



## 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, 9-10 December 2010

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 Istanbul, at the BSEC Headquarters on 9-10 December 2010.
2. The Meeting was co-chaired by Dr. Kalliopi SAINI, National Correspondent for Civil Protection in the EU, General Secretariat for Civil Protection, Ministry for Citizen Protection of the Hellenic Republic and Mr. Viktor GALICIN, Deputy Director, Department of International Cooperation, 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 Armenia  
Republic of Azerbaijan  
Republic of Bulgaria  
Hellenic Republic  
Romania  
Russian Federation  
Republic of Serbia  
Republic of Turkey
4. The representative of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) also attended the Meeting as the 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**

**1. Follow-up of the Meeting of Ministers and Heads of Agencies on Emergency Situations of the BSEC Member States (Baku, 18 September 2009)**

7. The Working Group considered the Report and the Declaration of the Meeting of Ministers and Heads of Agencies on Emergency Situations of the BSEC Member States, held in Baku on 18 September 2009, and decided to incorporate the decisions of the Ministerial Meeting to the WG's Action Plan as well as to define the relevant actions to be included to the Work Program of the Working Group.

**2. State of affairs with respect to:**

***a. Agreement among the Governments of the BSEC Participating States in Cooperation in Emergency Assistance and Emergency Response to Natural and Man-Made Disasters and Additional Protocol to it***

8. Nine BSEC Member States (Armenia, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine) signed and 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. (Information is attached as Annex III).

9. Nine BSEC Member States (Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine) signed the Additional Protocol to the Agreement, while ten BSEC Member States (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russia, 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***

10. Ten BSEC Member States (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Serbia and 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***

11. Seven BSEC Member States (Armenia, Bulgaria, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russia and Turkey) nominated their Liaison Officers to the BSEC Network of Liaison Officers on Emergency Assistance.

12. 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.

### **3. Implementation of the Plan of Action and Work Program of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance for the period May 2009 – February 2011**

13. The Russian Federation in the capacity of the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group presented a short report on the implementation of the BSEC Action Plan and Work Program on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance for the Period of May 2009 – February 2011.

14. It was noted that several actions were taken for the implementation of the Action Plan and for achieving goals of the Agreement among the Governments of the BSEC Participating States in Cooperation in Emergency Assistance and Emergency Response to Natural and Man-Made Disasters and Additional Protocol to it. In particular, training seminars were organized in Krasnaya Polyana, Sochi, the Russian Federation, for activating the work of the Network of Liaison Officers on Emergencies; the Member States started work on creation of the Unified Database for emergency assistance as well as elaborated on new possible areas of cooperation (e.g. seismic preparedness), improvement of legal basis etc. The Meeting of Ministers and Heads of Agencies on Emergency Situations of the BSEC Member States, which was held on 18 September 2009 in Baku, demonstrated a common determination of the participants to deepen cooperation in the field.

15. The Russian Federation accentuated on the fact that five BSEC Member States (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Turkey and Ukraine) rendered their assistance in fighting devastating forestry fires in Russia in summer 2010. Expressing its gratitude to those countries, the delegation of the Russian Federation underlined the necessity for activation of multilateral mechanisms in emergency assistance.

16. The Working Group expressed its high appreciation to the Russian Federation as the Country-Coordinator for the work done in implementing the Action Plan and the Work Program for the mentioned period. The Working Group also emphasized the practical nature of coordination by the Russian Federation of the emergency cooperation in BSEC during two consecutive terms.

17. Furthermore, taking into account that term of coordination by the Russian Federation will expire on 30 June 2011, the Member States were invited to present their proposals regarding the succeeding Country-Coordination of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance.

18. The Working Group sincerely congratulated Mr. Valeriy BONAREV, Chief in Charge of Search and Rescue Operations, South Regional Search and Rescue Team, Ministry of Civil Defense, Emergencies and Disaster Relief of the Russian Federation, on the occasion of the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Team.

19. Following the Declaration of the Meeting of Ministers and Heads of Agencies on Emergency Situations of the BSEC Member States (Baku, 18 September 2009), the Working Group agreed to strengthen cooperation in seismic risk and to recommend the BSEC Council establishing an Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts in Seismic Risk under the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance.

20. Furthermore, it was decided to consider the possibility establishing of other sub-directions of cooperation on emergencies. In this regard, the Country-Coordinator in contact with BSEC PERMIS was requested to include the relevant issue into the agendas of the forthcoming meetings on cooperation in emergency assistance.

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

21. The delegation of the Republic of Bulgaria presented activities of the Training Center established in Montana/the Republic of Bulgaria. This Training Center can be used in future for training of the BSEC Network Liaison Officers and for providing courses for experts from the BSEC Member States. The presentation is attached as Annex V.

