



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

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REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Istanbul, 13-14 May 2013

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Environmental Protection was held at the BSEC Headquarters in Istanbul on 13-14 May 2013.
2. The Meeting was co-chaired by Ms. Oksana TARASOVA, Independent Counselor to the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of Ukraine, Consultant of the Committee for Environmental Policy, Environmental Protection and Mitigation of the Consequences of Chernobyl Disaster of the Parliament of Ukraine, and Mr. Baran GÖRMEZ, Expert on Environment and Urbanization, Ministry of Environment and Urbanization of the Republic of Turkey.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following Member States:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Bulgaria
Hellenic Republic
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine
4. The Representatives of the Black Sea Commission participated in the Meeting as BSEC Observers.
5. The representatives of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) attended the Meeting as Guests.

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

6. The Draft Agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The Agenda, as adopted, is attached as Annex II.

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL AND PROVISIONS OF THE JOINT DECLARATIONS ADOPTED AT THE MEETINGS OF THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

7. BSEC PERMIS briefed the participants on the status of implementation of the resolutions, decisions and recommendations of the Council and provisions of the Joint Declarations adopted at the Meetings of the Ministers in Charge of Environmental Protection of the BSEC Member States. It was pointed that there were no special directives concerning Environmental Protection at the last 27-th Council (December 2012, Istanbul).

THE “WAY FORWARD FOR AN ACTION PLAN ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECONOMIC AGENDA TOWARDS AN ENHANCED BSEC PARTNERSHIP”

8. BSEC PERMIS briefed the participants of the approved by the BSEC Council (Istanbul, 15 December 2012) Document “Way Forward for an Action Plan on the Implementation of the Economic Agenda towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership” as guidelines for working out an Action Plan on Environment Protection.

REVISION OF THE BSEC ACTION PLAN FOR COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (BUCHAREST, MARCH 2006)

9. The Working Group decided to postpone the deliberations on this item for the next Working Group Meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAM OF THE WORKING GROUP (2012-2013)

10. The delegation of the Republic of Turkey informed briefly of the work done on the implementation of the Work Program of the WG.

11. Some delegations recommended that the Country-Coordinator should present well in advance a written report of the execution of the Work Program.

MODALITIES OF ESTABLISHING AN INFORMATION EXCHANGE MECHANISM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

12. The delegation of the Republic of Bulgaria presented an application within the BSEC Project Development Fund on the establishment of a BSEC Information Exchange Mechanism for the Environmental Protection.

13. The Member States positively regarded the application and agreed to submit it to the Committee of Senior Officials.

COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

14. Under this Agenda Item a half-day joint BSEC - UNDP Workshop was held back-to-back with the WG Meeting. The representatives of UNDP presented Report on Climate Change Vulnerability for the Black Sea region and Impact Assessment Review for the Black Sea region and a Draft BSEC Climate Change strategy.

15. The delegations expressed appreciation for the work done by the UNDP and made their recommendations for the draft Strategy.

16. The UNDP will submit a revised version of the Strategy by 14 July 2013 for consideration by the national Ministries.

17. The Ministries are invited to send their feedback through BSEC PERMIS two weeks prior to the next Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Environmental Protection. It is requested that the Working Group considers the final version of the Strategy at its next Meeting in autumn 2013.

18. The representatives of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution participated in the Workshop.

19. The WG submit for consideration of the next BSEC CSO meeting the following draft Council Decision:

“The Council, pursuant to its commitment to implement sustainable development strategies in particular in the field of protection of the environment in the Black Sea region, encourages the BSEC Working Group on Environment Protection to proceed with elaboration of the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in the Black Sea region in view of its earliest adoption.”

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND (PDF)

20. PERMIS informed of the financial situation of the PDF and the lack of funds for financing new projects.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BSEC PUBLIC COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

21. The participants exchanged views on improving the public awareness of the activities of the Working Group.

22. The Member States requested the Secretariat to place the outcomes of the Workshop on Introducing Climate Change on the BSEC web-site.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

23. The delegation of the Republic of Armenia informed that the elaboration on the draft Memorandum of Understanding on BSEC-EU interaction in the field of environmental protection is in a process.

24. The delegation of the Republic of Turkey as the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group informed that the Meeting of the Ministers in Charge of Environment is not scheduled for the second half of 2013.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

25. The date and venue of the next Meeting will be communicated to the Member States in due course by BSEC PERMIS.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

26. The Working Group adopted the present Report for submission to the next Meeting of the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials to be held in Odessa on 19-20 June 2013.