



**BS/IRGG/WG/R(2007)1**

**REPORT**  
**OF THE MEETING**  
**OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP**  
**ON INSTITUTIONAL RENEWAL AND GOOD GOVERNANCE**

**Istanbul, BSEC Headquarters, 26-27 March 2007**

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Institutional Renewal and Good Governance was held in Istanbul, at the BSEC Headquarters, on 26-27 March 2007.
2. The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Saša DINIĆ, Counselor, Directorate for Multilateral Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia and Mr. Panagiotis NTAIS, Director of Finance, Secretariat General of Public Administration and E-Government, Ministry of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization of the Hellenic Republic.
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 Serbia
  - Republic of Turkey
4. The representative of the International Center for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) also participated in the Meeting.
5. The representatives of the Black Sea NGOs Network participated in the Meeting as guests.

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

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

**EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON NATIONAL POLICIES AND ON THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN THE PROCESS OF REFORMING THE PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS AND OF IMPROVEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT CAPACITIES IN THE BSEC MEMBER STATES. PROPOSALS FOR STRENGTHENING OF COOPERATIVE ACTIONS AND JOINT PROGRAMS TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE FRAMEWORK OF BSEC, ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GOALS SET UP BY THE BSEC ECONOMIC AGENDA FOR THE FUTURE AND THE PROVISION STIPULATED IN THE JOINT DECLARATION ON INSTITUTIONAL RENEWAL AND GOOD GOVERNANCE (ATHENS, 21 FEBRUARY 2005)**

7. The delegations presented information, discussed and exchanged views on the progress achieved in the process of reforming the public institutions.

8. The priorities on institutional renewal and good governance, as well as the experience of some of the BSEC Member States in dealing with European integration were presented.

9. The Working Group assessed in a positive way the progress achieved so far with respect to the implementation of the goals set up by the BSEC Economic Agenda for the Future and of the provisions stipulated in the “Joint Declaration on Institutional Renewal and Good Governance of the Ministers in Charge of Public Administration and the Ministers of Justice of the BSEC Member States” (Athens, 21 February 2005) and called upon the BSEC Member States to continue the cooperation activities for reforming the public institutions.

10. The participants considered new proposals put forward by the Member States and agreed on the following cooperative activities to be undertaken for the further implementation of the BSEC documents:

- Examination of the institutional aspects of the SME’s function in the BSEC Member States, in cooperation with the BSEC Working Group on SME’s;
- Gradual establishment of a mechanism for exchange of experience and best practice among the BSEC Member States in matters concerning the control of public administration;
- Organization of an expert meeting in Istanbul, on issues related to the assessment of the public services, with the participation of experts of the European Union (European Institute of Public Administration - Maastricht).

**REVIEW OF THE PROGRESS AND ACCELERATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN FOR THE ACTIVITY OF THE WORKING GROUP ON INSTITUTIONAL RENEWAL AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:**

11. The representative of the Hellenic Republic informed the participants on the most recent developments and measures undertaken by the Country-Coordinator for the implementation of the Action Plan of the Working Group on Institutional Renewal and Good Governance for 2005-2007.

a) **PRESENTATION BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ICBSS OF THE INTEGRATED AND COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES AIMING AT REDESIGNING THE ENTITY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM IN THE BSEC MEMBER STATES.**

12. The Working Group took note of the study regarding the administrative procedures aiming at redesigning the entity responsible for the administrative reform in the BSEC Member States elaborated and presented by ICBSS and appreciated the work done.

13. The participants welcomed the conclusions and recommendations of the above-mentioned study and agreed to submit them to the forthcoming Meeting of Ministers in charge of Public Administration (Athens, 3 April 2007) for endorsement. The recommendations of the study are attached as Annex III.

b) **DISCUSSION ON THE GREEK PROPOSAL FOR THE EXAMINATION OF THE INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS OF THE SMALL – MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SME'S) FUNCTION IN THE BSEC MEMBER STATES IN COOPERATION WITH THE WORKING GROUP ON SME'S**

14. The Working Group agreed to undertake necessary steps for the implementation of the project aiming at examination of institutional and legal aspects of the SME's function in the BSEC Member States in cooperation with the BSEC Working Group on SME's. The aim is the materialization of a pilot project for the implementation of regulatory reform principles in the SME's field. For that purpose, it invited the Country-Coordinator in cooperation with PERMIS to coordinate the possible further actions on the matter and to report to the Committee of Senior Officials.

