



BS/IRGG/WG/R(2007)2

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

**(With the participation of the representatives of the institutions in charge of the control of
the public administration)**

Istanbul, BSEC Headquarters, 5-6 October 2007

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Institutional Renewal and Good Governance was held in Istanbul, at the BSEC Headquarters, on 5-6 October 2007.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Antonios PSARAKIS, Secretariat General of Public Administration and E-Government, Ministry of Interior of the Hellenic Republic.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:
 - Republic of Armenia
 - Republic of Azerbaijan
 - Hellenic Republic
 - Romania
 - Russian Federation
 - Republic of Serbia
 - Republic of Turkey
 - Ukraine
4. The representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of BSEC and the International Center for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) also participated in the Meeting, as Related Bodies.
5. The representative of the French Republic participated in the Meeting as Observer.

The list of participants 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.

DISCUSSION AND ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT ACTION PLAN SUBMITTED BY THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC IN ITS CAPACITY OF THE COUNTRY COORDINATOR OF THE WORKING GROUP ON INSTITUTIONAL RENEWAL AND GOOD GOVERNANCE (MAY 2007 – APRIL 2009)

7. The Working Group discussed on the Draft Action Plan for 2007-2009, submitted by the Hellenic Republic as the Country-Coordinator.

8. Following the discussion, the Draft Action Plan was amended and agreed by the Working Group, and recommended for implementation within the framework of the Coordinatorship of the Hellenic Republic. The Action Plan, as agreed by the Working Group, is attached as Annex III of the present Report. On the basis of the Action Plan the BSEC Member States may present further proposals.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISIONS OF THE 16TH BSEC COUNCIL (BELGRADE, 19 APRIL 2007):

A) EXAMINATION OF THE INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS OF THE SMEs FUNCTION IN THE BSEC MEMBER STATES, IN COOPERATION WITH THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON SMEs. PRESENTATION BY THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC OF THE PROPOSAL FOR THE PLANNING AND MATERIALIZATION OF A PILOT PROJECT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REGULATORY REFORM PRINCIPLES, IN THE TOPIC OF THE FACILITATION OF BUSINESS ACTION IN THE AREA OF SMEs, FOLLOWED BY DISCUSSION AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE TWO WORKING GROUPS

9. According to the decision of the BSEC Council (Belgrade, 19 April 2007) and the instructions of the Committee of Senior Officials (Belgrade, 17-18 April 2007) a joint session of the Working Group on Institutional Renewal and Good Governance and of the Working Group on SMEs was held.

10. The participants welcomed the presentation made by the Hellenic Republic, the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group on Institutional Renewal and Good Governance, regarding the pilot project for the implementation of the regulatory reform principles in the topic of the facilitation of business action in the area of SMEs, proposed to be jointly implemented by the two BSEC Working Groups. The said presentation is attached as Annex IV.

11. The delegations participating in the two Working Groups discussed on the modalities of the implementation of the project and took note of the proposed timetable:

- The Hellenic Republic shall transmit to the Member States via PERMIS an invitation for the participation in the project with the specification of all necessary technical requirements by 26 October 2007;
- The Member States shall confirm their intention/interest to participate in the project by 20 December 2007.

12. Furthermore, the two Working Groups agreed to continue deliberations on this topic at their next meetings and requested PERMIS to ensure coordination between the two Working Groups.

B) PRESENTATION BY THE COUNTRY-COORDINATOR OF THE RESEARCH RESULTS REGARDING THE DEFINITION OF THE PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN CHARGE OF THE CONTROL OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION IN THE BSEC MEMBER STATES. DISCUSSION ON THE MODALITIES OF FUNCTIONING OF THE MECHANISM FOR EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE AND BEST PRACTICES IN MATTERS CONCERNING THE CONTROL OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, TO BE GRADUALLY ESTABLISHED AMONG THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

13. Following the approval of the BSEC Council (Belgrade, 19 April 2007) of the gradual establishment of a Mechanism for exchange of experience and best practices among the BSEC Member States in matters concerning the control of public administration, the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group on Institutional Renewal and Good Governance presented the research results regarding the definition of the public institutions in charge of the control of public administration in the BSEC Member States.

14. Having in mind that so far only Romania communicated to PERMIS the relevant information regarding the institutions in charge of the control of public administration, the Working Group agreed to communicate the requested information, latest by 20 December 2007.

15. Furthermore, the participants welcomed the Greek proposal regarding the organization of two seminars (Athens, 2008-2009) with an aim of discussing and identifying the common issues and of exploring the modalities of functioning of the mechanism for exchange of experience and best practices in matters concerning the control of public administration among the BSEC Member States.

