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

Istanbul, BSEC Headquarters, 29-30 October 2008

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Institutional Renewal and Good Governance was held in Istanbul, at the BSEC Headquarters, on 29-30 October 2008.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Antonis PSARAKIS, General Secretariat of Public Administration and E-Governance, Ministry of Interior of the Hellenic Republic, in the capacity of the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Republic of Bulgaria
Hellenic Republic
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Serbia
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine

The list of participants is attached as Annex I.

4. The draft agenda of the Meeting was discussed 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

5. The Working Group took note of the report on the latest evolutions regarding administrative reform in EU provided by the Country-Coordinator. The report is attached as Annex III.

6. The Country-Coordinator informed the participants on the progress achieved so far in developing interaction with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP)/Bratislava Regional Center/Regional Center for Public Administration Reform (RCPAR).

PRESENTATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS OF THE PILOT PROJECT OF BETTER REGULATION IN THE SMEs POLICY FIELD FOR “ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND FIRM CREATION”

7. The participants took note of the reports, presented by the Country-Coordinator and Romania as project partner on the implementation progress of the Pilot project, including its background history and current phase description. The reports are attached as Annex IV.

8. The Working Group exchanged the views on further course of the project and agreed to consider the outcomes of its next phases at the next meeting.

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL AND THE PROVISIONS OF THE JOINT DECLARATION ADOPTED BY THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES (ATHENS, 3 APRIL 2007) AND THE REPORT OF THE COUNTRY-COORDINATOR (THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC) ON PROGRESS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN OF THE WORKING GROUP FOR 2007-2009

9. PERMIS and the Country-Coordinator informed the participants on the implementation status of the latest decisions of the BSEC Council and on the progress implementation of the Action Plan of the Working Group for 2007-2009.

10. The Working Group took note that so far, only four Member States (Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Turkey) had transmitted the information on the institutions in charge of the control of public administration and eight Member States (Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine) on the existing legal framework regulating the civil servants' exchange among the BSEC Member States.

11. In view of the necessity to proceed with both issues, the Working Group urged the Member States, which had not conveyed the requested information yet, to do so latest by 15 January 2009 with the aim to prepare discussion of the above mentioned issues at the next Meeting of the Working Group. The Member States were also invited to communicate the updated information if available.

12. The Country-Coordinator notified that information on dates and venue of the seminars anticipated in the Action Plan of the Group would be provided by the end of this year.

DISCUSSION AND EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON BETTER REGULATION ISSUES (REGULATORY IMPACT ANALYSIS (RIA), SIMPLIFICATION AND REDUCING RED-TAPE)

13. The participants took note of the presentations made by the Hellenic Republic on Better Regulation Policy in Greece and by the Republic of Turkey on Introduction of Regulatory Impact Analysis into the Turkish Legislation and Devolution of Power and Administrative Simplification. The presentations are attached as Annex V.

14. The Working Group agreed to incorporate into its Agenda the issues of better regulation on a regular basis and invited the Member States to undertake new initiatives in the better regulation policies and to provide the relevant information at each 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

15. The delegations of the Hellenic Republic and Ukraine presented updated information on the recent developments in the public administration reforms in their countries. The presentations are attached as Annex VI.

16. The participants discussed and exchanged views on the progress achieved in the process of reforming the public institutions in the BSEC Member States.

17. The Working Group appreciated the established practice of information exchange on national policies and experience in the process of the government capacities improvement in the BSEC Member States, taking into account the importance of institutional renewal and good governance issues.

CONSIDERATION OF THE APPLICATIONS FOR THE NEXT TERM-IN-OFFICE OF THE COUNTRY-COORDINATOR OF THE WORKING GROUP

18. The participants discussed the applications submitted by the Republic of Bulgaria and Ukraine for assuming the mandate of the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group for the next Term-in-Office (2009-2011).

19. The candidates were invited to present for consideration at the next Meeting of the Working Group their vision of indicative activities of the Group.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

20. The Working Group supported the proposal by the Country-Coordinator to consider at its next Meeting the issue of uploading additional information, provided by the BSEC

Member States at the regular Meetings of the Group, on the BSEC web-site. The Group also requested PERMIS to inform it on the technical feasibility of the said proposal.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

21. 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

22. The Working Group adopted the present Report for submission to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials.
