



BS/EM/R(2002)1

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE MINISTERS AND HEADS OF STATE BODIES
IN CHARGE OF PREVENTION AND ELIMINATION OF CONSEQUENCES
OF EMERGENCIES OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES**

(15-16 May 2002, Sochi, Russian Federation)

1. The Meeting of the Ministers and Heads of State Bodies in Charge of Prevention and Elimination of Consequences of Emergencies of the BSEC Member States was held in Sochi, Russian Federation on 15-16 May 2002.
2. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Sergei K. SHOIGU, Minister for Civil Defense, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters of the Russian Federation.
3. The Meeting was attended by the Ministers and Heads of State Bodies in Charge of Prevention and Elimination of Consequences of Emergencies of the following Participating States of the BSEC:

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

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

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

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENTS

5. The Inaugural Speech was addressed by H.E. Mr. Sergei K. SHOIGU, Minister for Civil Defense, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters of the Russian Federation.

6. Welcome speeches were delivered by Mr. Yuriy VOROBIEV, First Deputy Minister for Civil Defense, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters of the Russian Federation, and Mr. Alexander TKACHEV, the Governor of the Krasnodarskiy Region.

7. H.E. Ambassador Ion BISTREANU, Deputy Secretary General, addressed the Meeting on behalf of the BSEC PERMIS.

DISCUSSIONS OF THE MECHANISMS FOR ESTABLISHING AND FUNCTIONING (INCLUDING FINANCIAL ASPECTS) OF THE INTERNATIONAL BLACK SEA RESCUE CENTER

8. Under this agenda item, the Ministers stressed the importance of the establishing of an International Black Sea Rescue Center. They also expressed views on the principles of possible mechanisms of the functioning of the said Center.

9. The Ministers endorsed the recommendation of the Meeting of the Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance of the BSEC Member States held in Sochi on 13-14 May 2002 concerning the drafting of the Statute of the Center. They also agreed that the Russian Federation, as the country-coordinator of the Working Group, should submit to the BSEC Member States, through the BSEC Secretariat, the draft of the Statute. Thereupon, the Member States will send their comments until 1 December 2002, with a view to finalize the text of the Statute at the next Meeting of the Working Group.

10. The Ministers also endorsed the proposal of the Meeting of the Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance of the BSEC Member States held in Sochi on 13-14 May 2002, that based on mutual cooperation and support, achieved due to mutual trust, swift exchange of information and coordination of actions, the Russian Federation, as the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group, alongside with the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat, will be given a task to study the possibility of issuing of an information bulletin "Emergencies in the Black Sea and Azov Sea basins. Analysis of their reasons, organizing the interaction, using search and rescue assets and equipment."

11. Noting the importance of creation of a List of potentially hazardous objects of the region, the Ministers called upon national authorities of the Coastal States to convene relevant information to the Russian Federation, as the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group, which alongside with the BSEC PERMIS will compose the final List of potentially hazardous objects of the region in the forthcoming year and a half.

12. The Ministers also stressed the importance of exchanging of swift information on bilateral and multilateral levels.

DISCUSSIONS ON THE DRAFT ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE AGREEMENT AMONG THE PARTICIPATING STATES OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION ON COLLABORATING IN EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO NATURAL AND MAN-MADE DISASTERS AND ON THE DRAFT DOCUMENT ON ESTABLISHING A BSEC MECHANISM FOR THE COORDINATION OF CIVIL PROTECTION INTERVENTION IN THE EVENT OF EMERGENCIES

13. The Ministers endorsed the proposal of the Meeting of the Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance of the BSEC Member States held in Sochi on 13-14 May 2002 to unify the texts

of the documents, incorporating the elements of the Draft Document on Establishing a BSEC mechanism for the coordination of civil protection intervention in the event of emergencies to the Draft Additional Protocol to the Agreement among the Participating States of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation on Collaborating in Emergency Assistance and Emergency Response to Natural and Man-made Disasters.

14. They requested the Russian Federation, as the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group, alongside with the BSEC PERMIS, to compose the unified Draft of the document and to distribute it among the BSEC Member States, expecting their respective contribution to the Draft with relevant amendments until 1 December 2002, with a view to finalize it for the signature at the next Meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF THE STATE OF AFFAIRS REGARDING THE RATIFICATION OF THE AGREEMENT AMONG THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION PARTICIPATING STATES ON COLLABORATION IN EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO NATURAL AND MAN-MADE DISASTERS

15. The Ministers informed the Meeting about the State of Affairs on the ratification of the Agreement, which shall enter into force when instruments of ratification will be deposited by at least six States. To this extent five countries out of the eight signatories have ratified and placed the instruments of ratification at the depository: Russian Federation, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Republic of Armenia and Ukraine.

16. They also called the Governments of those Member States who haven't ratified the Agreement to do so, in order of its entrance into force.

17. The representatives of the Republic of Albania, the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Turkey informed the Meeting on the intention of their respective Governments to adhere to the Agreement.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

18. Under this Agenda Item the Ministers finalized and at a special ceremony signed the Joint Statement of Ministers and Heads of State Bodies in Charge of Prevention and Elimination of Consequences of Emergencies of the BSEC Member States, presented for consideration by the Russian side, for signature. The text of the Joint Statement is attached as Annex III.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

19. The Ministers expressed their gratitude to the Russian authorities for the excellent arrangements of the Meeting and warm hospitality.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

20. The exact date and venue of the Meeting will be communicated through the BSEC PERMIS at a later stage.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

21. The Report was adopted for submission to the Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States, to be held in Tirana, Albania on 25 October 2002.
