



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, 26-27 March 2015

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Environmental Protection was held at the BSEC Headquarters on 26-27 March 2015.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Petru BUTUCEL, Consul of the Consulate General of the Republic of Moldova in Istanbul.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following Member States:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Bulgaria
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine
4. The representative of the ICBSS also participated in the Meeting.
5. Representatives of the WASTENET Project participated in the Meeting as Guests.

6. The list of participants is attached as **Annex I**.
7. Upon a proposal of the Chairman of the Meeting, item 2 was dropped from the Agenda. The Agenda, as amended and adopted, is attached as **Annex II**.

AGENDA ITEM 2: 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. The 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.

9. It was pointed that the 30th Council of MFA (19 June 2014, Varna, Bulgaria) adopted the following Decision:

“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.”

AGENDA ITEM 3: STATE OF AFFAIRS OF THE BSEC ACTION PLAN FOR COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DISCUSSED AT THE LAST WORKING GROUP MEETING (10-11 April, 2014)

10. The Working Group continued discussions on the BSEC Action Plan for Cooperation in The Field of Environmental Protection, reflecting the amendments proposed by some delegations, and invited the Member States to make their additional contributions to the Action Plan by 30 June 2015. The text, as amended, is attached as **Annex III**.

AGENDA ITEM 4: CONSIDERATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAM OF THE WORKING GROUP 2014-2015

11. The participants took note of information by the representative of Romania, the Country-Coordinator, on implementation of the Work Program/Plan of Action 2014-2015 of the WG on Environmental Protection and further actions towards this end.

12. A Member State proposed amendments to the said document.

13. The Work Program, which is open for further contributions, is attached as **Annex IV**.

AGENDA ITEM 5: MODALITIES OF ESTABLISHING AN INFORMATION EXCHANGE MECHANISM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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

15. Due to the lack of funding by the BSEC PDF, the Country-Coordinator proposed the Working Group to consider the possibility of using the BSEC server towards this end. The relevant structure can be developed by the Country-Coordinator in cooperation with the BSEC PERMIS.

16. The representative of the Republic of Bulgaria expressed the view that if an alternative funding could not be found for the project, the suggestion by the Country-Coordinator is acceptable.

AGENDA ITEM 6: CONSIDERATION OF A DRAFT BSEC CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION STRATEGY FOR THE BLACK SEA REGION

17. The Working Group exchanged views on the general framework of the draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in the Black Sea region and appreciated the UNDP for elaboration of the draft. The said draft, as amended, is attached as **Annex V**.

18. The participants agreed that the draft should be revised and invited the Member States to make their contributions to the document. In the meanwhile, the BSEC PERMIS was asked to apply to the ICBSS or other relevant institutions for their expertise and assistance in further elaborating and streamlining the text of the Draft, following the contributions by the Member States.

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

“The Council took note of the Meeting of the Working Group on Environmental Protection, held in Istanbul on 26-27 March, 2015, and encouraged the Member States, the BSEC PERMIS and the ICBSS to revise the Draft BSEC Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.

AGENDA ITEM 7: PRESENTATION OF THE NEW DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION IN THE MEMBER STATES

20. The representatives of the Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation and Ukraine informed the participants about the recent positive developments in the national environmental legislation of their respective states.

AGENDA ITEM 8: PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND (PDF) AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT UNIT (PMU). CONSIDERATION OF BSEC MEMBER STATE’S PROPOSALS FOR PROJECTS.

21. The BSEC PERMIS informed the participants of the newly established Program Management Unit and state of play with regard to the Project Development Fund.

22. The Member States were invited to submit relevant projects.

AGENDA ITEM 9: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

23. The representative of the Democritus University and Project Coordinator of the WASTEnet project, participated in the Meeting as Guests, made presentation within the framework of the mentioned project. The presentation on the WASTEnet project is attached as **Annexes VI**.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

24. 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.

AGENDA ITEM 10: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

25. 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 28-29 April 2015.