



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

BSEC Headquarters, 10-11 April 2014

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Environmental Protection was held at the BSEC Headquarters on 10-11 April 2014.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Alexander BAKALOV, Executive Manager of the BSEC PERMIS.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following Member States:

Republic of Albania
Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Republic of Bulgaria
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine
4. The list of participants is attached as **Annex I**.

5. 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

6. 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.

7. It was pointed that the 29th Council of MFA (12 December 2013, Yerevan) adopted the following Decision:

“The Council took note of the Report of the Meeting of the Working Group on Environmental Protection held at the BSEC Headquarters, on 7-8 November 2013 and instructed the Working Group to continue its work on the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in the Black Sea region.”

8. The delegation of Romania informed about the status of implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the Council and Meetings of the Ministers Responsible for Environmental Protection and pointed out that the Action Plan of the Working Group followed these documents.

THE “WAY FORWARD FOR AN ACTION PLAN ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECONOMIC AGENDA”

9. The BSEC PERMIS informed of the template worked out by it and approved by the 27th Council of MFA (Istanbul, 15 December 2012) on the modality of preparing the Action Plan of the WG on Environment Protection.

HOW TO INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ACTIVITY OF THE WORKING GROUP? - OBSERVATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

10. The participants discussed ideas on how to increase efficiency of the WG.

11. The delegation of the Republic of Bulgaria proposed the WG to focus on concrete events within the priorities of the WG. The modalities and substance of such events will be submitted by the Republic of Bulgaria to the BSEC PERMIS in due course for dissemination to the Member States.

12. The delegation of Romania informed that it is preparing a Questioner on the improvement of the efficiency of the WG which will be disseminated to the Member States for their reflection.

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 discussed, amended and approved the text of the draft Action Plan for Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection. The text of the approved Action Plan is attached as **Annex III**.

14. The Working Group decided that before submitting the Action Plan for Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection to the next Meeting of the Ministers responsible for Environment Protection for approval to request the Member States to submit their final suggestions on the text not later than 30 May, 2014.

CONSIDERATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAM OF THE WORKING GROUP (2012-2013) AND ADOPTION OF A WORK PROGRAM OF THE WORKING GROUP FOR 2014/2015

15. The delegation of the Republic of Turkey informed of the implementation of the Work Program/Plan of Action 2012-2013 of the WG under their Coordination.

16. The participants expressed gratitude to the Republic of Turkey for their leadership as Country Coordinator of the WG for the period 2012-2013.

17. The Working Group discussed, amended and adopted the Work Program/Plan of Action 2014-2015 of the WG on Environmental Protection proposed by the new Country Coordinator, Romania. The said Plan, as adopted, is attached as **Annex IV**.

MODALITIES OF ESTABLISHING AN INFORMATION EXCHANGE MECHANISM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

18. The Working Group discussed the issue of financing of the proposed by the Republic of Bulgaria - Project for establishing an information exchange mechanism for environment protection.

19. The participants decided to continue their efforts to find alternative financing of the Project other than the Project Development Fund till it is replenished.

CONSIDERATION OF A DRAFT BSEC CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION STRATEGY FOR THE BLACK SEA REGION

20. The Working Group amended the text of the draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in the Black Sea region upon suggestions of the Member States. The text of the draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in the Black Sea region as amended is attached as **Annex V**.

21. The Working Group, considering the complexity of the draft Strategy, decided to continue the elaboration on it at its next meeting.

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

“The Council of the MFA took note of the meeting of the Working Group on Environmental Protection, held in Istanbul on 10-11 April, 2014, and instructs it to continue its work on the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in the Black Sea region in view of its earliest adoption.”

PRESENTATION OF THE NEW DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION IN THE MEMBER STATES

23. The delegation of Romania presented information on the new developments related to their national environmental legislation. The presented information will be disseminated in due course.

24. The delegation of the Republic of Bulgaria also made a presentation with regard to the national environmental legislation. The presented information will be disseminated in due course.

PROPOSALS FOR PROJECTS TO BE JOINTLY DEVELOPED WITHIN THE WORKING GROUP

25. The Country-Coordinator presented the following proposals for project ideas on environmental protection:

- Strengthening of the competent authorities' capacity and of the cooperation for the control of the transboundary waste transport in order to face illegal traffic;
- Improving the transboundary management of water resources (experience exchange);
- Developing of management of environment risk and management of protected areas.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

26. The delegation of the Republic of Turkey suggested that each meeting of the WG on EP is to define a main topic for discussion.

27. The delegation of the Republic of Armenia reconfirmed their suggestion for a BSEC-EU Memorandum of Understanding in the field of environmental protection and asked the BSEC PERMIS to consult with the relevant EU institutions on their interest to conclude such a bilateral document.

28. The Working Group instructed the BSEC PERMIS to hold the consultations and inform it on the developments at the next Meeting.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

29. 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

30. The Working Group adopted the present Report for submission to the next Meeting of the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials to be held at the BSEC Headquarters on 28-30 April 2014.