



BS/WG/EP/R(2008)1

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

Istanbul, 18 -19 March 2008

1. Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Environmental Protection was held at the BSEC Headquarters in Istanbul on 18-19 March 2008.
2. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following Member States:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Bulgaria
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Serbia
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the United States of America and the Black Sea Commission in the capacity of BSEC Observers.
4. The representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of the BSEC and the BSEC Business Council also participated in the Meeting.
5. The representatives of the UNDP participated in the Meeting as Guests.

The List of Participants of the Meeting is attached as Annex I.
6. The Meeting was chaired by Ms. Olha BOHONSKA, Vice Consul, Consulate General of Ukraine in Istanbul.

Ambassador Aliosha NEDELICHEV, Deputy Secretary of BSEC PERMIS, welcomed the participants of the Working Group.

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 THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE DECLARATIONS AND JOINT STATEMENTS ADOPTED BY THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

8. PERMIS presented information on the status of implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the Council and the Follow-up of the Joint Declaration adopted by the Ministers in Charge of Environmental Protection (Bucharest, March 2006).

9. The participants welcomed the establishment of the Initial Information Exchange System on the Environmental Protection on the BSEC website in pursuance of the BSEC Council decision (Belgrade, April 2007). The participants agreed to continue deliberations on the issue at the Second Workshop on the “Establishment of the BSEC Information Exchange Mechanism for the Environmental Protection” to be held on 20 March 2008 in Istanbul.

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS OF THE BSEC ACTION PLAN FOR COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

10. The participants took note of the results of the meeting between the representatives of the Republic of Turkey as the outgoing Country-Coordinator and the representatives of Romania as the incoming Country-Coordinator held in Istanbul on 18 March 2008. The aim of the Meeting was to transfer the experience and knowledge, acquired during the two-year period of coordination, as well as to ensure the continuity of the activities of the Group.

11. The Working Group took note of the information presented by PERMIS on the state of affairs with respect to the implementation of the BSEC Action Plan for Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection since the last Working Group Meeting (Istanbul, 10-11 September 2007).

12. The Working Group called upon the Member States to send updated lists of ongoing and planned activities carried out in view of implementing the BSEC Action Plan, at their utmost convenience.

13. The Working Group requested PERMIS to prepare a list of national focal points nominated by the Member States, as it is mentioned in the BSEC Action Plan, and/or of representatives of the Member States appointed by the Member States as their national

contact points in the Group, as it is anticipated by the relevant BSEC Council decision (Belgrade, 19 April 2007) to be considered at the next Working Group Meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT WORK PROGRAM (PLAN OF ACTION) OF THE WORKING GROUP PROPOSED BY ROMANIA AS COUNTRY-COORDINATOR OF THE GROUP

14. The Country-Coordinator presented the draft of Work Program (Plan of Action) of the Working Group for 2007-2009.

15. The Working Group considered, amended and adopted the Work Program (attached as Annex III).

16. It was agreed by the Working Group that the Work Program (without its Annexes) may be introduced by PERMIS on the BSEC website.

CONSIDERATION OF PDF APPLICATIONS

17. The Working Group took note of the presentation made by Romania regarding the PDF Application for Funding a BSEC Project entitled **“Strengthen of the competent authorities capacity and of the cooperation for the control of the transboundary waste transport in order to face illegal traffic”** (Romania (Lead Partner), Turkey and Moldova).

18. The Working Group expressed its general support to the project idea and recommended the applicants to submit to PERMIS an amended version by the end of May 2008 to be considered by the Working Group at its next Meeting.

19. Furthermore, PERMIS provided information regarding the PDF applications endorsed by the Working Group up to date.

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS AND PROJECT IDEAS FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BETWEEN BSEC AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

20. The Working Group took note that since its last Meeting no project proposal was submitted for consideration.

21. Romania informed the participants on its intention to elaborate a proposal for regional cooperation between BSEC and the EU to be considered at the next Meeting of the Group.

EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON POSSIBILITIES FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION IN THE SPHERE OF PREVENTING CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

22. The participants exchanged views on the possibilities of strengthening the cooperation on the issue of preventing climate change and its consequences, especially on adaptation measures to climate change.

23. The PABSEC presented its Recommendation and “Report on Global Climate Change: Consequences for the BSEC States” adopted by the 30th General Assembly of PABSEC (Tbilisi, December 2007). The Report is attached as Annex IV.

ACTIVITIES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, INSTITUTIONS AND REGIONAL INITIATIVES IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN THE BLACK SEA REGION (PRESENTATIONS BY BSC SECRETARIAT, UNDP)

24. The participants took note with interest of the presentation made by the representative of the Black Sea Commission on the policies applied in the Black Sea region and activities planned for the future. The possibilities for further cooperation between the two organizations were explored in order to prevent duplication of activities in the region.

25. The representatives of the UNDP Ankara Office delivered two presentations:
a) Mainstreaming climate change into UNDP core activities;
b) “Every Drop Matters” project.

26. The WG took note of the presentation of the UNDP, welcomed the proposal regarding the potential partnership between BSEC and UNDP, for the implementation of the above mentioned project and requested UNDP to submit a detailed project proposal to be considered by the next Meeting of the Working Group.

FOLLOW-UP TO THE DISCUSSION AT THE CSO MEETING (ISTANBUL, 26-28 FEBRUARY 2008) ON STRENGTHENING THE COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, DEALING WITH PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION OF THE BLACK SEA MARINE ENVIRONMENT

27. RERMIS informed the Working Group on the outcome of the last Meeting of the CSO (Istanbul, 26-28 February, 2008) where it was agreed that the ICBSS in cooperation with BSC would prepare a paper on possible means of strengthening the cooperation with international organizations dealing with issues on the protection and rehabilitation of the Black Sea marine environment.

28. The Working Group welcomed this decision and invited the ICBSS to present the paper for its initial consideration by the Member States at its next Meeting.

PREPARATION OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

29. The Working Group exchanged views with respect to the preparation of the Mid-term Ministerial Meeting to be organized according to the Work Program for the implementation of the BSEC Action Plan for Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection.

30. The Working Group took note of the proposal of Romania to consider May 2009 as a preliminary possible time for organizing the said Ministerial Meeting. The participants agreed that one of the issues of the future Ministerial Meeting could be a revision of the current Mid-term BSEC Action Plan on the basis of an evaluation report to be prepared by the Country-Coordinator and proposals of the Member States.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

31. No issues were raised under this Agenda Item.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

32. The exact date and venue of the next Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Environmental Protection will be communicated to the BSEC Member States through BSEC PERMIS in due course.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

33. The Working Group adopted the present Report for submission to the Committee of Senior Officials to be held in Kyiv on 15-16 April 2008.