22. The delegation of the Republic of Serbia made a presentation on the newly established structure of emergency management in the Ministry of Interior, which activity also foresees providing international assistance in case of floods, large-scale forest fires and earthquakes. The presentation is attached as Annex VI.

23. The delegation of Romania made a presentation about activities in the fields of prevention and intervention in case of emergencies at the national level. The participants were informed about the major responses to emergencies during 2009-2010. The presentation is attached as Annex VII.

24. The delegation of the Russian Federation made a presentation about means and forces used for combating massive natural peat and forestry fires in the central part of Russia in summer 2010. The presentation is attached as Annex VIII.

25. The Working Group was informed about the latest emergency assistance, including aviation, firefighters and psychologist teams, which were provided by the Russian Federation to the State of Israel to fight forestry fires in December 2010.

26. The delegation of the Republic of Turkey informed that after the Marmara Region Earthquakes in 1999, Turkey modified its Disaster and Emergency Management System, merging 3 core institutions working on disasters and emergencies under different Ministries and establishing a single body responsible for Disasters and Emergencies – AFAD (Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency) under the Prime Ministry’s Office. AFAD works with its 6 departments, which are Planning and Mitigation, Response, Recovery, Civil Defense, Earthquake and Administrative Affairs. The presentation is attached as Annex IX.

27. The delegation of the Hellenic Republic made a presentation regarding recent activities in the field of international assistance. The country's doctrine and strategy on emergencies were presented. Greece participates in the EU Civil Protection mechanism and EU Programs (FIRE5, RRC7, ARC5, Interreg IVC CIVPRO). The presentation contained also information regarding participation in other regional organizations (BSEC, AII, RCC/DPPI SEE, EUR-OPA), bilateral agreements signed, fire emergency situation in Greece in 2010, as well as information on assistance provided in 2010 by Greece to other countries. The presentation is attached as Annex X.

28. The delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan made a presentation (DVD format) of its Ministry of Emergency Situations and the Exercise "Caspian-2009", demonstrating in detail the growth of recently established emergency structure. Furthermore, it was noted that the Republic of Azerbaijan provided two helicopters to the State of Israel to fight forest fires in December 2010.

### **COOPERATION WITH THE BLACK SEA COMMISSION AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

29. Underlining the importance of increase of the BSEC institutional capacity in emergencies, the Working Group reiterated its interest in cooperation with the Black Sea Commission and other international organizations.

30. The Working Group requested BSEC PERMIS to study possibilities of establishing relations with such international organizations and institutions in the field of emergencies as OCHA, IFRC, EU/MIC (EU Monitoring and Information Centre) and Regional Cooperation Council – Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative (RCC - DPPI) and to make relevant proposals in this regard. The EU countries were invited to facilitate studying possibilities of the BSEC cooperation with EU/MIC.

31. The delegation of the Hellenic Republic informed about the new developments in EU, in particular, it was noted that EU Commission proposed the merge of DG ECHO (Directorate General of Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection) humanitarian crisis room with EU/MIC in one centre entitled EU Emergency Response Center. This merge is under development. A Council Conclusion's Decision is in progress. This new structure will be responsible for emergency response interventions inside and outside EU.

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

32. The Working Group decided to continue the practice of having training seminars with participation of the Liaison Officers on Emergency Assistance in order to speed up the process of making the Network active.

33. The Working Group reiterated its request to the Member States which have not done so yet to nominate their representatives to the Network of the Liaison Officers on Emergency Assistance.

### **CREATION OF A UNIFIED DATABASE**

34. The Working Group agreed to consider a new form proposed by the delegation of the Republic of Bulgaria to be used by emergency personnel in case of border-crossing, which is attached as Annex XI. It was also agreed to change the title of the form “Competent National Operational Authorities” to “Competent National Operational Authorities/Focal Points”.

35. The Member States were invited to communicate to PERMIS the necessary data to the Unified Database by 1 March 2011 as well as their comments on the Bulgarian proposal.

### **SETTING UP PRIORITIES OF THE WG AND PRESENTATION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS**

36. The Working Group suggested preliminary that the issues of building institutional capacity of BSEC on emergencies and preparedness of population to different emergencies could be considered among priorities for the projects to be realized within the BSEC Project Development Fund.

37. The Member States were invited to communicate to PERMIS their comments and proposals regarding the priorities of the Working Group by 1 March 2011.

### **DRAFT WORK PROGRAM OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON COOPERATION IN EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR 2011**

38. The delegation of the Russian Federation informed about intention of its country to organize a high level meeting of authorities responsible for emergencies in the second half of 2011 and asked to include this event to the Work Program-2011.

39. The Member States were invited to communicate information about their activities which can be included to the Work Program and contribute to the BSEC work on emergencies. The relevant proposals should be sent to the BSEC Member States through PERMIS.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

40. No issue has been 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.

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