15. Furthermore, the Working Group requested the Committee of Senior Officials to authorize the joint implementation of the above mentioned project by the Working Group on Institutional Renewal and Good Governance and the Working Group on SME's.

c) **PRESENTATION BY THE GENERAL INSPECTOR OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONTENT AND THE ACTIONS' TIMETABLE OF THE NETWORK CONSISTING OF THE PUBLIC INSTITUTION IN CHARGE OF THE CONTROL OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION IN THE BSEC MEMBER STATES**

16. The Working Group took note in a positive manner of the presentation made by the General Inspector of Public Administration of the Hellenic Republic on the organization and function of the institution in charge of the control of public administration.

17. Furthermore, the participants welcomed the proposal made by the Hellenic Republic regarding the gradual establishment of a mechanism for exchange of experience and best practice among the BSEC Member States in matters concerning the control of public administration. It took note of the intention of the Hellenic Republic to organize two seminars (2008-2009) with the participation of representatives of the respective institution of the Member States and of a study indicating the common problems and proposals for effective action in this field.

18. The Working Group called upon the BSEC Member States to communicate to PERMIS information regarding the respective institution in charge of the control of public administration by the end of June 2007.

19. It was agreed that the concrete modalities regarding the functioning of the above-mentioned mechanisms would be discussed during the next meeting of the Working Group to be organized with the participation of the representatives of the institutions in charge of the control of public administration from the BSEC Member States.

**d) DISCUSSION ON THE GREEK PROPOSAL TO HAVE AN EXPERT MEETING IN ISTANBUL, ON ISSUES RELATED TO THE ASSESSMENT OF THE PUBLIC SERVICES, WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF EXPERTS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION)**

20. The participants agreed to have an expert meeting in Istanbul, on issues related to the assessment of the public services, with the participation of experts of the European Union (European Institute of Public Administration - Maastricht).

21. The Working Group called upon the Country-Coordinator and the next Chairmanship-in-Office to undertake the necessary measures for the organization of such a meeting, with the support of BSEC PERMIS.

**e) DISCUSSION ON THE PRELIMINARY EVALUATION REPORT BY THE COUNTRY - COORDINATOR OF THE WORKING GROUP**

22. The Working Group considered in a positive way the preliminary Evaluation Report of the Country-Coordinator regarding the activities carried out during its mandate (2005-2007), made amendments to it and agreed to submit it to the consideration of the Committee of Senior Officials. The final report, as adopted, is attached as Annex IV to this Report.

23. The Working Group appreciated the work done by the Hellenic Republic in its capacity of Country-Coordinator.

**PROPOSALS FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE WORKING GROUP'S FUNCTION, AS WELL AS FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF THE COUNTRY-COORDINATOR OF THE WORKING GROUP (MAY 2007 – APRIL 2009)**

24. The Working Group took note of the applications submitted by the Russian Federation, the Hellenic Republic and the Republic of Bulgaria for the appointment as the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group on Institutional Renewal and Good Governance (2007 – 2009). It also took note of the Draft Action Plan of the Hellenic Republic and of the presentation made by the Republic of Bulgaria regarding the proposed activities to be carried out by the Working Group, within the possible mandate of the Country-Coordinator to be entrusted by the next Meeting of the BSEC Council.

25. Furthermore, all the applicants expressed their willingness to continue the ongoing and planned activities to be carried out by the Working Group in the future.

**REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BSEC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WITH RESPECT TO THE COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF INSTITUTIONAL RENEWAL AND GOOD GOVERNANCE AND THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE JOINT DECLARATION ON INSTITUTIONAL RENEWAL AND GOOD GOVERNANCE (ATHENS, 21 FEBRUARY 2005)**

26. The Working Group considered, amended and adopted the Report on the implementation of the resolutions, decisions and recommendations of the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs with respect to the cooperation in the field of institutional renewal and good governance and the follow-up of the Joint Declaration on Institutional Renewal and Good Governance (Athens, 21 February 2005), to be submitted to the forthcoming Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Public Administration (Athens, 3 April 2007) for endorsement. The Report as adopted is attached as Annex V.

**DRAFT JOINT MINISTERIAL DECLARATION**

27. The Participants considered the Draft Joint Declaration to be adopted at the Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Public Administration of the BSEC Member States proposed by the Hellenic Republic, the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group. They agreed on the Final Draft of the said Joint Declaration and decided to submit it to the Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Public Administration of the BSEC Member States to be held in Athens on 3 April 2007 for adoption. The Final Draft is attached as Annex VI to the Report.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

28. The Working Group took note of the presentation made by the representatives of the Black Sea NGOs Network regarding the establishment of “dialogue and partnership” relations between BSEC and BSNGON and advised it to apply formally, according to the BSEC statutory documents, so that the procedure provided for is started.

29. Furthermore, the participants agreed to invite the representatives of the BSNGON to participate in its future meetings, on an ad hoc basis.

**ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING**

30. The Working Group adopted the present Report for submission to the Sixteenth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States to be held in Belgrade, on 19 April 2007.