



BS/WG/EM/R(2006)1

**REPORT OF THE  
MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP  
ON COOPERATION IN EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**

**Plovdiv, 29-30 March 2006**

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance was held in Plovdiv, the Republic of Bulgaria, on 29-30 March 2006.
2. An opening statement was presented by Mr. Angel NEMOV, Deputy Chairman, State Agency for Civil Protection of the Republic of Bulgaria.
3. The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Angel NEMOV, Deputy Chairman, State Agency for Civil Protection of the Republic of Bulgaria, and Mr. Stoytcho PANEV, Chief Inspector, "Crisis Management" Department, State Agency of Civil Protection of the Republic of Bulgaria.
4. The following BSEC Member States participated in the Meeting:
  - Republic of Azerbaijan
  - Republic of Bulgaria
  - Hellenic Republic
  - Republic of Moldova
  - Romania
  - Russian Federation
  - Republic of Turkey
  - Ukraine
5. The representative of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution also participated in the Meeting in its capacity as BSEC Observer.

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

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

**FINALIZATION AND APPROVAL OF THE PLAN OF ACTION PRESENTED BY THE  
REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA AS THE COUNTRY-COORDINATOR OF THE WORKING  
GROUP**

7. The Republic of Bulgaria presented in its capacity as the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance the Plan of Action for the term of its tenure, which

was considered by the Participants and approved with amendments. The text of the Plan of Action is attached as **Annex III**.

### **CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE WG**

8. The Working Group agreed on the draft amendments to the Terms of Reference of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance, to be submitted to the Committee of Senior Officials and the Council for approval. The text of the Terms of Reference, as amended by the Working Group, is attached as **Annex IV**.

### **STATE OF AFFAIRS WITH RESPECT TO THE ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE AGREEMENT AMONG THE BSEC PARTICIPATING STATES ON COLLABORATION IN EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO NATURAL AND MAN-MADE DISASTERS**

9. The Working Group assessed the state of affairs with respect to the signature and entering into force of the Additional Protocol 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. The Russian Delegation informed about its intention to organize a High-Level Meeting of the BSEC Member States (Sochi, 6-7 June 2006) and invited the BSEC Member States, which had not signed the said Additional Protocol, to do it at that High-Level Meeting.

10. Furthermore, the Hellenic Delegation and the Delegation of Romania informed that their national procedures with respect to the ratification/approval of the Additional Protocol were underway and the instruments of ratification/approval would be deposited with BSEC PERMIS in the near future. The Working Group noted with satisfaction the accession by the Republic of Turkey 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. The Turkish Delegation informed that it intended to become a party to the Additional Protocol to the said Agreement, as well.

### **PRESENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE SEMINAR HELD ON 13-15 DECEMBER 2005 IN NESSEBAR, THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA**

11. The Participants took note of the outcome of the Seminar on Purposes and Subject of the Agreement among the Governments of the BSEC Participating States on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance and Emergency Response to Natural and Man-Made Disasters held in Nessebar on 13-15 December 2005, and expressed the view that similar events should take place on annual basis.

12. The delegation of Bulgaria presented the scenario of the forthcoming exercise on mitigation and elimination of consequences of terrorist acts proposed to be held in Varna, 9-10 May 2006. The Working Group agreed upon the aforementioned dates and suggested it to be included in the Calendar of BSEC Events during the Russian Chairmanship-in-office (May-October 2006).

### **BSEC-BSC COOPERATION IN ACTIVITIES RELATED TO PROTECTION OF THE BLACK SEA AGAINST POLLUTION IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES**

13. The Working Group was addressed by the representative of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution (BSC) with presentation on the Black Sea Contingency Plan suggesting a number of joint actions, and appreciated the willingness of the BSC to cooperate with BSEC in its capacity as Observer.

14. In order to reach synergy between BSEC and BSC on the issues related to protection of the Black Sea environment in emergency situations, it was agreed to include the proposed actions in the Working Program of the Working Group for 2006. Furthermore, participation of the BSEC Member States in the First Regional Black Sea Oil Spill Response Exercise, which will take place with OSPRI support in 2007, will be considered in detail at the next Meeting of the Working Group.

### **DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSALS ON SETTING UP OF INTERNATIONAL BLACK SEA RESCUE CENTER AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A MUTUAL BLACK SEA FUND**

15. The Delegation of the Russian Federation made a presentation on setting up of Emergency Monitoring and Forecast System to reveal natural and technological calamities and diminish their negative implications. To that end coordinative activities of Liaison Officers Network and further establishment of a regional response center, eventually of international status were proposed. Having exchange views on the proposal, the Working Group agreed to deliberate on it in detail at the next Meeting on a basis of a background paper to be submitted by the Russian Federation through PERMIS.

16. The Delegation of Romania presented information on the Romanian Maritime Search and Rescue and Pollution Control Center and particularly on the activities of the Maritime Rescue Coordination Center located in Constantza, and proposed its utilization as regional one.

17. It was also suggested that establishment of a network of specialized centers coordinating activities in their specific domains in a regional framework would be expedient.

### **PRESENTATION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS**

18. The Participants took note of the recommendation by the Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Communications (Istanbul, 2-3 June 2003) that a project proposal titled "Providing medical aid to population in the course of elimination of consequences of emergencies by mean of complex telemedicine system of emergency service" should be considered by the Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance taking into account its suggested field of implementation.

19. The Working Group agreed that the above mentioned project proposal would be considered at its next Meeting under the relevant agenda item with a view of its endorsement for submission to the Committee of Senior Officials provided that the application form was presented in compliance with the Project Development Fund Regulations, and invited the interested institutions of the Member States to participate in it.

### **APPROVAL OF THE WORKING PROGRAM FOR 2006**

20. The Participants elaborated on the tentative Working Program of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance for 2006 presented by the Republic of Bulgaria in its capacity as the Country-Coordinator and approved it with amendments. The text of the Working Program is attached as **Annex V**.

### **EXPRESSION OF THANKS**

21. The Participants expressed their high appreciation to the State Agency for Civil Protection of the Republic of Bulgaria for the warm hospitality extended to them in Plovdiv and the excellent arrangements of the Meeting.

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

22. The next Meeting of the Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance will take place within the framework of the next BSEC Chairmanship by the Russian Federation. The date and venue will be communicated to the BSEC Member States through BSEC PERMIS.

### **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

23. The Working Group adopted the present Report for submission to the next Meeting of the Committee of the Senior Officials of the BSEC Member States, to be held in Bucharest, on 24-25 April 2006.

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