preliminary program, financial implications) and keep the Member States updated.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

44. Since the term-in-office of the Russian Federation as the Country-Coordinator will expire on 30 June 2013, the Working Group invited the Member States to submit their nominations for that important duty.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

45. The date and venue of the next Working Group Meeting will be communicated to the BSEC Member States through BSEC PERMIS in due course.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

46. The present Report was adopted and submitted to the next Meeting of the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials.
