



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**

Istanbul, BSEC Headquarters, 20 November 2013

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance (WGCEA) and Liaison Officers of the BSEC Network on Emergency Assistance was held in Istanbul, at the BSEC Headquarters, on 20 November 2013.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Ms. Makbule YALIN, Expert, Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency, AFAD of the Republic of Turkey.
3. The Meeting of the Working Group was attended by the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Albania
Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Georgia
Hellenic Republic
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Turkey
4. Professor Shoichi ANDO, Director of the Disaster Management Policy Program, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (Japan) participated at the Meeting as the Guest.
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 28th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States (Odessa, 12 June 2013) 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.

8. The Working Group welcomed appointment of the Republic of Turkey as the Country-Coordinator of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance for the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2015.

9. The Working Group expressed appreciation to the Russian Federation for its valuable contribution to promote the Emergency Assistance Cooperation in the BSEC region, as the Country-Coordinator of the BSEC WG for three consecutive terms, and submission of the Evaluation Report for the period of 1 July 2011-30 June 2013.

10. The Working Group took note and expressed its high appreciation for the Seminar “Disaster Prevention Measures”, (Istanbul, 20 November 2013) organized jointly by BSEC and Japan (BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partner) as an important contribution to strengthening the cooperation on Emergency Assistance, in particular the Disaster Prevention Measures in the Black Sea Region. The Summary Proceedings of the Seminar are attached as Annex III to the Report and will be submitted to the next Meeting of the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials.

11. The Member States were invited to consider possibility for organizing in 2014 practical exercises, trainings and seminars, including those for the Liaison Officers of the Network on Emergency Assistance.

State of affairs with respect to:

a. The outcome of the Seminar on the Seismic Risk Management within the framework of BSEC (Anapa, Russian Federation, 18-21 September 2013)

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 Ministry of the Russian Federation for Civil Defense, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters in Anapa, Russian Federation, on 18-21 September 2013.

13. The Seminar was considered as an important step on the way of implementation of the decisions of the Ministerial Meeting, held in Sochi on 7 October 2011, with the aim to further strengthening the cooperation of the BSEC Member States on emergencies.

b. Follow up of the Istanbul Summit Declaration on the Occasion of the Twentieth Anniversary of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation

14. The participants discussed this issue under agenda sub-item g

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

15. The Working Group took note of the following:

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.

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.

16. The Working Group invited the Member States that have not yet done so, 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

17. The Working Group took note of the following:

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.

18. The Working Group invited the Member States that have not yet done so, 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

19. The Working Group took note of the following:

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.

20. 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

21. The Working Group took note of the following:

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”.

22. 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.

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

23. The BSEC PERMIS representative informed the WGCEA 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.

24. The Working Group agreed to prepare and consider a preliminary list of possible project ideas which it may pursue in 2014 in accordance with the goals set in the Economic Agenda and main priorities contained in the document the Way Forward for an Action Plan on the Implementation of the Economic Agenda: “Towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership”.

25. In conformity with the document “The Way Forward for an Action Plan on the Implementation of the “Economic Agenda towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership” the Country-Coordinator was invited in cooperation with the BSEC PERMIS to elaborate on the report regarding the WG’s activities to be submitted to the BSEC Council, to be held in Yerevan on 12 December 2013.

h. Implementation of the BSEC Public Communication Strategy

26. 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 outcomes of the Meetings of the Communication Officers held in Istanbul in 2012-2013.

27. 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-Coordinators of the Working Groups.

28. The WGCEA invited the Country-Coordinator in cooperation with the BSEC PERMIS to elaborate in due time on the key messages in the field of the Emergency Assistance to be placed at the BSEC web site.

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

29. The representative of Romania made a presentation, entitled “Lessons Learned from Floods in Romania, Galati County, September 2013”. The presentation is attached as Annex IV.

30. The representative of the Republic of Turkey made presentations, entitled ‘A National Roadmap to Reduce Earthquake Related Losses: “National Earthquake Strategy and Action Plan” ’ and “National Seismic Network in AFAD and a Mobile Earthquake Application”. The presentations are attached as Annex V and Annex VI.

31. The representative of the Russian Federation made a presentation, entitled “The organization and the prospects prevention and minimizing the impact of seismic events on the environmental and social aspects of life of the population in Krasnodar Region”. The presentation is attached as Annex VII.

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT ACTION PLAN ON EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR THE PERIOD 2013-2015

32. The Working Group discussed, amended and adopted the Action Plan for the period of 1 July 2013-30 June 2015, presented by the Republic of Turkey as a Country-Coordinator, attached as Annex VIII.

33. The WGCEA agreed that the Action Plan is open for additional proposals by the Member States.

34. The representative of the Russian Federation informed about their intention to organize a Workshop devoted to the floods or fires in Krasnodar Region, in September 2014.

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

35. The Working Group emphasized the importance to undertake concrete steps and continue deliberation on the modalities of work of the Network, focusing in its future activities and interaction in detail, including the issues of mechanisms of communication and information exchange.

36. In this regard the Member States agreed that separate meetings of the Network of the Liaison Officers on Emergency Assistance should be held in order to exchange experience and discuss practical activities.

COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN BSEC PERMIS AND MEMBER STATES

37. The Working Group discussed the PERMIS proposals regarding the improvement of the communications between the BSEC PERMIS and BSEC Member States, and agreed, in parallel with the official correspondence, to use the existing e-mail network to facilitate communication between the BSEC Secretariat and the permanent representatives assigned by the Member States to the Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance.

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE OF:

a) Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Seismic Risk

38. The Working Group adopted the Terms of Reference of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts in Seismic Risk.

b) Ad Hoc Working Group on Massive Forest Fires

c) Ad Hoc Working Group on Floods and Torrents

39. The Country-Coordinator was invited to elaborate by end of February 2014 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.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

40. No issue was raised under this Agenda item.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

41. 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

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