



BS/HP/WG/R(2008)1

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

Istanbul, 29-30 May 2008

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Health Care and Pharmaceutics was held in Istanbul, at the BSEC Headquarters, on 29-30 May 2008.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Agim PASHOLLI, Special Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania to BSEC.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Albania
Republic of Armenia
Georgia
Hellenic Republic
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Serbia
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine

The List of Participants is attached as Annex I.

4. 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 BSEC COUNCIL

5. The participants took note of the information on the status of implementation of the resolutions, decisions and recommendations of the BSEC Council presented by PERMIS.
6. It was noted that with the resumption of the Meetings of the Working Group the decisions of the BSEC Council would be addressed accordingly.

DISCUSSION ON JOINT MEASURES TO BE ADOPTED BY THE BSEC MEMBER STATES FOR COMBATING INFECTIOUS DISEASES (EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION, PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING IN THE FIELD OF PREVENTION MEASURES AND OF MEASURES OF DIAGNOSTICS AND TREATMENT OF CONTAGIOUS DISEASES)

7. The participants confirmed the necessity to organize on a regular basis the exchange of information among the respective national health authorities dealing with combating infectious diseases with an aim of elaborating a common approach and of enhancing cooperation.

8. The Working Group appreciated and expressed its support to the proposal of the Russian Federation to organize an exchange of experience for experts by convening teleconferences on different issues, for example, developing methodologies of diagnostics and treatment of infectious diseases.

9. In this respect PERMIS was recommended to address the relevant letter to the Ministry of Health and Social Development of the Russian Federation for further clarification of the issue.

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION IN THE BSEC MEMBER STATES IN VIEW OF ELABORATION OF A JOINT STRATEGY OF THE SYSTEM OF EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE WITHIN BSEC

10. The delegations of the Hellenic Republic, Republic of Serbia and the Russian Federation presented information on the epidemiological situation and on national policies and programs implemented by their countries in the field of preventing and combating epidemiological diseases, including HIV/AIDS and avian/pandemic influenza.

11. The delegation of the Russian Federation informed the Member States on the work experience of the Sanitary Anti-Epidemic Brigades in preventing epidemic outbreaks of contagious diseases.

12. It was mentioned that the BSEC Member States are in the process of implementation of the provision of the International Health Regulations-2005 (IHR) and that common priorities should be identified for the elaboration of a joint strategy of epidemiological surveillance within BSEC.

13. To that extent, the participants took positively the proposal of the Hellenic Republic to consider the issue of establishing a network of experts from the relevant BSEC Member States epidemiological surveillance agencies/institutions.

14. It was agreed that the Hellenic Republic would submit a detailed proposal on the establishment of a network by the end of September 2008 and deliberations on the issue would be continued at the next Meeting of the Working Group.

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

15. The Working Group took note of the Draft Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Sanitary Protection of the BSEC Member States Territories. The said Draft is attached as Annex III.

16. Opinions were expressed that the Working Group should focus on cooperation initiatives that can facilitate the implementation of the IHR-2005 at the regional level.

17. Having in mind that the future BSEC Agreement should be in line with the IHR-2005 and create synergies at the regional level, the participants agreed to communicate their opinions and proposals regarding the elaboration and the content of such an Agreement to PERMIS by the end of September 2008.

CONSIDERATION OF PDF APPLICATIONS AND OTHER PROJECTS PROPOSALS FOR COOPERATION AMONG BSEC MEMBER STATES IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH CARE AND PHARMACEUTICS

18. The Working Group took note of the information presented by PERMIS on the implementation progress of two PDF projects “Study of the Capacities and Requirements of Operational Client-Server Health Information System for Diabetes (Tele-Diab)” and “System for Combating Epidemiological Diseases (AIDS/HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria) with the Use of Information-Communications Technologies”.

19. The participants regarded positively the project idea on “System for Monitoring and Control of Epidemic Situation with the Use of Information and Telecommunication Technologies in the BSEC Member States”, presented by the Russian Federation, and recommended a detailed description of the project to be presented for consideration at the next Meeting of the Working Group. The presentation of the Russian Federation is attached as Annex IV.

DISCUSSION ON THE DRAFT “DIRECTIONS OF COOPERATION ON SUPPLYING THE BSEC AND EU POPULATION WITH PHARMACEUTICS AND MEDICAL GOODS” ELABORATED BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

20. The participants exchanged their views on the Draft “Directions of Cooperation on Supplying the BSEC and EU Population with Pharmaceuticals and Medical Goods” elaborated by the Russian Federation.

21. It was agreed that by the end of June 2008 the Russian Federation will communicate to PERMIS the revised draft of its proposal, deliberations on which would be continued at the next Meeting of the Working Group.

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

22. At the moment no Member State has applied for coordinatorship of the Working Group.

23. The Member States were invited to consider the issue once again and to transmit their application to PERMIS as soon as possible.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

24. The Working Group took note of the proposal of the Republic of Turkey regarding the possibility of elaborating a Protocol on Mutual Recognition of the Medical Certificate on Physical Examination for Seafarers issued by the competent authorities of the BSEC Member States.

25. It was agreed to continue deliberations on the issue on the basis of elaborated proposal to be presented by Turkey prior to the next Meeting of the Working Group.

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 PERMIS.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

27. The present Report was adopted for submission to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials and the Nineteenth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

