



BS/WG/EM/R(2003)1

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

(5-6 March 2003, Istanbul)

1. The Fourth 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 Istanbul at the BSEC Premises on 5-6 March 2003.

2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Arsen AVAGYAN, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia to the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation.

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

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Bulgaria
Georgia
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
AND ADHERENCE TO 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 were informed that the Republic of Bulgaria has transmitted the Instrument of Ratification to the Depository and provided that the sixth signatory

country has ratified the Agreement, it will enter into force on the ninetieth day upon its receipt by the Depository, the Russian Federation, due to relevant provisions.

6. The representative of the Russian Federation informed the Meeting that the Member States will be notified about the date of entering of the Agreement into force, respectively.

7. The representative of the Republic of Turkey informed the Meeting about the ratification process and the legal procedure in the Republic of Turkey for adherence to the said Agreement.

DISCUSSIONS AND NOMINATION OF THE COUNTRY-COORDINATOR OF THE WORKING GROUP ON COOPERATION IN EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

8. Taking into account that the terms of duties of the previous Country-Coordinator of the Working Group have been expired, the Experts stressed the importance of nominating the new Country-Coordinator, which in line with the entrance into force 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” will elaborate the relevant Plan of Action on its implementation for the forthcoming two years. They also expressed comments and proposals to the to-be-drafted Plan of Action.

9. The participants of the Meeting agreed to have Ukraine as the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group, requested the Country-Coordinator to submit to the BSEC Member States, through the BSEC Secretariat, the Plan of Action until 1 June 2003, with a view to adopt it at the next Meeting of the Working Group and addressed to the Council for a relevant resolution on this issue.

10. The participants also agreed that the said Plan of Action will include all the recent proceedings adopted at the previous Meetings of the Working Group including those of the mechanisms of cooperation among the rescue centers of the Black Sea Member States.

11. The representative of Ukraine informed the Meeting that within the frame of its Coordinatorship, it will convene a Exercise for Relevant Representatives of the BSEC Member States in November 2003, in Odessa, covering all the expenses of organizational character.

DISCUSSIONS ON THE NEW 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. The participants of the Meeting thoroughly discussed the new text of this document 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, finalized it and submitted the text to

the Committee of Senior Officials and the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs for the appropriate decision. The finalized text is attached as Annex III to the Report.

DISCUSSION ON SETTING UP A TRAINING PROGRAM FOR INTERVENTION TEAMS

13. The participants of the Meeting were informed that the Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials to be held in Yerevan on 16-17 April, 2003 may discuss Project ideas presented by the relevant Working Groups, which later will be presented to the attention of the First Meeting of the Steering Committee of the newly established BSEC Project Development Fund.

14. Taking into account the importance of the issue, the experts exchanged views on possibilities of composing of the relevant “Standard Application for funding a BSEC Project” and requested the Country-Coordinator alongside with the BSEC PERMIS to present the final version of the Application to the Committee of Senior Officials and to the Steering Committee of the Project Development Fund upon its readiness.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

15. No issues were discussed under this Agenda Item

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

16. The experts decided to convene the next Meeting of the Working Group in late August 2003 in Istanbul at the BSEC Premises. The exact date 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 Yerevan, Republic of Armenia. on 18 April 2003.