



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

Bucharest, 30 May 2011

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Environmental Protection was held in Bucharest, Romania, on 30 May 2011.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Gheorghe CONSTANTIN, Director, Ministry of Environment and Forests of Romania, the Country Coordinator of the Working Group.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following Member States:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Republic of Bulgaria
Georgia
Hellenic Republic
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Republic of Serbia
Republic of Turkey
4. The representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of the BSEC (PABSEC) and the International Center for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) also participated in the Meeting.
5. The representative of Japan attended the Meeting in the capacity of Sectoral Dialogue Partner.

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 DECLARATION ADOPTED AT THE MEETING OF THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES (BUCHAREST, 3 MARCH 2006)

7. Romania, in its capacity as the Country-Coordinator, presented the Report on the 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). The Report is attached as Annex III.

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS OF THE BSEC ACTION PLAN FOR COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND OF ITS WORK PROGRAM/PLAN OF ACTION OF THE WORKING GROUP FOR 2009-2011

8. The delegations of the Republic of Bulgaria, Hellenic Republic, Republic of Moldova, Romania and the Republic of Turkey provided information with respect to the lists of ongoing and planned activities carried out in view of the BSEC Action Plan for Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection.

9. The Member States were requested to forward their amendments and new data in writing to PERMIS for the relevant updating of the existing lists.

10. The Country-Coordinator will provide an evaluation report on strengths, weaknesses and lessons learnt over the period of its term in office within the activities of the Working Group at its next Meeting.

PRESENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES WITHIN BSEC IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION – FUTURE CHALLENGES AND PRIORITIES

11. The participants took note of the information regarding the outcomes within BSEC in the field of environmental protection – future challenges and priorities, presented by the Country-Coordinator.

12. The following outcomes were named:

- exchange on legislation framework and its implementation in the Member States;
- introduction of project-oriented approach within the activities of the Working Group;
- development of common projects.

13. The representative of the Hellenic Republic presented information on experience in promoting projects within implementation of its environmental policy.

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

14. Romania expressed its willingness to undertake certain efforts for acquiring funds for initiating a project on establishing an information exchange mechanism for environmental protection.

15. Therefore, Romania will forward the project idea in this respect for agreement of the Member States to apply for funding within the Joint Operational Program Black Sea 2007-2013 supported by EU.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND AND REGIONAL PROJECTS

16. The Working Group tentatively agreed on the following priority areas for PDF:

- Integration of sustainable development and green development objectives into BSEC sectoral economic policy;
- Water resources preservation and prevention of pollution;
- Protection of biodiversity and development of ecotourism;
- Improvement of hard waste management;
- Prevention of the land degradation;
- Elaboration of regional scenarios for adaptation to the climate change.

17. It was decided to finalize the issue of the PDF priorities at the next Meeting of the Working Group.

18. The participants took note of two PDF applications titled “Survey of the Applicability and Implementation Possibilities for the Reuse Water and Nutrient Sources from Treated Wastewater in the Agro-Ecological Environment” and “The Diversity of Canopy and Soil Inhabiting Mites Together with Evaluation of Forest Health Using Mites as Bio-Indicators in Black Sea Adjacent Countries (Evaluation of Forest Health)”. It was decided to defer consideration of the applications to the next Meeting of the Working Group.

19. BSEC PERMIS informed the Working Group on status of the Joint BSEC-UNDP Project “Introducing Climate Change in the Environmental Strategy for the Protection of the Black Sea” and on implementation process of the Joint BSEC-GTZ Project “Legal Framework for a Green Economy within the BSEC Member States – Regional Review and Dialogue on Systems and Perspectives” .

20. The representative of the Romanian Institute of Marine Research and Development ‘Grigore Antipa’ made a presentation on the project titled “Strengthening the regional capacity to support sustainable management of the Black Sea fisheries”.

ACTIVITIES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, INSTITUTIONS AND REGIONAL INITIATIVES IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN THE BSEC REGION

21. The Working Group reiterated its intention to continue efforts for enhancing further interaction with other international and regional organizations and institutions in the field of environmental protection.

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT JOINT DECLARATION OF THE MINISTERS OF ENVIRONMENT OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

22. The Working Group discussed and finalized the Draft Joint Declaration of the Ministers in Charge of Environmental Protection of the BSEC Member States that will be submitted for adopting by the Ministerial Meeting to be convened in Bucharest on 31 May 2011. The text of the Draft Declaration, as finalized, is attached as Annex IV.

23. The Republic of Azerbaijan made a reservation with regard to the Draft Declaration. The text of reservation is attached as Annex V.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

24. No issues have been raised under this Agenda Item.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

25. The Working Group commended the efforts of Romania in its capacity as the Country-Coordinator and expressed its appreciation for hospitality extended by the Ministry of Environment and Forest of Romania and excellent organization of the Meeting.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

26. 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

27. The Working Group adopted the present Report for submission to the Committee of Senior Officials to be held in Bucharest on 6-7 June 2011.