



**BS/WG/EM/R(2008)1**

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

**Odessa, Ukraine, 3 April 2008**

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group (WG) on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance and the Meeting of the BSEC Network Liaison Officers were held in Odessa, Ukraine, on 3 April 2008.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Grygoriy MARCHENKO, Director of the Department of Rescue Forces Management, Ministry of Emergencies of Ukraine.
3. The Meeting of the Working Group was attended by the following BSEC Member States:
  - Republic of Bulgaria
  - Georgia
  - 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 participants were welcomed by Mr. Valeriy TRETYAKOV, Deputy Minister of Emergencies of Ukraine, Mr. Petr KHLITCOV, Deputy Head of Odessa Region State Administration, Mr. Victor GALICIN, Deputy Head of the Department of International Relations, Ministry of Civil Defense, Emergencies and Disaster Relief, and Mr. Yevgen KOZIY, Executive Manager, BSEC PERMIS.
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**

**a. State of affairs with respect to 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;**

7. The Working Group took note of the following:

- eight BSEC Member States (Armenia, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russia, 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;
- nine BSEC Member States (Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Turkey, 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;
- the representatives of the Republic of Serbia informed that their country intends to join the BSEC Agreements on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance, through the legal procedures after the new Serbian Parliament will be elected.

8. Ten BSEC Member States (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Turkey) nominated their representatives to the Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance.

9. The Working Group discussed the emergency situations, in particular, mass fires in the Hellenic Republic, accidents of vessels in the Black and Azov Seas occurred in 2007. It was noted that these situations were resolved with international assistance, which was provided on a bilateral basis.

10. The Ukrainian side expressed the view that the provisions of the Agreement were actually utilized by Ukraine and the Russian Federation when the two countries undertook joint actions to overcome accidents in the Black and Azov Seas.

11. The participants expressed their common view that with starting work of the Network of the Liaison Officers on Emergency Assistance the BSEC Member States will receive a mechanism for rapid response to the emergency situations on multilateral level in accordance with the Agreement and Additional Protocol to it.

12. The Russian Federation proposed to consider the issue of creation of a unified BSEC data base at the next meeting of the Working Group which could be used by the Network for taking

proper decision and rapid response to emergencies. The issue should be considered in complex, including the following:

- a. Assessment of risks of each member state and common vulnerability of the region on the whole in case of various types of emergencies;
- b. Assessment of existing capabilities of each Party;
- c. Identification of needs, means of cooperation and investment priorities aimed at strengthening the emergency preparedness capabilities and upgrading the existing facilities and equipment for emergency response;
- d. Identification of protection requirements of the region infrastructure.

**b. Consideration of the draft Modalities of Work for the BSEC Network of Liaison Officers on Emergency Assistance;**

13. The Working Group discussed, amended and agreed upon the text of the draft Modalities of Work for the BSEC Network of Liaison Officers on Emergency Assistance. The text of the Modalities of Work for the BSEC Network of Liaison Officers on Emergency Assistance is attached as Annex III.

14. It was noted that only four States appointed their Liaison Officers on Emergency Assistance. In this regard the Parties to the Additional Protocol, which have not yet done so, were invited to appoint their representatives by 3 May 2008.

15. The Russian Federation in its capacity of the Country-Coordinator informed about its intention to hold the next meeting of the BSEC Network of Liaison Officers on Emergency Assistance in Krasnaya Polyana, Sochi, in September-October 2008. The Working Group suggested that the next Meeting of the BSEC Network should be devoted to consideration of its future activities and interaction in detail.

**c. Approval of the Plan of Action and Working Program of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance for the coordinating period of the Russian Federation;**

16. The participants adopted the Plan of Action of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance for the coordinating period of the Russian Federation (01.05.2007 – 30.04.2009). The text is attached as Annex IV.

17. The Working Group discussed the results of the activities held in 2007 within the tentative Work Programme for 2007-2009 presented by the Russian Federation in its capacity of the Country-Coordinator.

18. The Working Group noted the success of the Training Exercise for National Medical Rescue Teams which was hosted by the Bursa Provincial Health Directorate (Turkey) on 12-18 August 2007.

19. The participants gave a high estimation to the outcome of the Scientific and Practical Seminar on Various Types of Rescue Activities and Rescuer's Training Programmes for the BSEC Member States which was organized by the Ministry on Emergencies (EMERCOM) of the Russian

Federation as a country-coordinator of the BSEC Working Group on Emergency Assistance in Krasnaya Polyana, Sochi, on 19-20 September 2007.

20. They expressed the view that such trainings and seminars would assist to better awareness about the best practices used in different emergency situations.

21. The participants adopted the said Working Program bearing in mind that it will be open for additional proposals by the Member States during 2008-2009. The text is attached as Annex V.

**d. Options for attracting additional financial resources for rapid response to emergencies;**

22. The participants suggested that the issue of attracting additional financial resources for rapid response to emergencies should be considered on a case-by-case basis.

23. They expressed the opinion that cooperation with other international institutions and organizations (EU, BSC, OSPRI, etc.) in emergency situations could diminish the scale of disasters and bring additional resources for their solution.

24. The participants took with interest information about the existing reserve budgets established by the Russian Federation at different levels (state, region, sub-region, local) for their prompt usage in case of emergencies.

**e. Establishment of a regional coordinating centre(s);**

25. Taking into account that the BSEC Member States have their national coordinating centres, it was suggested that such centres could act as the BSEC coordinating centre on a rotating basis during certain period (half year, one year etc).

26. The delegation of the Russian Federation informed about the activities of the National Crisis Management Center (Moscow) with its branches in different regions of the country. It was noted that the Rescue Center in Krasnaya Polyana will receive the status of such branch in the nearest future.

**f. Presentation of project proposals.**

27. The Working Group took note of the proposal of the Republic of Turkey with regard to the project “BSEC Countries Medical Rescue Teams”, and invited interested parties to inform the Turkish side about their intention to join the relevant PDF Application.

28. The participants were informed about the activities of the State Enterprise “Mobile Rescue Center” and “Mobile Hospital” of the Ministry of Emergencies of Ukraine.

29. The representatives of the Republic of Bulgaria and Romania suggested that the BSEC Member States – EU members could promote to the EU joint project in the field of emergencies of regional impact.

**BSEC-BSC COOPERATION**

30. The representative of PERMIS informed the participants about the BSEC-BSC cooperation and the latest activities of the Latter.

31. The participants met positively the presentation about the Delta exercise SULH 2007 that was held in Ereğli, Turkey, on 5-7 September 2007 and reiterated the necessity for cooperation with BSC and other international organizations that work on emergencies.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

32. No issue was raised under this Agenda Item.

#### **DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

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

#### **EXPRESSION OF THANKS**

34. The Working Group expressed their sincere thanks to the Ministry of Emergencies of Ukraine for the hospitality extended to the delegations and the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting in Odessa.

#### **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

35. The present Report was adopted and submitted to the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BSEC Council of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, to be held in Kyiv on 17 April 2008.

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