



**BS/CM/WG/R(95)1**

**REPORT  
OF THE MEETING  
OF THE  
WORKING GROUP ON COMMUNICATIONS**

**Thessaloniki, 12-14 September 1995**

1. The Meeting of the Working Group (WG) on Communications of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) was held on 12-14 September 1995 in Thessaloniki, Greece.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Stergios BABANASSIS, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Hellenic Telecommunications Organization S.A.
3. The Meeting was attended by the following Participating States of the BSEC:
  - Republic of Albania
  - Republic of Armenia
  - Republic of Bulgaria
  - Hellenic Republic
  - Romania
  - Russian Federation
  - Republic of Turkey
  - Ukraine
4. The representatives of Israel and the International Black Sea Club (IBSC) attended the Meeting as Observers.

The list of participants of the Meeting is attached as Annex I.
5. Mr. Stergios BABANASSIS made an inaugural statement. The text of the statement is attached as Annex II.

6. The draft agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The agenda, as adopted, is attached as Annex III.

### **PROGRESS REPORTS OF THE NATIONAL DELEGATIONS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES**

7. Within the framework of the discussions under agenda item 2, the national delegations presented the progress reports of their concerned administrations regarding the telecommunications development in the respective countries (present situation, short and long-term perspectives, investment plans).

8. In the light of the recommendations of the WG meeting held in Kyiv on 20-21 December 1994, the participants exchanged information regarding the regulatory aspects and legislative initiatives taken by their respective governments towards liberalization of telecommunications as well as the introduction of new telecommunications services.

9. The WG invited the Telecom Administrations of the BSEC Participating States to communicate through the Secretariat their liberalization and major investment programs so that other entities may participate in these programs.

10. Having recognized the importance of exchanging information on the national telecommunications development for facilitating cooperative links in this field in the region, the WG recommended this item to be included in the agendas of the following meetings.

### **REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROJECTS**

11. Under agenda item 3, a thorough exchange of views took place on the state of implementation of the projects being developed in the BSEC area. Details on this score are reflected in Annex IV.

12. The WG took note of the willingness of the Republic of Armenia to participate in the BSFOCS project.

13. The WG expressed the usefulness of actions to be undertaken in order to set up linkages among the regional projects with an aim of enhancing their effectiveness.

14. The WG called upon the Participating States involved in the development of the above projects to take necessary measures needed for fulfilling their obligations regarding the projects.

### **REGIONAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMS**

15. In order to identify the new spheres of common interest and possible collaboration, the national delegations presented their proposals and ideas with regard to regional technical cooperation programs which might be realized in the BSEC region.

16. With an aim of further promoting the technical collaboration in the region, the WG agreed to develop at the present stage the following areas:

- Exchange of information and expertise;
- technical assistance;
- application of new and emerging communications technologies to the specific needs of the region;
- harmonizing of procedures;
- training of personnel.

17. The WG invited the Participating States to inform by 1 November 1995 the Secretariat of their possibilities in this respect as well as the concrete proposals on this score so that compiled information in the form of action plans (draft) could be distributed among the delegations by the end of 1995.

18. The WG recommended that before this subject is further discussed at the next meeting of the WG, the Participating States may wish to study with the BSEC Secretariat the possibilities of holding a special research conference (workshop) with the participation of other interested parties in order to discuss concrete projects and actions to be taken in this respect.

19. The Participating States are also invited to respond to the proposals put forward by the Hellenic Delegation on concrete areas of possible collaboration (Annex V).

### **UTILIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS**

20. Under this agenda item the WG had a thorough exchange of views on the prospects of cooperation in the field of utilizing international and national satellite communications networks.

21. The discussions took place on the basis of the two related analyses prepared by the Greek and Turkish Delegations in accordance with the request of the previous meeting.

22. The WG expressed its thanks to the representatives of Greece and Turkey for the preparation of the above mentioned analyses.

23. Having underlined the importance of developing cooperation in the said field for improving the international telecommunication connections in the area of telephone services, data transmission and TV broadcasting, the WG agreed to further study the

current situation of global space communications and the distinctions among international, regional, national and privately owned satellite systems.

24. The Participating States agreed to exchange experts in order to specify before the next WG meeting the concrete areas of collaboration in utilizing the satellite communications facilities in the region.

### **STRENGTHENING THE LINKAGES BETWEEN GOVERNMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITIES AND PRIVATE COMPANIES**

25. Under agenda item 6, the WG held a preliminary exchange of information regarding the cooperation between the national authorities and private companies involved in the communications business in the BSEC countries.

26. Having underlined the importance of increasing the investment flow in the said field from the private sector, the WG called upon the BSEC national authorities to take measures needed for creating an environment which may encourage the business community to participate more actively in developing telecommunications facilities in the region including creation of joint ventures.

27. It was agreed that the Participating States shall inform each other through the Secretariat on the privatization actions taken in the field of telecommunications in their countries.

28. The WG noted that for strengthening the linkages between the BSEC governmental communications authorities and private companies the potential of the BSEC Council should be more actively utilized.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

29. None of the delegations raised any questions under this item.

### **EXPRESSION OF THANKS**

30. The delegations expressed their warm gratitude to the Government of the Hellenic Republic as well as to the Hellenic Telecommunications Organization S.A. for the hospitality extended to them and for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

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

31. The WG agreed that its next meeting should take place in May-June 1996. The Participating States which may wish to host the next meeting will notify the Secretariat to that effect.

**ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

32. The Report was adopted by the WG for submission to the Sixth MMFA.

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