



**BS/WG/EP/R(2009)2**

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

**Istanbul, 24 - 25 September 2009**

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Environmental Protection was held at the BSEC Headquarters in Istanbul on 24 - 25 September 2009.
2. The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Gheorghe CONSTANTIN, Director, Ministry of Environment of Romania, and Mr. Mirsalam QANBAROV, Head, Department of Caspian Complex Ecological Monitoring, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following Member States:
  - Republic of Armenia
  - Republic of Azerbaijan
  - Republic of Bulgaria
  - Hellenic Republic
  - Romania
  - Russian Federation
  - Republic of Serbia
  - Republic of Turkey
  - Ukraine
4. The representative of the BSEC Business Council also participated in the Meeting.
5. The Meeting was attended by the representative of the European Commission in the capacity of BSEC Observer.
6. The representatives of UNDP and the Regional Environmental Center (REC) participated in the Meeting as Guests.

The list of participants is attached as Annex I.

7. The Draft Agenda of the Meeting was discussed, amended 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 DECLARATION ADOPTED AT THE MEETING OF THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES (BUCHAREST, 3 MARCH 2006)**

8. The Working Group took note of the report prepared by the Country-Coordinator (Romania) regarding status of implementation of Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the Council and Provisions of the Joint Declaration adopted at the Meeting of the Ministers in Charge of Environmental Protection of the BSEC Member States (Bucharest, 3 March 2006).

**IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS OF THE BSEC ACTION PLAN FOR COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ITS WORK PROGRAM FOR 2007-2009**

9. The Working Group took note of the Activity Report of the BSEC Working Group on Environmental Protection prepared by the Country-Coordinator.

10. The participants emphasized the necessity to update the lists of ongoing and planned activities carried out in view of implementing the BSEC mid-term Action Plan as well as to consider on their basis possible participation in major projects of regional importance.

**INFORMATION ON THE NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION AND THE PROGRESS TOWARDS PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT WITH MORE STRICT REGULATIONS IN THE BSEC MEMBER STATES**

11. The Working Group took note of the information on the new developments in the national environmental legislation and the progress towards protecting the environment with more strict regulations presented by Bulgaria, Romania and Serbia.

12. The participants stressed that attention should be also given hereafter to the issues of legislation implementation as well as to the participation of the BSEC Member States in the UN and other international conventions pertaining to environment protection.

**BSEC COUNTRIES' PRIORITIES IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENT, PARTICULARLY ON REGIONAL ASPECTS**

13. The Working Group took note of the information presented by Azerbaijan and Serbia regarding the priorities of their countries in the field of environment.

14. The participants outlined climate change, sustainable development, biodiversity, water sanitation and supply, integrated coastal zone management, transboundary waste management, etc. as priorities for regional cooperation.

15. It was agreed that the Country Coordinator will present a paper on priorities in the field of environment for regional interaction at the next meeting of the Working Group.

#### **CONTINUATION OF THE DISCUSSION ON THE MODALITIES OF ESTABLISHING AN INFORMATION EXCHANGE MECHANISM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

16. The Country Coordinator reiterated its intention to elaborate the second Questionnaire on establishment of the information exchange mechanism among the BSEC countries and proposed to convene the third Workshop on the issue next year.

#### **POSSIBILITIES FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION IN THE SPHERE OF PREVENTING CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES**

17. The Working Group reaffirmed the vital importance of developing interaction at the regional level in the sphere of preventing climate change and its negative consequences.

18. The participants agreed to postpone presentation of information on the measures undertaken in the Member States in this respect for the next meeting of the Working Group.

#### **PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND AND REGIONAL PROJECTS**

19. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the PERMIS Project Coordinator regarding the Interim reports of the PDF projects **“Revitalization of urban ecosystems through vascular plants: assessment of technogenic pollution impact – Garden City”** and **“Study of the capabilities and requirements of the operational monitoring of air pollution levels”**. The said reports are attached as **Annex III**.

20. The participants took note of the preliminary project idea **“The application of the treated municipal wastewater reuse in the agroecological environment and its practical implications”** submitted by institutions from Greece (Lead partner), Turkey and Ukraine and suggested the partners to submit to PERMIS a duly completed official application following the approval of the new PDF Standard Application by the forthcoming BSEC Council.

21. The Member States were invited to propose the priority areas for PDF projects and possible timeframes according to the Plan of Action/Work Program of the Working Group in compliance with the relevant instruction of the CSO (Tirana, 21-22 October 2008) for their further consideration by the Committee.

22. The Working Group discussed, amended and endorsed the Concept Paper of the Joint BSEC-UNDP Project “Introducing Climate Change in the Environmental Strategy for the Protection of the Black Sea” and supported UNDP efforts in mobilizing financial resources for the implementation of this project.

**ACTIVITIES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, INSTITUTIONS AND REGIONAL INITIATIVES IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN THE BSEC REGION (PRESENTATIONS/INFORMATION BY THE REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER (REC)).**

23. The participants took note of the presentation delivered by the representative of Regional Environmental Center (REC). The said presentation is attached as Annex IV.

**INFORMATION ON THE COUNTRY-COORDINATOR OF THE WORKING GROUP ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR THE NEXT TERM-IN-OFFICE**

24. PERMIS informed the Working Group that at the last CSO meeting (Istanbul, 14-15 September 2009) it was agreed that Romania will be reappointed as the Country Coordinator of the Working Group for the next two year term as of 1 November 2009 and the Republic of Turkey will be appointed as the Country Coordinator of the Working Group as of 1 November 2011. The final decision will be taken at the Council’s meeting in Baku on 22 October 2009.

**PRESENTATION OF THE DRAFT PLAN OF ACTION OF THE WORKING GROUP FOR 2009 – 2011**

25. Romania presented the draft Plan of Action of the Working Group for 2009-2011.

26. The participants agreed to forward their proposals and comments to the draft document by the next meeting of the Working Group.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**a) Information on the Status of the Working Paper on the Possible Means of Strengthening the Cooperation of the BSEC with International Organizations Dealing with Issues of the Protection and Rehabilitation of the Black Sea Marine Environment, Prepared by the ICBSS**

27. The Working Group invited the Member States that had not transmitted their proposals and comments to the Working Paper yet, to do so by 30 November 2009.

**b) Information on the Participation of BSEC PERMIS in the Ministerial Meeting/Diplomatic Conference of the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution, held in Sofia on 17 April 2009, and in the**

**Regional Ministerial Conference “Water Supply and Sanitation in Small Rural Settlements in the Black Sea Region” held in Sofia on 27 May 2009**

28. PERMIS provided the Working Group with information on participation of its representatives in the Ministerial Meeting/Diplomatic Conference of the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Sofia, 17 April 2009) and in the Regional Ministerial Conference “Water Supply and Sanitation in Small Rural Settlements in the Black Sea Region” (Sofia, 27 May 2009).

29. The Working Group took note of the Declarations of the both ministerial meetings and agreed to take them into consideration in its future activities. The Declarations are attached as Annex IV.

**ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING**

30. The Working Group adopted the present Report for submission to the Committee of Senior Officials to be held in Baku on 21 October 2009.