REPORT ON THE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELD OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM THAT TAKE PLACE IN THE FRAMEWORK OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS O.E.C.D. AND THE E.U. DISCUSSION ON THE PERSPECTIVES OF COOPERATION WITH THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION/COMMON ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK (CAF) RESOURCE CENTRE, ON ISSUES RELATED TO THE EVALUATION OF THE PUBLIC SERVICES AND WITH THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (UNDP)/BRATISLAVA REGIONAL CENTRE/REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION REFORM (CPAR), ON ISSUES RELATED TO POLICY MAKING AND COORDINATION

16. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the Hellenic Delegation on the developments in the field of public administration and administrative reform, with respect to the three primary public administration topics discussed at the EU level: 1) Human Resources; 2) e-Government; 3) Quality and Innovation.

17. Furthermore, the participants welcomed the proposals of the Hellenic Republic to enhance practical cooperation with the European Institute of Public Administration/Common Assessment Framework (CAF) Resource Centre, on issues related to the evaluation of the public services and with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP)/Bratislava Regional Centre/Regional Centre for Public Administration Reform (CPAR), on issues related to policy making and coordination.

18. The Working Group authorized the Country-Coordinator to continue discussions with the above-mentioned institutions, in order to agree on concrete ways of cooperation, (such as workshops, study tours, training seminars and publications) and to seek for possible financing sources for these events.

PRESENTATION BY THE COUNTRY-COORDINATOR OF THE WAYS WHICH WILL BE USED FOR THE EXPLORING OF THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK THAT REGULATES THE CIVIL SERVANTS' EXCHANGE AMONG THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

19. The participants took note of the proposals made by the Hellenic Republic on the ways to be used for the implementation of the project regarding the exploration of the legal framework that regulates the civil servants exchange among the BSEC Member States, with an aim of identifying possibilities to initiate the exchange of public servants among the BSEC Member States, in the future.

20. The Working Group appreciated the Questionnaire proposed by the Country Coordinator for the communication of relevant information and agreed to transmit to PERMIS the requested information by 20 December 2007. The Questionnaire is attached as Annex V.

21. The Working Group agreed to continue discussing the topic at its next Meeting.

SEMINAR ON BETTER REGULATION, REGULATORY IMPACT ASSESSMENT, SIMPLIFICATION AND REDUCING RED – TAPE (ISTANBUL, 24-25 MAY 2007) – PRESENTATION BY THE CHAIRMANSHIP-IN-OFFICE

22. The Working Group took note of the presentation made by the delegation of the Republic of Turkey on the Seminar on Better Regulation, Regulatory Impact Assessment, Simplification and Reducing Red-Tape (Istanbul, 24-25 May 2007), welcoming the initiative undertaken by the Turkish Chairmanship. Furthermore, the participants appreciated the contribution of the said Seminar to the further deepening of the BSEC cooperation in this important field and recommended to the Member States to organize more similar events, in the future.

REVIEW AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON NATIONAL POLICIES ON THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED AND ON BEST PRACTICES IN THE PROCESS OF REFORMING THE PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS AND OF IMPROVEMENT THE GOVERNMENT CAPACITIES IN THE BSEC MEMBER STATES. PROPOSALS FOR STRENGTHENING OF COOPERATIVE ACTIONS AND JOINT PROGRAMS TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE BSEC FRAMEWORK, ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GOALS SET UP BY THE BSEC ECONOMIC AGENDA FOR THE FUTURE AND THE PROVISIONS STIPULATED IN THE JOINT DECLARATION ON INSTITUTIONAL RENEWAL AND GOOD GOVERNANCE OF THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES (ATHENS, 3 APRIL 2007)

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

24. The priorities on institutional renewal and good governance, as well as the experience of some of the BSEC Member States in the reform of the public administration were emphasized.

25. 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 of the BSEC Member States” (Athens, 3 April 2007) and called upon the BSEC Member States to continue implementation of the projects endorsed by the Ministers.

26. The participants shared the view that the approved Action Plan shall substantially contribute to the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

27. The Working Group expressed its appreciation and thanks to Mrs. Stefana GREAVU, Executive Manager of BSEC PERMIS, whose term-in-office is expiring in October 2007, for her valuable contribution to the activities of the Working Group.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

28. The 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

29. The Working Group adopted the present Report for submission to the Seventeenth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States to be held in Ankara, on 25 October 2007.
