



**BS/CM/WG/R(2005)1**

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

**Istanbul, BSEC Headquarters, 2-3 June 2005**

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Communications was held at the BSEC Headquarters in Istanbul on 2-3 June 2005.
2. The Meeting was co-chaired by Ms. Natalia MOCIU, Specialist, ISD Directorate, Republic of Moldova, and Mr. Evgeny FEDOROV, Deputy Director, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Informational Technologies and Communication of the Russian Federation.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:  
  
Republic of Albania  
Republic of Armenia  
Republic of Azerbaijan  
Georgia  
Hellenic Republic  
Republic of Moldova  
Russian Federation  
Republic of Turkey  
Ukraine
4. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of the BSEC and the BSEC Business Council.
5. The representatives of the Republic of France and the State of Israel attended the Meeting in capacity of BSEC Observers.
6. The representative of the Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications (RCC) participated at the Meeting in capacity of Sectoral Dialogue Partner.

The list of participants of the Meeting is attached as Annex I.

7. Ambassador Tedo JAPARIDZE, Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS, addressed the participants of the Meeting with a welcoming speech.
8. The draft agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The agenda, as adopted, is attached as Annex II.

## **CONSIDERATION OF THE ACTION PLAN AND WORKING PROGRAM**

9. The participants considered the Draft Action Plan in the Sphere of Communications presented by the delegation of the Russian Federation in a capacity of a Country-Coordinator, introduced amendments and approved it. The Action Plan, as approved by the Working Group, is attached as Annex III to the present Report.

10. They also welcomed the proposal to elaborate the Working Program for the term of the Moldovan BSEC Chairmanship (May –October 2005) and agreed upon the initial list of events to be held in the field of communications. To finalize the Working Program the Member States were invited to forward their inputs by 20 June 2005 to the PERMIS that was entrusted to circulate the final list among the Member States. The Working Program, as elaborated by the Working Group, is attached as Annex IV to the present Report.

## **DISCUSSIONS ON THE DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE WORKING GROUP ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES**

11. Following the recommendation of the Meeting of 9-10 September 2004, the delegations had a discussion on the transformation of the Working Group to accommodate contemporary developments in information technologies in the scope of activities defined by its mandate.

12. They were of the opinion that transformation to that effect of the Working Group on Communications into the Working Group on Information and Communication Technologies is feasible and agreed upon the Terms of Reference for the Latter drafted by the Country-Coordinator in cooperation with the PERMIS. The Terms of Reference, as agreed upon by the Working Group, is attached as Annex V to the present Report.

13. The delegations addressed the Committee of Senior Officials with a recommendation to take the necessary actions for the said transformation and approval of the above mentioned Terms of Reference.

## **DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NATIONAL TELECOM SERVICES OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES**

14. The delegations continued deliberations on the main directions of cooperation between the BSEC Member States aimed at creation brightly efficient regional communication system which meets the economic, social and safety needs of the Black Sea countries and connects the communication infrastructure of the region to Trans-European telecommunications network through new projects linking the BSEC countries.

15. Particularly the delegations presented updated information on the recent developments in telecommunication sectors since the last Working Group Meeting, notably on improvements in administration, state regulatory policy, creation of competitive environment and trends of market numerical indicators.

16. For the sake of systematization of information related to the developments in the telecommunication sectors in the Member States, the participants agreed that respective data in accordance with the Matrix elaborated at the Working Group Meeting of 9-10 September 2004 would be forwarded to the PERMIS by 1 August 2005 and requested the Latter to make them accessible to the BSEC Member States (on reciprocal basis).

17. The delegations requested the Moldovan Chairmanship in cooperation with the Country-Coordinator and the PERMIS to review the Matrix for collecting data on ICT developments when the transformation of the Working Group would be accomplished.

## **PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT PROPOSALS**

18. In accordance with the established practice, the delegations presented for discussion their proposals on elaboration of multilateral projects in the BSEC framework.

19. In particular, the following presentations were made:

- The delegation of Turk Telekom (Republic of Turkey) informed about the new IP/MPLS backbone project and the new services provided by it, and also mentioned the existing backbone infrastructures as well as capabilities of these networks;
- JSC “Rostelecom” (Russian Federation) offered utilization of its telecommunication infrastructure to provide access to networks of Asian countries. The participants took note of this offer and advised national operators to consider it while rendering to their customers IFS, HCD, UIFM, ISDM services;
- FSUE “Space Communications” (Russian Federation) informed that the recently launched in accordance with the Federal Space Program for 2001-2005 four satellites of new “Express-AM” type covered the territory of the Black Sea region and offered communication channels to the operators of the BSEC Member States that advisably can be used for planning digital broadcasting as well as ICT development in such fields as e-government, e-commerce, e-educations, e-healthcare etc;
- JSC “Vitanet” (Russian Federation) presented a project proposal on development of mobile post services for remote and rural areas.

20. The participants welcomed endorsement by the Committee of Senior Officials and approval by the Steering Committee of the PDF of the project proposal submitted by the institutions of the Russian Federation (lead partner), Georgia and Ukraine titled “A System to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in BSEC Countries with Help of Infocommunication Technologies” upon the recommendation of the Working Group Meeting of 9-10 September 2004. The contract between the developer of the afore mentioned project proposal and the PERMIS was signed at the current Meeting.

21. The participants favored presentation by the delegation of the Russian Federation of a project proposal titled “Providing medical aid to population in the course of elimination of consequences of emergencies by mean of complex telemedicine system of emergency service” and, taking into account its suggested field of implementation, recommended it to be considered by the Working Group on Emergency Assistance.

22. The participants welcomed an offer of the BSEC Business Council to insert all the project information in its website [www.bsec-business.org](http://www.bsec-business.org), which is at this moment being completely restructured.

## **ACTIVITIES OF RCC AS THE BSEC SECTORAL DIALOGUE PARTNER**

23. The Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications (RCC), granted Sectoral Dialogue Partner status in the BSEC, was invited in accordance with the decision taken by the Committee of Senior Officials to present to the Working Group on Communications an overview of its relevant activities.

24. The delegations took note of the presentation made by the RCC representative and welcomed the proposals on joint actions, notably:

- to establish exchange of information on telecommunication infrastructure development; harmonizing of legislation, by-laws and regulations on telecommunication services; liberalization of the market for telecommunication services and information technologies; ICT implementation in e-government, e-commerce, e-education, e-healthcare etc.;
- to develop working contacts between the national administrations, regulatory bodies and market operators;
- to arrange exchange of better practices in application of market regulators.

25. They entrusted the PERMIS to reflect the overview of the RCC activities and its proposals in the Progress Report of the Secretary General to be presented at the next Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

26. The delegations took note of the information on the Moscow Conference on the Information Society (21-23 June 2005) presented by the delegation of the Russian Federation and invited the BSEC Member States to participate in it.

27. The participants agreed that a written summary of presentations (in English) made in accordance with the Agenda of the Meeting would be provided to the Working Group by the delegations.

28. Greece offers assistance and consulting with regard to funding on ICT projects in cooperation with the European Union.

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

29. The exact date and venue of the next meeting of the Working Group will be communicated to the Member States through BSEC PERMIS in due course.

### **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING**

30. The Working Group adopted the present report for submission to the Committee of Senior Officials and the Thirteenth Meeting of the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Chisinau in October 2005.