



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

Istanbul, BSEC Headquarters, 27-28 March 2008

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Institutional Renewal and Good Governance was held in Istanbul, at the BSEC Headquarters, on 27-28 March 2008.

2. The Meeting was co-chaired by Ms. Olha BOHONSKA, Vice-Consul, Consulate General of Ukraine in Istanbul, and Mr. Antonis PSARAKIS, General Secretariat of Public Administration and E-Governance, 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
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Serbia
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine

4. The representative of Business Council participated in the Meeting, as a Related Body.

5. The representatives of UNDP participated in the Meeting as Guests.

The list of participants 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.

**REPORT OF THE COUNTRY-COORDINATOR ON THE DEVELOPMENTS IN
THE FIELD OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE
REFORM IN THE FRAMEWORK OF INTERNATIONAL AND EUROPEAN
ORGANIZATIONS**

7. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the Country-Coordinator 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.

8. Furthermore, the participants welcomed the proposal of the Hellenic Republic to enhance practical cooperation 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.

9. The Working Group authorized the Country-Coordinator to continue discussions with the above-mentioned institution, 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.

CONSIDERATION OF REALIZATION OF THE PILOT PROJECT, PRESENTED BY THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC, FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF BETTER REGULATION IN THE SMEs POLICY FIELD FOR “ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND FIRM CREATION”

10. The Country-Coordinator presented the detailed description of the Pilot project on the Implementation of Better Regulation Principles on SMEs’ Start-ups, attached as Annex III.

11. The Working Group took into consideration that four Member States – Azerbaijan, Moldova, Romania and Turkey, had confirmed their intention to participate in the project within the respective time limit. The Group agreed that the afore-named countries would be the participants of the project and for quick communication performance the parties involved should contact directly with the project coordination team of the Hellenic Ministry of Interior.

12. The Working Group agreed that the Country-Coordinator should send an initial document to the four above mentioned participating countries for the project to be launched by 20 April 2008.

13. The Working Group recommended that in order for all Member States to benefit appropriately from the project, an intermediate report on project’s implementation shall be prepared by the Country-Coordinator to be considered at the joint meeting of the Working Group on Institutional Renewal and Good Governance and the Working Group on SME’s to be organized during the next Chairmanship.

PRESENTATION BY THE COUNTRY-COORDINATOR OF THE UPDATED RESULTS REGARDING THE DEFINITION OF THE PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN CHARGE OF THE CONTROL OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION IN THE BSEC MEMBER STATES. DISCUSSION ON THE PROSPECTS OF ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNCTIONING OF THE MECHANISM FOR EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE AND BEST PRACTICES IN MATTERS CONCERNING THE CONTROL OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AMONG THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

14. The Working Group took note that, so far, only three countries, namely Romania, the Republic of Turkey and the Republic of Serbia, had transmitted information regarding the institutions in charge of the control of public administration.

15. It was recalled that at the previous meeting of the Working Group (Istanbul, 5-6 October 2008) the Hellenic Republic proposed to organize two seminars in Athens in 2008-2009 with an aim of discussing and identifying the common issues and 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.

16. For the purpose to proceed with the project on gradual establishment of a mechanism for exchange of experience and best practices in matters concerning the control of public administration and to promote the preparation process of the above-said events the Working Group agreed to communicate the requested information to PERMIS, latest by 31 May 2008.

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

DISCUSSION ON THE POSSIBLE FURTHER STEPS FOR THE RECORDING OF THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK THAT REGULATES THE CIVIL SERVANTS' EXCHANGE AMONG THE BSEC MEMBER STATES, BASED ON THE BSEC STATES' CONTRIBUTIONS

18. The Working Group took note that so far only Romania, the Republic of Turkey and the Republic of Serbia communicated to PERMIS the relevant information regarding their legal framework that regulates the civil servants' exchange.

19. With the aim to identify possibilities for initiation of the exchange of public servants among the BSEC Member States the Working Group agreed to communicate the requested information, latest by 31 May 2008.

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

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 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

21. The delegations of the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Serbia and Ukraine presented updated information. The Working Group discussed and exchanged views on the progress achieved in the process of reforming the public institutions in the BSEC Member States.

22. 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.

23. 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 agreed to continue the practice of information exchange on national policies in the process of improvement the government capacities in the BSEC Member States.

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND THE PROVISIONS OF THE JOINT STATEMENT ADOPTED BY THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

24. The Country-Coordinator presented the draft Report on the Implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the Council and Follow-up of the Joint Declaration adopted by the Ministers in charge of Public Administration for the period October 2007 – March 2008.

25. The Working Group discussed and amended the report and agreed to transmit it as a contribution to the Progress Report of the Secretary General of BSEC PERMIS to be submitted to the BSEC Council. The Report, as agreed, is attached as Annex IV .

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) **Exchange of views regarding the outcome of the seminar “Better Regulation: Regulatory Impact Analysis, Simplification and Reducing Red-tape (Istanbul 24-25 May 2007)**

26. Following recommendation of the 17th Meeting of the BSEC Council (Ankara, October 2007) the Working Group reviewed the outcome of the Seminar on “Better Regulation: Regulatory Impact Analysis, Simplification and Reducing Red-tape” (Istanbul, 24-25 May 2007) and agreed to include in the agenda of the next meeting the issue of better regulation.

27. The Republic of Turkey expressed its readiness to present concrete information and relevant documentation on the topic prior to the next meeting 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 Committee of Senior Officials to be held in Kyiv on 15-16 April 2008.