



BS/WG/EM/R(2002)1

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

(13-14 May 2002, Sochi, Russia)

1. The Third Meeting of the Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance of the BSEC Member States, established in accordance with the Article 7 of the “Agreement among the Governments of the Participating States of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation on Collaboration in Emergency Assistance and Emergency Response to Natural and Man-made Disasters”, was held in Sochi, Russian Federation on 13-14 May 2002.

2. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Yuri V. BRAZHNIKOV, Deputy Minister for Civil Defense, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters of the Russian Federation.

3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States :

Republic of Albania
Republic of Armenia
Republic of Bulgaria
Georgia
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine

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

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

**CONSIDERATION OF THE STATE OF AFFAIRS REGARDING THE RATIFICATION OF THE
AGREEMENT AMONG THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC
COOPERATION PARTICIPATING STATES ON COLLABORATION IN EMERGENCY
ASSISTANCE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO NATURAL AND MAN-MADE DISASTERS**

5. The representatives of the Member States informed the Meeting about the State of Affairs on the ratification of the Agreement, which shall enter into force when instruments of ratification will be deposited by at least six States. (To this extent five countries out of the eight signatories have ratified

and placed the instruments of ratification at the depository: Russian Federation, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Republic of Armenia and Ukraine).

6. The representatives of the Republic of Albania and the Republic of Turkey informed the Meeting about the intention of their respective Governments on adherence to the Agreement.

7. The Experts requested the Meeting of the Ministers to be held on 15-16 May 2002 in Sochi, to conclude a relevant recommendation calling the Governments of those Member States who haven't ratified the Agreement to do so, in order of its entrance into force.

DISCUSSIONS OF THE MECHANISMS FOR ESTABLISHING AND FUNCTIONING (INCLUDING FINANCIAL ASPECTS) OF THE INTERNATIONAL BLACK SEA RESCUE CENTER

8. Under this agenda item, the Experts stressed the importance of establishing of an International Black Sea Rescue Center. The Experts introduced the principles of functioning of their respective national Marine and Rescue Centers. They also expressed relevant comments and proposals regarding the to-be-drafted Statute of the Center. The Turkish Delegation expressed its reservations concerning the principles and the definitions of the above-mentioned Center.

9. The participants agreed that the Russian Federation, as the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group, should submit to the BSEC Member States, through the BSEC Secretariat, the draft of the Statute, thereupon, the member States will send their comments until 1 December 2002, with a view to finalize the text of the Statute at the next Meeting of the Working Group.

10. The participants also agreed that based on mutual cooperation and support, achieved due to mutual trust, swift exchange of information and coordination of actions, the Russian Federation, as the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group, alongside with the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat, will be given a task to study the possibility of issuing of an information bulletin "Emergencies in the Black Sea and Azov Sea basins. Analysis of their reasons, organizing the interaction, using search and rescue assets and equipment."

DISCUSSIONS ON THE DRAFT ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE AGREEMENT AMONG THE PARTICIPATING STATES OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION ON COLLABORATING IN EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO NATURAL AND MAN-MADE DISASTERS, AND THE DRAFT DOCUMENT ON ESTABLISHING A BSEC MECHANISM FOR THE COORDINATION OF CIVIL PROTECTION INTERVENTION IN THE EVENT OF EMERGENCIES

11. The participants of the Meeting thoroughly discussed the texts of these two documents and having in mind the practical implementation of the Agreement among the Governments of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States on Collaboration in Emergency Assistance and Emergency Response to Natural and Man-made Disasters, as well as in order to accumulate efforts for efficient operations in the emergency situations, agreed to incorporate the elements of the Draft Document on Establishing a BSEC mechanism for the coordination of civil protection intervention in the event of emergencies to the Draft Additional Protocol to the Agreement among the Participating States of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation on Collaborating in Emergency Assistance and Emergency Response to Natural and Man-made Disasters.

12. They requested the Country-Coordinator alongside with the BSEC PERMIS to compose the draft of the unified Additional Protocol and distribute it to the Member States.

13. They also agreed to contribute to the Draft of the unified Additional Protocol with relevant amendments until 1 December 2002, with a view to finalize it for the signature at the next Ministerial Meeting.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14. Under this Agenda Item, due to the proposal of the Russian side, the participants finalized the text of the Joint Statement of Ministers and Heads of State Bodies in Charge of Prevention and Elimination of Consequences of Emergencies of the BSEC Member States and presented it to the Ministerial Meeting to be held in Sochi, Russian Federation on 16 May 2002, for the signature.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

15. The participants expressed their gratitude to the Russian authorities for the excellent arrangements of the Meeting and warm hospitality.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

16. The exact date and venue of the Meeting will be communicated through the BSEC PERMIS at a later stage.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

17. The Report was adopted for submission to the Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States, to be held in Tirana, Albania on 25 October 2002.
