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**REPORT
OF THE MEETING
OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP
ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES**

Gyumri, Republic of Armenia, 8 November 2014

1.   The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Information and Communication Technologies was held in Gyumri, the Republic of Armenia, on 8 November 2014.

2.   The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Emil Tarasyan, Deputy Minister of Economy of the Republic of Armenia.

3.   The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Bulgaria
Hellenic Republic
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine

4. The following BSEC Observer attended the Meeting:

United States of America

5.   The List of Participants of the Meeting is attached as **Annex I**.

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

AGENDA ITEM 2: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE DECLARATIONS ADOPTED BY THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE FOR INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

A - Status of the implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations

7. The participants took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS in the context of this item.

B - Youth and Sports issues

8. The participants discussed the possibilities of inclusion of Youth issues in the Agenda of the Working Group on Information and Communication Technologies, with a view to implement the provisions of the Declaration adopted by the Ministers in charge of Youth and Sports of the BSEC Member States, held in Varna, on 25 April 2014.

AGENDA ITEM 3: ICT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

9. The participants informed the Working Group about development of ICT sector in their countries and pointed out the importance of ICT development for the BSEC Region in order to provide economic development in the BSEC Member States.

10. The delegation of the Republic of Armenia made a short presentation on recent developments regarding the cooperation projects in the field of Information and Communication Technologies. The presentation is attached as **Annex III**.

11. The delegation of the Hellenic Republic made a presentation on the main issues of the development of the electronic communications / telecommunications sector in Greece, given special attention to the broadband development and progress during the last year. The increased broadband performance, the development of the broadband access and services, the fixed and mobile penetration, the broadcasting, the internet usage as well as some infrastructure projects which are under implementation in responsibility of the Ministry of Infrastructure, Transport and Networks, were the main points of the presentation. The presentation is attached as **Annex IV**.

12. The delegations of the Republic of Bulgaria and Romania will transmit their presentations to the BSEC PERMIS for dissemination to the BSEC Member States.

AGENDA ITEM 4: THE WAY FORWARD FOR AN ACTION PLAN ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE "ECONOMIC AGENDA TOWARDS AN ENHANCED BSEC PARTNERSHIP" AND THE "GUIDELINES FOR THE BSEC PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT". INFORMATION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE

PROJECT PROPOSAL ON ESTABLISHMENT OF A BSEC ASSOCIATION OF ICT INCUBATORS

13. The Working Group took note of the presentation on the Guidelines for the BSEC Project Management Unit, delivered by the BSEC PERMIS.

14. The Working Group invited the Member States to submit project proposals in compliance with the Guidelines and aimed at implementation of the priority goals of the Economic Agenda 2012.

15. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on the current process of elaboration of the project proposal within the BSEC Project Management Unit on establishment of a BSEC Association of ICT Incubators.

AGENDA ITEM 5: OUTCOMES OF THE HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES HELD ON 5 OCTOBER 2013 IN YEREVAN

16. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on the High Level Meeting on Information and Communication Technologies, held on 5 October 2013 in Yerevan.

17. The Working Group took note that the participants to the High Level Meeting on Information and Communication Technologies encouraged the Working Group to undertake further efforts in developing prospects of cooperation with the BSEC Related Bodies, Observers, Sectoral Dialogue Partners, relevant international organizations and other interested partners.

AGENDA ITEM 6: COOPERATION BETWEEN BSEC AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS/INSTITUTIONS IN THE FIELD OF ICT

18. The participants took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS.

19. The Working Group appreciated the efforts of the Republic of Korea, as a Sector Dialogue Partner, in promoting ICT cooperation in the BSEC region through concrete actions, in particular within the framework of the 4th "Korea-BSEC ICT Cooperation Program".

AGENDA ITEM 7: HOW TO INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE WORK OF THE WORKING GROUP ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES? – OBSERVATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

20. The participants exchanged views on the issue.

AGENDA ITEM 8: DEVELOPMENT OF BLACK SEA ICT CLUSTERS NETWORK (PROPOSAL BY THE BULGARIAN ICT CLUSTER)

21. The delegation of the Republic of Bulgaria made a presentation on development of Balkan and Black Sea ICT Clusters Network. The presentation is attached as **Annex V** to the Report.

22. The delegation of Romania expressed its support to the proposal of the Republic of Bulgaria on development of Balkan and Black Sea ICT Clusters Network and the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding.

23. The delegation of the Republic of Turkey also expressed its support to the proposal of the Republic of Bulgaria on development of Balkan and Black Sea ICT Clusters Network.

24. The delegation of the Republic of Bulgaria agreed to present to the consideration of the BSEC Project Management Unit a project proposal.

AGENDA ITEM 9: VISIT TO THE HACKATON [YAN] IT EVENT IN GYUMRI

25. The participants visited and observed the Hackaton [YAN] (Silicon Valley generated extensive contest) held in parallel with the Meeting of the Working Group at Gyumri Technology Center.

AGENDA ITEM 10: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

26. No issue was raised under this Agenda item.

AGENDA ITEM 11: DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

27. The date and the venue of the next Meeting will be communicated in due time through the BSEC PERMIS, after consultations with the Chairman-in-Office.

AGENDA ITEM 12: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

28. The participants adopted the present Report for its submission to the Committee of Senior Officials and the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs for their consideration.