



**BS/EP/WG/R(2005)1**

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

**Istanbul, BSEC Headquarters, 16-17 June 2005**

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Environmental Protection was held at the BSEC Headquarters in Istanbul on 16-17 June 2005.
  2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Izamettin EKER, Division Chief of Regional and Bilateral Relations, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Republic of Turkey.
  3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:
    - Republic of Armenia
    - Republic of Azerbaijan
    - Republic of Bulgaria
    - Georgia
    - Hellenic Republic
    - Romania
    - Russian Federation
    - Serbia and Montenegro
    - Republic of Turkey
    - Ukraine
  4. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of the BSEC, the BSEC Business Council and the ICBSS as BSEC Related Bodies.
  5. The representatives of the Republic of France, the State of Israel and the BSC attended the Meeting in capacity of BSEC Observers.
  6. The representatives of Oil Spill Preparedness Regional Initiative (OSPRI) and the Ekomorsphera Ltd. attended the Meeting as Guests.
- The list of participants of the Meeting is attached as Annex I.
7. Ambassador Andrey URNOV, Deputy Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS, addressed the participants of the Meeting with welcoming remarks.
  8. The draft agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The agenda, as adopted, is attached as Annex II.

## **REVIEW OF THE STATE OF COOPERATION AMONG BSEC MEMBER STATES ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IMPROVEMENT IN THE BLACK SEA REGION**

9. The delegations presented information on environmental programs implemented by their countries individually or in cooperation with other BSEC Member States on bilateral and multilateral basis.

10. The necessity to enhance cooperation between BSEC and BSEC Member States with relevant international organizations such as UN, UNEP, UNDP, UNESCO, EU, BSC and others, as well as of securing funds from all available sources for the regional oriented environmental protection projects was emphasized.

11. Furthermore, it was agreed that the national environmental protection efforts are of fundamental importance and that the harmonization of these efforts with international ecological activities should be energetically sought.

12. An opinion was expressed that the existing structures and programs are sufficient for the successful resolution of ecological problems. These programs should be implemented in coordinating way purposefully and consistently.

## **DISCUSSION OF THE DRAFT “ENVIRONMENT ACTION PLAN FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION” PROPOSED BY THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY**

13. The Working Group discussed the Draft ” Environment Action Plan for the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation” submitted by the Republic of Turkey during its term as a Country-Coordinator of the Working Group on Environmental Protection.

14. The Working Group appreciated the work done by the Republic of Turkey with respect to the preparation of the said Draft Action Plan and invited the Member States to communicate to BSEC PERMIS their possible suggestions or amendments by the end of July 2005, so that the Latter would be in a position to prepare a consolidated version of the Draft to be disseminated by the end of August and further discussed at the next Meeting of the Working Group.

15. The Working Group instructed PERMIS to take into account the relevant programs and documents implemented within the framework of PABSEC, BSC and OSPRI in the process of drafting a consolidated version of the Draft Action Plan.

## **ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF RESOLVING ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN THE BSEC MEMBER STATES**

16. The Working Group took note of the presentation of the Report “Economic Aspects of Resolving Environmental Problems in the Black Sea Countries” and of the Recommendation 81/2005 adopted by the Twenty Fifth Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly held in Kyiv, on 8 June 2005.

17. The Working Group recommended to the Committee of Senior Officials to submit the Recommendation 81/2005 to the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs for consideration.

## **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROJECTS PROPOSALS**

18. In accordance with the established practice, the delegations presented for discussion their proposals on elaboration of multilateral projects in the BSEC framework.

Following presentations have been made:

a) “Development of Economic Risk Assessment methodology occurs by the toxic aerosol substances being specifically enriched in the marine coastal recreation environment” submitted by the institutions of Ukraine (Lead Partner), the Russian Federation and the Hellenic Republic and presented by the Ukrainian delegation.

The Working Group recommended to the Committee of Senior Officials to endorse the said Project.

b) Implementation of a project on oil pollution mitigation by “BSEC Marmara 1” environmental vessel, related to the MARPOL Convention, presented by Prof. Igor RESHETNIKOV, on behalf of Ekomorsphera Ltd.

19. The Working Group took note of the presentation and expressed its support for the continuation of the said project.

## **ACTIVITIES OF THE BLACK SEA COMMISSION IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY SHIPPING**

20. The Working Group took note of the presentation made by Dr. Oksana TARASOVA on behalf of the BSC Permanent Secretariat.

21. The primary importance of close cooperation between BSEC and BSC in the field of environmental protection was emphasized so that the valuable experience of BSC could be implemented by BSEC and an increased synergy is developed.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF REGIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY**

22. The Working Group took note of the presentation related to oil industry project “Oil Spill Preparedness Regional Initiative” (Caspian Sea- Black Sea – Central Eurasia) presented by Cpt. Kjell T. LANDIN, on behalf of OSPRI. The delegations positively assessed the said project providing opportunities for closer mutual efforts to achieve common objectives of improved environment protection in the region.

23. Taking into account that a number of international organizations, programs and initiatives deal with oil spill prevention and mitigation in the Black Sea, the Working Group emphasized the need for coordinated activities related to this field. In this regard the Working Group agreed to consider the issue of coordination of such activities at its next Meeting.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

24. The participants expressed their appreciation for the work done by the Republic of Turkey as the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group on Environmental Protection and took note of the application of the Republic of Turkey to be appointed as Country-Coordinator of the Working Group

of Environmental Protection for the period November 2005 – October 2007 and recommended to the Council of Ministers to consider this application in a positive manner.

25. Moreover, the Working Group invited the future Country-Coordinator of the Working Group to make one of its main priorities the elaboration of Terms of Reference of the Working Group on Environmental Protection.

26. The Working Group recommended to the Council to call upon the future BSEC Chairmanships to regularly convene the Meetings of the Working Group on Environmental Protection.

#### **DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

27. The exact date and venue of the next meeting of the Working Group will be communicated to the Member States through BSEC PERMIS in due course.

#### **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING**

28. The Working Group adopted the present report for submission to the Committee of Senior Officials and the Thirteenth Meeting of the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Chisinau in October 2005.

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