



**BS/WG/EM/R(2004)1**

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

**(24-25 March 2004, Istanbul)**

1. The Sixth 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 24-25 March 2004.

2. The Meeting was chaired by Mrs. Elmira AKHMADOVA, Vice Consul, Consulate General of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Istanbul.

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

Republic of Armenia  
Republic of Azerbaijan  
Republic of Bulgaria  
Georgia  
Hellenic Republic  
Russian Federation  
Republic of Turkey  
Ukraine

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

4. The Meeting was attended by the Secretary General of the BSEC Business Council, Dr. Costas MASMANIDIS.

5. The Meeting was also attended by Mr. Moshe KANFI, Vice Consul General of the State of Israel in Istanbul, as Observer.

6. Mrs. Oksana TARASOVA, Pollution Monitoring and Assessment Officer, Permanent Secretariat, Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Black Sea Commission), participated at the Meeting as a Guest.

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

**STATE OF THE FINALIZATION OF INTERNAL PROCEDURES REQUIRED FOR SIGNING OF THE ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL 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 AND DISCUSSIONS ON THE EVENTUAL DATES OF ITS SIGNING**

8. Given the mandate of the Council of Ministers, the WG considered the issue of finalization of internal procedures required for the eventual signing of the “Additional Protocol 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”.

9. The delegation of the Republic of Bulgaria informed that his respective country has completed the said internal procedures. The delegations of Russian Federation and Ukraine informed that their respective countries will complete the necessary procedures at the nearest future.

The delegations, Parties to the Agreement, expressed their opinion that the internal procedures could be completed till November 2004, which could also be the eventual date for a High-level Meeting to be convened at the said period.

**DISCUSSIONS OF THE RESULTS OF THE FIRST PHASE OF THE “JOINT TRAINING OF LIAISON OFFICERS AND EXPERTS OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES ON COOPERATION DURING OIL SPILL MITIGATION IN THE BLACK SEA” HELD IN ODESSA, UKRAINE ON 25-28 NOVEMBER 2003 AND PREPARATION FOR THE SECOND PHASE OF THIS JOINT TRAINING**

10. The Ukrainian delegation presented the Objectives, Exercise Phases, Outcome and Critical Aspects of the Joint Exercise for BSEC Experts Working Out of Preventive Measures in Case of Oil Spill Mitigation in Black Sea Area, held in Odessa, at the Marine Regional Rescue and Coordination Center of the Ministry of Emergencies of Ukraine on 25-28 November 2003.

11. The respective delegations expressed their gratitude to the Ukrainian Side for a most efficient organization of the Exercise and for excellent presentation of its results.

12. They agreed on the following issues:

- Consolidated actions of all BSEC Member States are needed for solving the problem of localization and mitigation of large oil quantity spill;
- On expediency to carry out trainings on cooperation in termination of oil spill and information exchange on a regular basis;
- The delegations noted with interest the proposal on organizing regional international IMO courses on training of experts, master trainers on localization and termination of consequences of oil spills and oil products on the basis of Odessa Regional Marine Rescue Coordination Center;
- Delegations, Parties to the Agreement, also agreed on elaborating of joint training exercises and courses dealing with the entire spectrum of emergencies. They also called their respective relevant bodies to examine possibilities for such initiatives;

13. The representative of the Black Sea Commission informed the Meeting about the Black Sea Contingency Plan to the Protocol on Cooperation in Combating Pollution of the Black Sea by

Oil and Other Harmful Substances in Emergency Situations, noting with importance that the Joint Exercise was focused on quick response to avoid pollution in the Black Sea was very successive.

14. The delegations agreed to collaborate with the Black Sea Commission with a view to coordinate actions in the course of implementation of the Contingency Plan.

#### **PRESENTATION OF THE CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THE YEAR 2004 OF THE WG ON COOPERATION IN EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE BY THE COUNTRY-COORDINATOR UKRAINE**

15. The Ukrainian Delegation, as the Country-Coordinator of the WG, presented the Calendar of Events for the Year 2004 which was discussed, amended and adopted.

16. The adopted Calendar of Events of the Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance is attached to the Report as Annex III.

17. The delegations agreed to address the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation, requesting support in the course of organization of the Second Phase of the Joint Exercise for BSEC Experts Working Out Preventive Measures in Case of Oil Spill Mitigation in Black Sea Area.

18. They would also welcome relevant additions, if any, to the Calendar of Events, prior to 20 April 2004.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

19. The delegation of the Russian Federation invited the representatives of the BSEC Member States to participate in the Complex Training on Elimination of Consequences of Accidents at the Oil Platform in the Baltic Sea “Kaliningrad-2004” to be held on 25-28 June 2004, within the frame of the Program of the Council of Cooperation between the NATO and the Russian Federation.

20. The representative of the State of Israel informed the Meeting about the intention of his country to organize training on the elimination of earthquake consequences.

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

21. The experts decided to convene the next Meeting of the Working Group, followed by High-level Meeting to sign the “Additional Protocol 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” in November 2004 in Istanbul at the BSEC Premises. The exact date of the Meeting will be communicated by the BSEC PERMIS through diplomatic channels at a later stage.

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

22. The Report was adopted for submission to the forthcoming Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials.

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