



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

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

Istanbul, 22-23 September 2011

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Health Care and Pharmaceuticals was held in Istanbul, at the BSEC Headquarters, on 22-23 September 2011.
2. The Meeting was co-chaired by Ms. Nune BAKUNTS, Head of Legal Instruments and Document Flaw Management Division, State Hygiene and Anti-Epidemic Inspectorate, Ministry of Health of the Republic of Armenia, and Mr. Nikolay KRAVTSOV, Head Specialist, Department for International Cooperation, Ministry of Health and Social Development of the Russian Federation.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Hellenic Republic
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine
4. The representative of the Parliamentary Assembly of the BSEC (PABSEC) attended the Meeting as the BSEC Related Body.

The List of Participants is attached as Annex I.

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

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

6. The Working Group took note of the information regarding the status of implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the Council.

7. It was noted that so far only nine countries had nominated their representatives to the Working Group on Health Care and Pharmaceuticals in compliance with the Resolution of the BSEC Council (Belgrade, 19 April 2007). The List of the Representatives is attached as Annex III.

8. The Member States that had not appointed yet their representatives, namely Albania, Russia and Ukraine, were requested to do so by the end of December 2011.

DISCUSSION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON HEALTH CARE AND PHARMACEUTICS FOR 2010 – 2011

9. The Republic of Armenia in its capacity as Country-Coordinator informed the participants on implementation process of the Plan of Action of the Working Group on Health Care and Pharmaceuticals for 2010-2011.

10. The Working Group expressed its appreciation and support for the efforts of the Country-Coordinator in implementing the Plan of Action.

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

11. The Russian Federation presented a film on new aerosol technologies of disinfection and disinsection being used in Russia.

12. The Russian Federation also informed on scheduled videoconference for the BSEC Member States 'Epidemiological surveillance and emergencies prevention in the field of public health within the BSEC region' to be held on 9 December 2011.

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

13. The Working Group requested the Hellenic Republic to forward by December 2011 its updated proposal on establishing a network for the epidemiological surveillance and response on public health threats within the BSEC region, including possibility of convening a meeting of experts, practical outcome, administrative and financial issues. The updated proposal will be circulated to the Member States by BSEC PERMIS prior to the next Meeting of the Working Group.

14. The Russian Federation presented the project proposal on 'Black Sea Network' supported by the International Science and Technology Center (ISTC). The purpose of the project is to establish an information portal for the network of epidemiological surveillance within the BSEC region. The presentation is attached as Annex IV.

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

15. The Working Group discussed and finalized the Draft Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Sanitary Protection of the Territories of the BSEC Member States. The final Draft will be submitted to the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials and is attached as Annex V.

16. The delegations of the Hellenic Republic and Romania reiterated that due to their commitments assumed within the EU the two countries cannot be Parties to the Agreement.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND AND REGIONAL PROJECTS

17. The Working Group discussed and determined the following priority areas for BSEC PDF projects:

- sharing practice in IHR (WHO, 2005) implementation;
- development and introduction of the epidemiological surveillance on non-contagious diseases (NCD);
- development and introduction of information exchange systems on contagious diseases on a monthly basis and in case of emergency situations, by urgent communications;
- cooperation in the field of development, production and circulation of pharmaceuticals and medical devices;
- exchange of expertise in health care and public health laboratory technologies and practice.

18. The Member States were invited to forward further proposals on the priority areas for PDF projects to be considered in the future.

19. The representative of the Republic of Moldova informed the Working Group on the intention of the Transplant Agency of the Republic of Moldova to submit to the BSEC PDF the project proposal 'Cooperation among the Countries of the Black Sea Area in the Field of Transplantation of Organs, Tissues and Cells'.

DISCUSSION ON THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING INFORMATION EXCHANGE ON PREVENTING COUNTERFEIT MEDICINES CIRCULATION, PROPOSED BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

20. The Republic of Turkey briefed the participants on the Turkish system (pharmaceuticals track and trace system) for prevention of production and circulation of counterfeit medicines.

21. The Working Group agreed to include the topic of establishing information exchange on preventing counterfeit medicines circulation in its next Plan of Action for 2012-2013.

22. The Russian Federation informed that it will forward by December 2011 a draft of multilateral Memorandum of Understanding on information exchange and cooperation in the

field of preventing counterfeit medicines circulation. The draft Memorandum of Understanding will be circulated among the Member States prior to the next Meeting of the Working Group.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

23. The representative of the PABSEC Secretariat informed the Working Group on Recommendation 122/2011 ‘Observance of Sanitation Standards of the World Health Organization in the BSEC Member States’ (IHR-2005) adopted by the 37th PABSEC General Assembly (Kyiv, 30 June – 2 July 2011).

24. The Russian Federation presented the Workshop ‘Express-techniques of Quality Control of Medicines and Practical Issues of Management of Express Mobile Laboratories’ to be held in Moscow on 8 December 2011, and invited the Member States to participate. The presentation of the event and its draft Agenda are attached as Annexes VI and VII.

25. The Russian Federation also informed on scheduled videoconference for the BSEC Member States ‘Enhancing International Exchange of Information in the Field of Supplying the Population of the BSEC Countries with Pharmaceutical and Medical Goods’ to be held on 10 December 2011.

26. BSEC PERMIS informed the Working Group that the term of the current Country-Coordinator will expire on 31 December 2011. Therefore, the Member States are invited to forward as soon as possible their applications for the next term of 2012-2013 in view that the issue will be considered at the next Meeting of the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

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

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

28. The present Report was adopted for submission to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials.
