



Moscow, 17 October 2006

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

(Moscow, 16-17 October 2006)

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Information and Communication Technologies was held in Moscow on 16-17 October 2006.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Arkadiy SEDOV, Deputy Director, Department of State Programs, Infrastructure Development and Use of the Finite Resources, 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 Armenia
 - Republic of Azerbaijan
 - Republic of Bulgaria
 - Georgia
 - Hellenic Republic
 - Republic of Moldova
 - Romania
 - Russian Federation
 - Ukraine
4. The representatives of the Republic of Italy and the United States of America attended the Meeting in capacity of BSEC Observers.
5. The representative of the Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications (RCC) participated at the Meeting in its capacity of Sectoral Dialogue Partner.

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

DISCUSSION FOLLOWING THE RESULTS OF THE WORLD SUMMIT ON INFORMATION SOCIETY (WSIS) AND COOPERATION PROSPECTS IN THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

7. The Working Group recalled that the World Summit on the Information Society was held in two phases: in Geneva on 10-12 December 2003 and in Tunisia on 16-18 November 2005 and discussed on its outcome documents, namely, Geneva Declaration of Principles; Geneva Plan of Action; Tunis Commitment; Tunis Agenda for the Information Society.

8. Having discussed the recommendations of the World Summit, the Working Group stated that implementation mechanism in the BSEC framework should be organized taking into account the themes and action lines of the Plan of Action, notably: the role of public governance authorities and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development; information and communication infrastructure; access to information and knowledge; capacity building; building confidence and security in the use of ICT; secure environment; ICT applications: e-government; e-business; e-learning; e-health; e-employment; e-environment; e-agriculture; e-science; cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content; media; ethical dimension of the information society; international and regional cooperation;

9. The delegations presented their national experience on ICT applications and agreed that the Working Program of the Working Group for 2007 and the Action Plan for the term of the tenure of the next Country-Coordinator would reflect the priorities of building up the information society in the BSEC Member States.

10. The delegation of the Hellenic Republic informed of the forthcoming Internet Governance Forum (IGF) that would take place in Athens from 30 October till 2 November 2006 as an important follow-up of the World Summit on Information Society.

APPROVAL OF THE MATRIX OF ICT DEVELOPMENT IN THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

11. Given that the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs at its Meeting held in October 2005, transformed the Working Group on Communications into the Working Group on Information and Communication Technologies and approved its Terms of Reference, the delegations considered and approved the updated Matrix for systematization of information data related to the ICT developments in the Member States, incorporating the additions kindly elaborated and presented by the Country-Coordinator the Russian Federation and the RCC.

12. The Working Group agreed that the respective indicators of 2005 will be forwarded by the Member States by 1 January 2007 by e-mail to PERMIS and will be renewed on an annual basis.

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT MOU ON MULTILATERAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF POSTAL SERVICE

13. The delegations of the BSEC Member States discussed on the draft MoU on Multilateral Cooperation in the field of Postal Service, proposed by the Russian Federation. The delegations recommended to the participants of the Meeting of the Ministers Responsible for Information Technologies and Communications of the BSEC Member States to sign the MoU, as attached to the present Report (Annex II).

PRESENTATION OF PROPOSALS RELATING TO PROJECTS IN THE ICT FIELD OF INTEREST FOR BSEC MEMBERS STATES

14. Following the established practice, the delegations presented for discussion their proposals on participation of the interested institutions of the BSEC Member States in the development of projects of regional impact, namely:

- MTT representative submitted the proposal on the creation of the Joint Center for preventing grey traffic through common efforts to counteract fraud and presented respective international experience, including that of RCC;
- ROSTELECOM representative presented the new services to its customers, notably the international cable access, international freephone service, home country direct service, IP-based service, universal international direct numbers etc.;
- State Enterprise "Space Communication" informed of the new capabilities to develop state-of-art communications and broadcasting services in the BSEC Region.

15. The Member States were invited to present their comments on the above mentioned proposals by 1 January 2007 for their consideration at a next meeting.

16. The Working Group also considered presentation of the Representative of Public Limited Company "National Telemedicine Agency" on the following projects currently been under development: "Multifunctional Mobile Postal Complex", "System for Monitoring and Control of Epidemic Situation with the Use of Infocommunication Technologies", "Network of Telemedicine Support of Foreign Tourists", and recommended that the respective application forms, required by the PDF Regulations, be forwarded to PERMIS.

THE RCC ACTIVITIES AS A BSEC SECTORAL DIALOGUE PARTNER

17. The Working Group took note of the presentation by the Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications (RCC), granted Sectoral Dialogue Partnership status at the Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States held in October 2004 on its relevant activities and recommended to the BSEC Council to renew at its next Meeting the aforementioned status for another two-year term.

ELABORATION OF THE WORKING PROGRAM FOR 2007

18. The Working Group took note of the draft Working Program for 2007, presented by the Country-Coordinator, the Russian Federation, and agreed that it would be finalized on a basis of inputs to be forwarded by the Member States to BSEC PERMIS and disseminated by the Latter by

1 January 2007. The Working Program, as discussed by the Working Group, is attached as Annex III.

APPOINTMENT OF THE COUNTRY-COORDINATOR OF THE BSEC ICT WORKING GROUP

19. The delegations expressed their appreciation to the Country-Coordinator, the Russian Federation, for its contribution to BSEC activities in ICT field during its tenure, which comes to an end as of 1 November 2006.

20. The Working Group welcomed the willingness of Ukraine to be appointed a Country-Coordinator for the next two-year term and recommended to the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States to take relevant decision with this regard.

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT JOINT DECLARATION (FINAL DOCUMENT) OF THE MINISTERIAL MEETING

21. The draft Joint Declaration of Ministers in Charge of Information Technologies and Communications of the BSEC Member States, presented by the Russian Federation, was considered by the participants, agreed upon and recommended for adoption. The text of the document is attached as Annex IV.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

22. No issues were raised under this agenda item.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

23. The Participants expressed their high appreciation to the Ministry of Information Technologies and Communications of the Russian Federation for the warm hospitality extended to them in Moscow and the excellent arrangements of the Meeting.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

24. 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

25. The Working Group adopted the present report for submission to the Committee of Senior Officials and the Fifteenth Meeting of the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Moscow on 1 November 2006.