

**WORKSHOP
on
INSTITUTIONAL RENEWAL AND GOOD GOVERNANCE
IN THE BSEC COUNTRIES
(Athens, Hellenic Republic, 9-10 February 2005)**

1. The Workshop titled “Institutional Renewal and Good Governance in the BSEC Countries” was held in Athens, Hellenic Republic, on 9-10 February 2005. It was organized as a concluding event in a series of four workshops, by the International Center for Black Sea Studies and the National Center for Public Administration & Local Government, with the support of the BSEC PERMIS. The Workshop took place in the framework of the Chairman-in-Office under the auspices of the Ministry of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization and the Ministry of Justice of the Hellenic Republic.

2. H.E. Mr. Evripidis STYLIANIDIS, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic, Chairmanship-in-Office of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation delivered a welcoming address.

Opening statements were delivered by H.E. Apostolos ANDREOULAKOS, Deputy Minister of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization of the Hellenic Republic; Mr. Panagiotis PANOURIS, Secretary General, Ministry of Justice of the Hellenic Republic; Professor Thanos VEREMIS, Director General, International Center for Black Sea Studies; and Ms. Stefana GREAVU, Executive Manager, Permanent International Secretariat of the BSEC.

3. The Workshop was co-chaired in rotation by Ambassador Georgios COSTOULAS, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic; Professor Thanos VEREMIS, Director General, ICBSS; Mr. Georgios VOUTSINOS, Secretary General of the National Center for Public Administration and Local Government, Hellenic Republic; Mr. Giorgios PANAGIOTOPOULOS, Director General of the Judiciary College and Vice-President of the Council of the State, Hellenic Republic; Mr. Dimitris ARGYRIADES, Expert, United Nations; and Mr. Nikos MICHALOPOULOS, Special Advisor of the Minister of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization of the Hellenic Republic.

4. The Workshop was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:

- Republic of Albania
- Republic of Armenia
- Republic of Azerbaijan
- Bulgaria
- Georgia
- Hellenic Republic
- Republic of Moldova
- Romania
- Russian Federation
- Serbia and Montenegro
- Republic of Turkey
- Ukraine

5. Lead speakers included:

- Mr. Derry ORMOND, Expert, former Director of Public Managements Programs of the OECD, Member of the Board of Directors of the ICBSS
- Mr. Nikos VARELIDIS, Expert, ICBSS Associate
- Mr. Nikos MICHALOPOULOS, Member of the Innovation Public Services Group (IPSG) of the European Union
- Mr. Panagiotis KARKATSOULIS, Member of the Better Regulation Group of the European Union
- Mr. Panagiotis PIKRAMENOS, Judge at the Council of the State of the Hellenic Republic
- Mr. Thomas LJUNGUIST, DG on Justice, Freedom and Security, Head of Unit D3 “Criminal Justice” European Commission
- Mr. Spiridon FLOGAITIS, Professor of Public Law, University of Athens
- Ms. Maria GAVOUNELI, Lecturer at the University of Athens, Chairperson of the Committee of Experts of Transnational Criminal Justice (PC-TJ) of the Council of Europe
- Mr. Panos LIVERAKOS, Technical advisor of the UN Center for Public Service Professionalism.

6. The first day of the Workshop focused on topics related to Institutional Renewal and Good Governance improvements in the BSEC countries. The program included presentations by experts as well as by all national delegations. During the second day of the Workshop the Draft *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* has been discussed and agreed.

7. The list of participants is attached as Annex 1 and the Program of the Workshop is attached as Annex 2.

8. The presentations delivered at the Workshop and the debates emphasized the following main points:

- The 4th workshop successfully concluded the current program of workshops on the subject of good governance and institutional renewal. It achieved the objectives set by the BSEC and set the stage of the continuation of this initiative in the future. The workshop focused on the following key themes: strengthening international relations capacities in the BSEC countries; European practices for good governance and institutional renewal; capacity building and good governance at global level.
- The ICBSS rapporteurs of the four workshops program presented the conclusions of the series of workshops on “Getting Act Together: Strengthening International Relations Capacities in the BSEC Countries”, which were organized by the ICBSS and the BSEC PERMIS, with the support of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. The report summarized the lessons learned so far and the implications for the institutional renewal and good governance improvement reform.
- The overall assessment has been followed by country presentations on the experience of the BSEC Member States in conducting international relations and in dealing with European integrations, as well as their priorities on institutional renewal and good governance. Proposals on the future steps towards cooperative actions on governance improvement by the BSEC Member States have been made. The proposal of establishing of a permanent BSEC Working Group on good governance has been strongly supported by the delegations.
- The keynote presentations stimulated extensive discussions among participants. There was agreement among participants that the series of workshops have been successfully in introducing systematically the subject of institutional renewal and good governance in the policy Agenda of BSEC Member States. The participants agreed that the collaborative work aiming at implementing the goals set up by the BSEC Economic Agenda for the Future in the field of institutional renewal and governance at should continue.
- The participants considered the Draft Joint Declaration proposed by the Hellenic Chairmanship. They agreed on the final draft of the said Joint declaration and decided to submit it to the First Meeting of the Ministers of Public Administration and Justice of the BSEC Member States for adoption. The Draft Joint Declaration is attached as Annex 3 to the Summary Proceedings.

9. The participants expressed their sincere appreciation and thanks to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization, Ministry of Justice of the Hellenic Republic, the National Center for Public Administration & Local Government, the ICBSS and the BSEC PERMIS for their substantial contribution in organizing the Workshop.