



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

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

Sochi, 5-6 October 2011

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group (WG) on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance and Liaison Officers of the BSEC Network on Emergency Assistance was held in Sochi on 5-6 October 2011.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Viktor GALICYN, Deputy Director, Department of International Activities, Ministry of Civil Defense, Emergencies and Disaster Relief of the Russian Federation.
3. The Meeting of the Working Group was attended by the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Azerbaijan
Republic of Bulgaria
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Serbia
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine
4. The List of Participants is attached as Annex I.
5. 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

6. The Working Group took note of the information presented by the BSEC PERMIS representative on the implementation of the Resolutions and Decisions of the 24th meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States (Bucharest, 8 June 2011) regarding the activities of the Working Group.

State of affairs with respect to:

a. 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

7. 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) signed and ratified the Agreement among the Governments of the BSEC Participating States on Collaboration in Emergency Assistance and Emergency Response to Natural and Man-Made Disasters (Information is attached as Annex III).

8. 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) signed the Additional Protocol to the Agreement, while eleven BSEC Member States (Republic of Albania, Republic of Armenia, Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Bulgaria, Georgia, Hellenic Republic, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Republic of Turkey, Ukraine) ratified it (Information is attached as Annex IV).

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

9. 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.

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

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

11. The Working Group invited the Member States which have not yet done so to nominate their representatives to the Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance and to the BSEC Network of Liaison Officers on Emergency Assistance in order to facilitate their proper operation.

d. Submission of Data to the Unified Database

12. Eight Member States (Republic of Armenia, Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Bulgaria, Hellenic Republic, Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation and Republic of Turkey) have submitted data to the form of the “Competent National Authorities/Focal Points” according to Para. 35 of the Report of the BSEC Working Group on Emergency Assistance (Istanbul, 9-10 December 2010).

13. 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 if they have not done it previously.

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

14. The delegations of the following BSEC Member States made presentations on their respective activities in prevention/overcoming emergencies: Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Republic of Serbia, Romania and Ukraine.

15. The representative of the Republic of Moldova delivered a presentation on civil protection and emergency situations service, describing the activities of emergency services during major floods in Moldova in 2008.

16. The representative of the Russian Federation delivered a presentation on the financing of measures for elimination of emergency situations and consequences of disasters. The presentation dealt with the complex process of management, planning and allocation of financial resources in emergency situations.

17. The representative of the Russian Federation also delivered a presentation on the monitoring of seismic safety of buildings, explaining the work of the Prognosis and Monitoring Agency of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Russian Federation.

18. The representative of the Russian Federation informed on the structure, competencies and activities of the emergency corps of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Russian Federation.

19. The representative of the Republic of Serbia delivered a presentation on disaster and emergency management in Serbia, describing the legislative basis, organization, competencies and activities of the Sector for Emergency services.

20. The representative of Romania delivered a presentation on the national emergency system. The presentation dealt with functioning of the three-level emergency response system and activities of the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations.

21. The representative of Ukraine delivered a presentation in which he described the organization of the emergency response services in man-made and natural disasters.

The presentations are attached as Annex V.

COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

22. The representative of BSEC PERMIS recalled that the Working Group (Istanbul, 9-10 December 2010) underlined the importance of increasing the BSEC institutional capacity in emergencies and reiterated its interest in cooperation with the Black Sea Commission and other international organizations, and informed that BSEC PERMIS is studying the issue of cooperation with other relevant international organizations. BSEC PERMIS will report on the developments at the next Meeting of the Working Group.

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

23. The representative of the Russian Federation, as the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group, emphasized the following issues regarding the Modalities of Work of the Network of Liaison Officers: activities of the Network should be essential for the Member States' interaction with a view to implementation of the Agreement and its Protocol; establishing of a harmonized database; joint exercises of the liaison officers in emergency situations; using means of technology, especially in the field of communication; need for getting the activities of the liaison officers into the field of practical work.

24. The Working Group decided to continue its 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.

SETTING UP PRIORITIES OF THE WORKING GROUP AND PRESENTATION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS

25. The representative of BSEC PERMIS recalled that the Working Group at its previous meeting (Istanbul, 9-10 December 2010), following the decision on the establishment of the BSEC Ad Hoc Working Group on Seismic Risk, decided to consider the possibility of establishing other sub-directions of cooperation on emergencies.

26. In this regard, the Country-Coordinator and the Member States were invited to present the proposals on the priorities of the Working Group to be discussed at its next meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT PLAN OF ACTION FOR 2011-2013 AND DRAFT WORK PROGRAM FOR 2011-2013

27. The Working Group considered and adopted the Draft Action Plan of the Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance for 2011-2013. The Plan of Action is attached as Annex VI.

28. The Russian Federation, in its capacity as the Country-Coordinator for the Working Group, will submit the Draft Work Program of the Working Group for 2011-2012 as soon as possible.

CONSIDERATION OF TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE BSEC AD HOC WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS ON SEISMIC RISK

29. The representative of BSEC PERMIS recalled that the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (Bucharest 8 June 2011) decided to establish an Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts in Seismic Risk under the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance. The

Council instructed the Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance to elaborate the Terms of Reference of the newly established Ad Hoc Working Group at its next meeting.

30. The representative of the Russian Federation introduced the Draft Terms of Reference which was previously distributed by BSEC PERMIS Note No: BS/INFO.2011.0503 dated 11 July 2011.

31. The Working Group decided to continue consideration of the Draft Terms of Reference at its next meeting with a view to its finalization. The Draft is attached as Annex VII.

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT FINAL DOCUMENT OF THE MEETING OF MINISTERS AND HEADS OF EMERGENCY SERVICES OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

32. The delegation of the Russian Federation, in its capacity as BSEC Chairman-in-Office, presented the Draft Joint Declaration of the Ministers for Emergency Situations and the Heads of the Emergency Services of the BSEC Member States, which will be held in Sochi on 7 October 2011.

33. The Working Group discussed, amended and finalized the Draft Joint Declaration of the Ministers for Emergency Situations and the Heads of the Emergency Services of the BSEC Member States and submitted it to the Meeting of Ministers. The Draft Declaration is attached as Annex VIII.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

34. The representative of the Russian Federation introduced a proposal on the establishment of the multilateral mechanism for overcoming natural and man-made disasters and submitted the Draft Plan of Action describing the concept of the initiative. The Draft Plan of Action is attached as Annex IX.

35. The Working Group decided to consider this issue at its next meeting.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

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

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

37. The participants expressed their sincere gratitude to the government of the Russian Federation for the hospitality extended to them and for the excellent organization of the Meeting of the Working Group.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

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