



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**

BSEC Headquarters, 11-12 November 2015

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 at the BSEC Headquarters on 11-12 November 2015.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mrs. Brandusa PREDESCU, Special Representative of the Romanian Chairmanship-in-Office of the Organization of BSEC, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania.
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
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**.

AGENDA ITEM 2: 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

A) Status of the implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations

6. The participants took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS in the context of this item.

B) State of affairs with respect to:

a. The outcome of the Seminar of Experts on the issues of “Experience of the BSEC Member States on studies of seismic risk” (Sochi, Russian Federation, 9-10 June 2015);

7. The Working Group took note of the outcome of the Expert Seminar on “Experience of the BSEC Member States on studies of seismic risk” organized by the EMERCOM of the Russian Federation in Sochi, Russian Federation on 9-10 June 2015.

b. 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;

8. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS in the context of this item.

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

c. Nomination by the BSEC Member States of their representatives to the Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance and Liaison Officers to the BSEC Network of Liaison Officers on Emergency Assistance;

10. The Working Group invited the Member States that have not yet done so, to nominate or update the information on their representatives to the Working Group and Liaison Officers to the BSEC Network of Liaison Officers on Emergency Assistance **by 1 December 2015**.

AGENDA ITEM 3: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE “BSEC ECONOMIC AGENDA TOWARDS AN ENHANCED BSEC PARTNERSHIP”

a) Proposals for new priorities of cooperation in the field within the 2nd Action Plan of the BSEC 2012 Economic Agenda (2016-2018)

11. The Working Group discussed and selected in particular the following three main priorities for the 2nd Action Plan of the BSEC 2012 Economic Agenda (2016-2018):

- Strengthening cooperation in implementing the Agreement among the Governments of the BSEC Member States on Collaboration in Emergency Assistance and Emergency Response to Natural and Man-made Disasters and its Additional Protocol;

- Enhancing coordination among the BSEC Member States in preventing and eliminating the consequences of natural and man-made disasters and on providing humanitarian assistance and help on protection of environment in case of emergency situations or imminent threat thereof;

- Promoting organization of regional trainings, seminars and scientific conferences aimed at the achievement of better application of joint efforts in case of emergency and increase of awareness about the best practices used in emergency situations with a special attention to the Liaison Officers of the relevant BSEC Network.

12. The Participants stressed also the importance of promotion of women involvement in this area of cooperation in the BSEC Member States. The delegation of the Hellenic Republic announced the intention to circulate through PERMIS a Questionnaire in this regard the results of which will be presented at the next meeting of the Working Group.

b) Consideration of the Draft Medium-Term Achievements Report on the Implementation of the “Economic Agenda 2012” (2013-2015)

13. The Working Group considered, amended and agreed on the Medium-Term Achievements Report on the Implementation of the “Economic Agenda 2012” (2013-2015). The document is attached as **Annex III** to the Report.

AGENDA ITEM 4: MODALITIES OF WORK OF THE BSEC NETWORK OF THE LIAISON OFFICERS ON EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

14. The participants took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS and proposed to convene meetings of the Network of the Liaison Officers on Emergency Assistance in consultation with the Country-Coordinator and BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office.

15. The Working Group agreed to update information on the Unified Emergencies database (competent national governmental authorities, competent national operational authorities, regional competent authorities, institutions and experts related to the emergency situations, preparedness and response in the Black Sea Region, means and forces available for international operations) **by 1 December 2015**.

a) Suggestions and project proposals by the Member States on promoting the activities of the Network;

16. The participants agreed to identify main topics for discussions during the forthcoming meetings of the Network of the Liaison Officers on Emergency Assistance, to organize joint exercises of the Liaison Officers in emergency situations, to use means of technology in communication and other activities on the field of practical work.

b) Consideration of the possibility of creating permanent interconnection of Liaison Officers;

17. The Working Group agreed to elaborate means and ways of creating permanent interconnection of Liaison Officers. The Member States are invited to come up with project proposals on permanent interconnection of Liaison Officers of the BSEC Network on Emergency Assistance.

AGENDA ITEM 5: THE OUTCOME OF THE MEETING OF THE BSEC AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON FLOODS AND TORRENTS (BSEC HEADQUARTERS, 16 APRIL 2015)

18. The Working Group took note of the Report of the Meeting of the BSEC Ad Hoc Working Group on Floods and Torrents, held at the BSEC Headquarters on 16 April 2015.

19. The Working Group called upon the Committee of Senior Officials to consider and present to the approval of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs for its next Meeting the Terms of Reference of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Floods and Torrents.

AGENDA ITEM 6: THE OUTCOME OF THE MEETING OF THE BSEC AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON MASSIVE FOREST FIRES (BSEC HEADQUARTERS, 26 MAY 2015)

20. The Working Group took note of the Report of the Meeting of the BSEC Ad Hoc Working Group on Massive Forest Fires, held at the BSEC Headquarters on 26 May 2015.

21. The Working Group called upon the Committee Senior Officials to consider and present to the approval of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs for its next Meeting the Terms of Reference of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Massive Forest Fires.

AGENDA ITEM 7: THE OUTCOME OF THE MEETING OF THE BSEC AD HOC WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS IN SEISMIC RISK (BSEC HEADQUARTERS, 2 OCTOBER 2015)

22. The Working Group took note of the Report of the Meeting of the BSEC Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts in Seismic Risk, held at the BSEC Headquarters, on 2 October 2015.

AGENDA ITEM 8: COORDINATIONSHIP AND THE ACTION PLAN OF THE WORKING GROUP ON COOPERATION IN EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR THE PERIOD 2016-2017

23. The Participants took note of the interest of 4 Member States to assume the Coordinationship of the Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance and the Ad Hoc Working Groups subordinated to it.

24. The Participants exchanged views on various options and, taking into consideration the new information provided by the delegation of the Republic of Turkey and proposals of the

BSEC PERMIS, agreed to come up with concrete proposals after consultations in their Capitals and among themselves, before the forthcoming Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials.

25. A number of delegations supported the willingness of the Hellenic Republic to undertake the Coordinationship of the BSEC Ad Hoc Working Group on Massive Forest Fires.

26. The Working Group exchanged views on the possible priorities of the future Action Plan of the Working Group.

AGENDA ITEM 9: RESPONSE TO EMERGENCIES - PRESENTATIONS BY THE BSEC MEMBER STATES ABOUT THEIR ACTIVITIES TO PREVENT/OVERCOME EMERGENCIES

27. The representative of Georgia made a presentation on “*Flood Disaster in Tbilisi on 13 June 2015*”.

28. The representative of the Russian Federation made a presentation on “*The Perspectives of the Development of Cooperation of BSEC Liaison Officers on the basis of the Crisis Management Centers*”.

29. The representative of the Hellenic Republic made a presentation on “*Recent Emergencies in Greece and participation in EU Civil Protection Exercises*” and on “*The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*”.

30. All the above mentioned presentations will be circulated at a later stage.

31. The delegation of Ukraine made a statement with regard to the presentation delivered by the Russian Federation.

32. In response the delegation of the Russian Federation also made a statement.

AGENDA ITEM 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

33. The Russian Federation informed the Working Group of its readiness to convene a Ministerial Meeting of Ministers for Emergencies and Heads of Emergency Services of the BSEC Member States in June 2016, preceded by experts meeting and practical exercises.

AGENDA ITEM 8: DATE AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

34. The date and the venue of the next Meeting will be communicated in due course through the BSEC PERMIS, after consultations with the Chairman-in-Office.

AGENDA ITEM 9: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

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