



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

Sakıp Sabancı Cad., Müşir Fuad Paşa Yalısı, Eski Tersane, 34460 İstinye – İstanbul/Turkey

Tel: ++90 212 2296330-35 Fax: ++90 212 2296336

E-mail: info@bsec-organization.org www.bsec-organization.org

Sofia, 25 March 2014

BS/HP/WG/R(2014)1

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

Sofia, 25 March 2014

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Health Care and Pharmaceutics was held in Sofia on 25 March 2014.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Aleksandar BAKALOV, Executive Manager of the Permanent International Secretariat of the BSEC.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Albania
Republic of Armenia
Republic of Bulgaria
Republic of Moldova
Hellenic Republic
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Serbia
Republic of Turkey

The List of Participants is attached as **Annex I**.

4. The Draft Agenda of the Meeting was discussed 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

5. The BSEC PERMIS informed that in accordance with the Resolution of the Meeting of the BSEC Council held in Belgrade on 19 April 2007, the Member States are expected “to appoint representatives to the Working Groups on a long term basis and act as their national contact points in respective Groups”.

6. So far nine Member States have appointed their representatives to the Group. The List of the Member States’ representatives, as of 24 May 2013, is attached as **Annex III**. The Working Group instructed the BSEC PERMIS to inquire about the permanent appointees to the Working Group by the countries who have not yet done so.

7. Other issues pertaining from the Resolutions, Decisions, Recommendation and recommendations of Councils and Declarations of Ministers responsible for Health and Pharmaceuticals were discussed under the relevant Agenda Items.

THE “WAY FORWARD FOR AN ACTION PLAN ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECONOMIC AGENDA”

8. BSEC PERMIS informed of the basic outlines of an Action Plan of the WG on Health Care and Pharmaceutics and requested the Member States on how to proceed without a Country Coordinator.

ADOPTION OF NEW TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE WG

9. The Participants discussed, amended and approved the new Terms of Reference of the WG on Health Care and Pharmaceutics and submits for consideration of the next meeting of the CSO the following decision to be adopted by the Council of MFA:
“The Council of the MFA approved the new Terms of Reference of the WG on Health Care and Pharmaceutics.”

STATE OF AFFAIRS REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NETWORK FOR THE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE WITHIN THE BSEC REGION

10. Upon the decision of the last Meeting of the Working Group on Health Care and Pharmaceutics (Istanbul, 25 October, 2013), the Hellenic Republic submitted with Note No.: A.P.F.3605/OSEP/AS 9838 of 6 March 2014 the last Draft Terms of Reference of the Ad Hoc Expert Group in order to discuss the issue of establishment of epidemiological surveillance and response to health threats within the BSEC region, as well as the structure and priority areas for regional activities.

11. The participants discussed the proposal and in coordination with the current and forthcoming BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office instructed the BSEC PERMIS to inform all Member States of the date of the first coordination meeting of the Expert Group for the emergency preparedness and response to health threats and all hazards approach within the BSEC region.

12. The Working Group submits for consideration of the next meeting of the CSO the following decision to be adopted by the Council of MFA:

“The Council of MFA took note of the meeting of the WG on Health Care and Pharmaceuticals on 25 March 2014 in Sofia and instructed it to proceed with the designed schedule on establishing a Network on emergency preparedness and response to health threats with all hazards approach and establishing a system of regular exchange of information among the BSEC Member States”

STATE OF AFFAIRS REGARDING THE AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF SANITARY PROTECTION OF THE TERRITORIES OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

13. The Member States presented information on the process of internal procedures in their countries, with regard to the signing of the Agreement.

14. The representative of the Russian Federation informed on the new elements of their national system of quality assurance of medicines. It was suggested that the Russian Federation could send in due time its proposals for amendments to the said Agreement.

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND COOPERATION IN THE SPHERE OF QUALITY ASSURANCE OF MEDICINES

15. The participants amended the Draft MoU and agreed to submit for consideration of the next meeting of the CSO the following decision to be adopted by the Council of MFA:

“The Council of MFA considered the Draft Memorandum of Understanding on Information Exchange and Cooperation in the Sphere of Quality Assurance of Medicines in a positive way and recommended the adoption of the said MoU at a Meeting of the Ministers of Health of the BSEC Member States”.

The text, as amended, is attached **Annex IV**.

HOW TO INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ACTIVITY OF THE WORKING GROUP? - OBSERVATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

16. The participants exchanged views on enhancing effectiveness of the Working Group activities.

ACTIVITIES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS (UN, WHO, EU, ETC.) IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH CARE AND PHARMACEUTICS

17. The BSEC PERMIS presented information on the draft MoU for cooperation between the BSEC PERMIS and the WHO Tobacco Control Economics unit mainly in the sphere of tobacco taxation Draft MoU between BSEC and the WHO and the intention of both organizations to formalize cooperation between them.

18. It was suggested that the BSEC PERMIS coordinated with the World Health Organization a common document of cooperation.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

19. The representative of the Hellenic Republic presented information on a forthcoming High-Level Conference ‘Health Emergency Management in the EU/The Role of the National Health Organizations Centers’ to be held in Greece on 9-10 May 2014. The relevant centers from the BSEC Member States are invited to take part in the High-Level Conference.

20. The WG appreciated the organized by the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Bulgaria Round Table “Challenges for the Healthcare Systems of the Countries in the Black Sea Region to the Flow of Refugees and Illegal Immigrants”, held in Sofia on 25 March 2014 and submits for consideration of the next meeting of the CSO the following decision to be adopted by the Council of MFA:

“The Council of MFA commended the organized on 25 March 2014 in Sofia by the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Bulgaria Round Table “Challenges for the Healthcare Systems of the Countries in the Black Sea Region to the Flow of Refugees and Illegal Immigrants”

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

21. The date and the venue of the next Meeting will be communicated to the Member States in due course by the BSEC PERMIS.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

22. The delegations expressed their gratitude for the excellent arrangements with regard to the Meeting of the Working Group and the Round Table.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

23. The present Report was adopted for submission to the next Meeting of the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials to be held in Istanbul on 28-29 April 2014.