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

Krasnaya Polyana, Sochi, Russian Federation, 3-4 October 2006

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance was held in Krasnaya Polyana, Sochi, the Russian Federation, on 3-4 October 2006.
2. An opening statement was presented by Mr. Yuriy BRAJNIKOV, Director of the Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Civil Defense, Emergencies and Disaster Relief, who delivered an address of H.E. Mr. Sergey SHOYGU, Minister of Civil Defense, Emergencies and Disaster Relief of the Russian Federation.
3. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Yuriy BRAJNIKOV, Director of the Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Civil Defense, Emergencies and Disaster Relief of the Russian Federation.
4. The following BSEC Member States participated in the Meeting:
 - Republic of Armenia
 - Republic of Azerbaijan
 - Republic of Bulgaria
 - Hellenic Republic
 - Romania
 - Russian Federation
 - Ukraine
5. The representatives of the Republic of Belarus and the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution also participated in the Meeting in their capacity as BSEC Observers.
6. The representatives of Kuban State University and JSV "TANA Computerized Medical Systems" attended the Meeting in the capacity of Official Guests.

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

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

**DISCUSSION ON DECISIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE MINISTERS FOR
EMERGENCIES AND HEADS OF EMERGENCY SERVICES OF THE BSEC MEMBER
STATES HELD IN SOCHI ON 6-7 JUNE 2006**

8. The Working Group discussed in detail the outcome of the Meeting of the Ministers for Emergencies and Heads of Emergency Services Meeting of the BSEC Member States held in Sochi on 6-7 June 2006. It was agreed that the provisions of the Joint Statement of Ministers and Heads of Emergencies and Rescue Governmental Agencies of the BSEC Member States would be duly taken into account in the process of the implementation of the Action Plan approved at the Meeting held in Plovdiv on 29-30 March 2006.

9. In particular it was underlined that the usage of high-tech equipment, modern technologies rapid and relevant response to any disaster, as well as for its forecasting, demands additional financial investments and agreed in order to implement respective provisions of the Joint Statement to include into the Agenda of the next Working Group Meeting a detailed consideration of the options of attracting additional financial resources with a view of elaboration of respective mechanisms to be submitted to the next Ministerial Meeting.

STATE OF AFFAIRS WITH RESPECT TO 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

10. The Working Group welcomed strengthening of the legal basis for coordination of activities in emergency response by signing at the Meeting of the Ministers for Emergencies and Heads of Emergency Services Meeting of the BSEC Member States held in Sochi on 6-7 June 2006 of the Additional Protocol to the Agreement among the Governments of the BSEC Participating States on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance and Emergency Response to Natural and Man-Made Disasters by the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Turkey. Furthermore, the Participants recalled the Statement of the Republic of Armenia that it would sign the Additional Protocol in a few months.

11. The delegations of the BSEC Member States which signed the Additional Protocol in Kyiv on 20 October 2005 and in Sochi on 7 June 2006 informed that their internal procedures for entering into force of the aforementioned documents are under way and the instruments of ratification would be forwarded to the depositary in the near future, notably the Government of the Russian Federation had already taken respective decision and the Government of the Republic of Armenia took a decision on accession to the document, in the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Bulgaria and Romania the Additional Protocol was submitted for ratification to the National Parliaments, in the Republic of Azerbaijan and Ukraine respective Governmental decisions were expected soon.

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT MODALITIES OF THE LIAISON OFFICERS NETWORK FUNCTIONING

12. The delegations reiterated their confidence that the setting up of the Network of Liaison Officers to be established pursuant to Article 1 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 is of particular importance for the efficient implementation of the Additional Protocol itself, as well as of the main Agreement.

13. They also stated that after the entry into force of the Additional Protocol the BSEC Member States parties to it would appoint a Liaison Officer and his/her Alternate to the Network pursuant to article 6 of the document and highlighted with this regard the expediency of elaboration of Modalities of Work for the Network. To that effect BSEC PERMIS was entrusted to draft in cooperation with the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group the aforementioned modalities on a basis of the inputs to be conveyed by the Member States by 31 December 2006 that would be considered at the next Working Group Meeting with a view of their approval at the Inaugural Meeting of the Network of Liaison Officers.

