



BS/HP/WG/R(2009)1

**REPORT OF THE
MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON
HEALTH CARE AND PHARMACEUTICS**

Istanbul, 3-4 February 2009

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Health Care and Pharmaceutics was held in Istanbul, at the BSEC Headquarters, on 3-4 February 2009.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Ms. Liana TOROSYAN, Chief Specialist, Department of the Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases and Epidemiology, State Hygienic and Anti-Epidemiological Inspectorate, Ministry of Health of the Republic of Armenia.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:
 - Republic of Armenia
 - Republic of Azerbaijan
 - Georgia
 - Hellenic Republic
 - Romania
 - Russian Federation
 - Republic of Serbia
 - Republic of Turkey
 - Ukraine
4. The representative of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation participated in the Meeting as a BSEC Related Body.
5. The Meeting was attended by the representative of the UNICEF as a Guest.

The List of Participants is attached as Annex I.

6. The Draft Agenda of the Meeting was discussed, amended and adopted. The Agenda, as adopted, is attached as Annex II.

STATUS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BSEC COUNCIL

7. PERMIS presented information on the status of implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the Council.

8. The Working Group took note that so far eight Member States had appointed their representatives – national contact points in the Working Group on Health Care and Pharmaceuticals in compliance with the relevant BSEC Council’s decision (Belgrade, April 2007). The list of the representatives, prepared by PERMIS is attached as Annex III.

9. The Working Group invited the Member States which had not appointed their representatives to it yet to do so as soon as possible.

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION IN THE BSEC MEMBER STATES, PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING IN THE FIELD OF PREVENTION MEASURES AND OF MEASURES OF DIAGNOSTICS AND TREATMENT OF CONTAGIOUS DISEASES

10. The delegations of the Republic of Armenia, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Serbia presented information on the epidemiological situation as well as on national policies and programs executed in their countries in the sphere of preventing and combating communicable diseases including those occurred in the emergency situations, HIV/AIDS and avian/pandemic influenza. The presentations are attached as Annex IV.

DISCUSSION ON ELABORATION OF A JOINT STRATEGY OF THE SYSTEM OF EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE WITHIN BSEC

11. The Working Group discussed and supported the proposal of the Hellenic Republic on establishing of a network for the epidemiological surveillance and response on health threats within the BSEC Region. The Draft proposal is attached as Annex V.

12. With the aim to promote deliberations on the issue, the Working Group called upon the Member States to transmit their comments to the draft proposal through their IHRs-2005 (International Health Regulations) National Focal Points to the IHRs-2005 National Focal Point of the Hellenic Republic, Representative in the BSEC Working Group on Health Care and Pharmaceuticals, Mr. Panagiotis EFSTATHIOU, MD, D.Sc., Commander of the National Health Operations Center, Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity of the Hellenic Republic (e-mail: soty@mohaw.gr) and/or to BSEC PERMIS by 30 April 2009. It was also agreed that subject to the comments the Hellenic Republic would present the revised draft proposal prior to the next Meeting of the Working Group.

DRAFT AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF SANITARY PROTECTION OF THE TERRITORIES OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

13. The Participants discussed the Draft Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Sanitary Protection of the Territories of the BSEC Member States and agreed that the Member States would transmit their comments and proposals to the Draft document in writing by 31 March 2009. The Draft Agreement is attached as Annex VI.

14. The Working Group requested PERMIS to incorporate the received comments and proposals into the Draft Agreement and agreed to continue its consideration at the next Meeting of the Group.

15. The delegations of the Hellenic Republic and Romania reiterated that their countries could not be Parties to the proposed Agreement due to their commitments as the EU Member States.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND AND REGIONAL PROJECTS

16. The Working Group took note of the information provided by BSEC PERMIS regarding the new Manual of Operations of the BSEC Project Development Fund (PDF) and particularly the fact that no project applications could be submitted until the introduction of a revised application format, expectedly in mid-2009, conforming to the new Manual.

17. In addition, the Working Group took note that according to the new Manual, it should define specific priority areas with corresponding timeframes for PDF project proposals, and submit these priorities to the Committee of Senior Officials for consideration.

18. Taking into account that no Country Coordinator of the Group had been appointed yet, the Working Group called upon the Member States to forward to BSEC PERMIS their suggestions for priority areas for PDF project proposals to be discussed and elaborated at the next Meeting of the Group.

19. Furthermore, the Working Group expressed its satisfaction for the successful completion of the PDF project “**Study of the Capacities and Requirements of Operational Client-Server Health Information System for Diabetes (Tele-Diab)**” and encouraged the Member States to promote the results of the project by forwarding them to their national authorities and relevant institutions in order to examine the practical use and benefits.

20. It was agreed that the Final report and the demo software of the said PDF project would be uploaded at the BSEC Portal. Additional information about the project is available at <http://www.telemed.ro/proiecte.html> and <http://www.iti.gr/db.php/en/projects/TeleDiab.html>.

21. The participants supported the project idea presented by the Russian Federation on the System of Online Learning and requested the Russian Federation to submit an elaborated project proposal subject to the introduction of the above-mentioned application format. The said presentation is attached as Annex VII.

ACTIVITIES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH CARE AND PHARMACEUTICS

22. The participants took note of the presentation made by the UNICEF Representative on Health Status of Women and Children in the Black Sea Region. The said presentation is attached as Annex VIII.

23. The participants agreed to explore the possibilities for further interaction between BSEC and UNICEF in the field of mutual interest.

ISSUE OF COORDINATION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON HEALTH CARE AND PHARMACEUTICS

24. At the moment no Member State has applied for coordinatorship of the Working Group on Health Care and Pharmaceutics.

25. With reference to the BSEC Council's decision (Tirana, 23 October 2008) urging the Member States to forward their applications for the Working Group's coordinatorship, the Working Group called upon the Member States to do so as soon as possible.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

26. The Republic of Armenia in its capacity of the Chairman-in-Office and the host country informed the participants on the forthcoming events within the BSEC Calendar.

27. The Conference on "Modern Approaches to the Improvement of Reproductive Health" and the Exhibition of Contemporary Medicines Used in Reproductive Health Field will be held in Yerevan on 18-19 March 2009 (PERMIS Note No. BS/INFO.2009.0090 dated 4 February 2009).

28. The Educational Program on "Medicine and Education" will be held in Yerevan on 30 March–1 April 2009 (PERMIS Note No. BS/INFO.2008.1129 dated 30 December 2008).

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 PERMIS.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

30. The present Report was adopted for submission to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials and the Twentieth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to be held in Yerevan on 27-28 April and 29 April 2009, respectively.