



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

Sakıp Sabancı Cad., Müşir Fuad Paşa Yalısı, Eski Tersane, 34460 İstinye – İstanbul/Turkey

Tel: ++90 212 2296330-35 Fax: ++90 212 2296336

E-mail: bsec@tnn.net / bsec1@tnn.net / info@bsec-organization.org

www.bsec-organization.org

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

Istanbul, 7-8 November 2013

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Environmental Protection was held at the BSEC Headquarters in Istanbul on 7-8 November 2013.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Mikhayil VARDANIAN, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia to the Organization of BSEC.
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 Turkey
Ukraine
4. The representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of the BSEC (PABSEC) and the BSEC Business Council (BSEC BC) participated at the Meeting in their capacity as BSEC Related Bodies.
5. The representative of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) attended the Meeting as Guest.

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.

8. It was pointed that the Council of MFA (June 2013, Odessa) adopted the following 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.”
The issue was elaborated under Agenda Item 8.

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN BSEC PERMIS AND THE MEMBER STATES

9. BSEC PERMIS informed the participants at the Meeting of its proposals to improve the communications between the Permanent Secretariat and the Member States by using the Microsoft LYNC to which BSEC PERMIS is connected.

10. The participants welcomed the BSEC PERMIS proposal for direct communication between it and the national representatives of the Working Group. The participants agreed to use the existing e-mail network to facilitate communication between the BSEC Secretariat and the focal points assigned by the Member States to the Working Group on Environmental Protection in parallel with the official correspondence.

PROPOSAL FOR ASSUMING THE COORDINATION OF THE BSEC WG ON ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION STARTING FROM JANUARY 2014.

11. BSEC PERMIS informed of Romania’s application to assume the coordination of the WG (Annex) and the decision of the CSO meeting (October 22-23, 2013) to submit for consideration of the next BSEC Council of MFA the following draft Council Decision:

*“The Council appointed Romania as the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group on Environment Protection as of 1 January 2014 for a period of two years.
The Council invited Romania to submit to the Member States a draft Action Plan and to convene the Meeting of the Working Group for its consideration and approval.”*

12. The representative of the forthcoming Country Coordinator of the WG Romania suggested to have the next Working Group Meeting in May/June 2014. A draft Action Plan

for the period 2014/2015 will be prepared by the Country Coordinator and disseminated well in advance to be elaborated and adopted by the next Working Group Meeting.

REVISION OF THE BSEC ACTION PLAN FOR COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (BUCHAREST, MARCH 2006) TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE ADOPTED BY THE BSEC COUNCIL (ISTANBUL, 15 DECEMBER, 2012) ‘WAY FORWARD FOR AN ACTION PLAN ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECONOMIC AGENDA TOWARDS AN ENHANCED BSEC PARTNERSHIP’

13. The Working Group took note of the amended text of the revised draft Action Plan for Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection and agreed that it needs to be further streamlined with the BSEC document on the “Way Forward for an Action Plan on the Implementation of the Economic Agenda towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership”. The said Plan is attached as **Annex III**.

14. The Member States are invited to send their proposals/amendments to the draft Action Plan for Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection by the end of February 2014.

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

15. The delegation of the Republic of Turkey informed briefly of the work done on the implementation of the Work Program 2012-2013 of the WG.

16. The Working Group took note of the report of the Country Coordinator and requested to submit it in written form to the Member States at the earliest convenience.

MODALITIES OF ESTABLISHING AN INFORMATION EXCHANGE MECHANISM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

17. The Working Group discussed in a positive way the proposal by the Republic of Bulgaria for establishing an information exchange mechanism for environment protection and agreed that the Project Proposal be submitted for the consideration of the Project Development Fund Steering Committee when the Fund is replenished.

COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. CONSIDERATION OF A DRAFT BSEC CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION STRATEGY(WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF UNDP REPRESENTATIVES)

18. The BSEC PERMIS representative briefed the Working Group on the Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in the Black Sea region, which was circulated by the Secretariat by the Note No.: BS/INFO.2013.0446 dated 19 July 2013. It was noted that so far only 3 countries have responded to it with general observations.

19. The representative of the UNDP made a presentation on the Strategy. The presentation is attached as **Annex IV**.

20. The participants discussed the Draft Strategy, appreciating the work done by the UNDP, expressing various views of conceptual nature and suggesting to further elaborate on the Draft in line with the project orientation of the BSEC.

21. The UNDP representative took note of the outcomes of the discussion and informed that the revised Draft Strategy would be presented for consideration of the Member States by the end of November 2013. The Member States are invited to make their feedback to the revised version until the end of February 2014.

22. The Working Group submitted the following draft Council Recommendation for consideration by the next BSEC CSO meeting:

“The Council, pursuant to its Decision taken at its previous Meeting (Odessa, 21 June 2013), recommends to the Working Group to proceed with the elaboration of the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in the Black Sea region in view of its earliest adoption.”

23. Under this item the BSEC PERMIS representative also informed of the forthcoming consultations with the UNEP for furthering the cooperation between the two organizations.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

24. The representative of the Republic of Armenia informed that the Draft Memorandum of Understanding on BSEC-EU interaction in the field of environmental protection is under the process of elaboration and will be presented to the Member States' consideration at the next Meeting of the Working Group

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 in consultations with the Country Coordinator and the Chairmanship-in-Office.

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 Yerevan on 10-11 December 2013.