14. In line with the above, the Working Group recalled that the Participants of the Meeting of the Ministers for Emergencies and Heads of Emergency Services Meeting of the BSEC Member States agreed that their common objective shall be to convene the Inaugural Meeting of the Network not later than in the first half of 2007.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL COORDINATING CENTRE(S):

15. In line with the provision of the Joint Statement that for reaching a closer cooperation of existing national forces and facilities for rendering emergency assistance and their interaction with regional forces for mutual fast response in case of wide-scale emergency, it seemed reasonable to provide training of the personnel of rescue teams of BSEC countries in accordance with international standards that may be done on the basis of the Rescue Training Center of EMERCOM of Russia “Krasnaya Polyana” (Krasnodarskiy Region, Russian Federation), as well as on the basis of training centers of other BSEC Member States, the presentation of the profile of the abovementioned center was considered in detail by the delegations.

16. The Working Group discussed the conditions, including the financial implications, of participation of trainees from the BSEC Countries in the courses offered by the EMERCOM of Russia and agreed that the Member States would inform of their eventual interest the Host Country of the Centre via PERMIS for further elaboration of respective modalities.

17. The other BSEC Member States having regional Centres offered for utilization in the regional framework were invited to provide additional information on their profile for preparation of respective database to be discussed at the next Working Group Meeting.

18. The Participants also took note of the presentation by the Delegation of the Republic of Belarus on the facilities of the Institute of professional training of the Ministry of Emergencies and invitation extended to the BSEC Member States to make use of it.

IMPLEMENTATION OF A WORKING PROGRAM FOR 2006

19. The Working Group took note on the events held in the framework of the Working Program for the Year 2006 approved at the Meeting in Plovdiv on 29-30 March 2006. Along with consideration of the outcome of the Meeting of the Ministers for Emergencies and Heads of Emergency Services Meeting of the BSEC Member States held in Sochi on 6-7 June 2006, the

participants took note of the intermediate report presented by the delegation of the Republic of Bulgaria in its capacity of the Country-Coordinator.

20. In particular, the Summary of the Joint Exercise for the BSEC Member States on Mitigation of Consequences of Terrorist Attacks, held in Varna, the Republic of Bulgaria, on 9-10 May 2006, was presented and the participants underlined the importance of enhancement of cooperation in this specific domain.

21. For elaboration of the Working Program for the Year 2007, the delegations agreed that it would be composed by PERMIS on a basis of proposals to be forwarded by the Member States till 1 December 2006 and disseminated by 1 January 2007.

BSEC-BSC COOPERATION

22. In pursuance of the decision taken at the Meeting in Plovdiv by which relative activities of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution were included in the Working Program for 2006, the Working Group was informed of the outcome of the Joint BSEC-BSC Oil Spill Claim Workshop, held in Istanbul, on 24-25 July 2006, in which course the Representatives of the International Oil Spill Conventions Funds (IOPC Funds) and Oil Spill Preparedness Initiative (OSPRI) made presentations on various legal, technical and institutional aspects of claims for environmental damages and property damage, economic losses in the tourism sector and in the fisheries and mariculture sector.

23. The Working Group appreciated continuation of the established practice of organizing joint BSEC-BSC events aimed at improving the environmental protection in the region and expressed the willingness of the BSEC Member States to participate in the First Regional Black Sea Oil Spill Response Exercise, which will take place with OSPRI support in 2007.

PRESENTATION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS

24. The Project Proposal titled “A system to fight with medical consequences of extreme situations in territory of BSEC Countries with help of infocommunication technologies” was presented to the delegations by JSV “TANA Computerized Medical Systems” in its capacity of a Leading Partner.

25. The Working Group was of the opinion that additional information on the above mentioned Project Proposal should be provided and agreed to continue its consideration at the next Meeting on a basis of the Application Form for funding the Project to be filled up in accordance with the requirements set by the PDF Regulations.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

26. The Delegations took note with interest of the presentation by Prof. Viktor BABESHKO, Rector of the Kuban State University, the Russian Federation, on the project of earthquake forecasting titled “Seismozona” and expressed the view that it could be interconnected with the activities of the Rescue Training Centre “Krasnaya Polyana” in the regional framework.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

27. The Participants expressed their high appreciation to the Ministry of Civil Defense, Emergencies and Disaster Relief of the Russian Federation for the warm hospitality extended to them in Krasnaya Polyana and the excellent arrangements of the Meeting.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

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

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

29. The Working Group adopted the present Report for submission to the next Meeting of the Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States to be held in Moscow on 1 November 2006.
