



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

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REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON SMEs

Istanbul, BSEC Headquarters, 21-22 November 2012

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group (WG) on SMEs was held in Istanbul, at the BSEC Headquarters, on 21-22 November 2012.
2. The following BSEC Member States attended the Meeting:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Republic of Bulgaria
Hellenic Republic
Romania
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine
3. The following BSEC Observer attended the Meeting:

Arab Republic of Egypt
4. The following BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partner also participated in the Meeting:

International Network for Small and Medium Enterprises (INSME)
5. The following Guests attended the Meeting:

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Black Sea Trade and Investment Promotion Programme (BSTIP)

The List of Participants is attached as Annex I.

6. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Ömer PAK, Head of Department, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organization (KOSGEB) of the Republic of Turkey.

7. The Draft Agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The Agenda, as adopted by the Working Group, is attached as Annex II.

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS RELATED TO SMEs

8. The WG took note of the information provided by BSEC PERMIS on the status of implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the Council.

9. The WG invited those Member States who have not yet appointed their representatives to the WG, to do so, as soon as possible.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE “BSEC ECONOMIC AGENDA: TOWARDS AN ENHANCED BSEC PARTNERSHIP”

10. The BSEC PERMIS representative informed on the “BSEC Economic Agenda: Towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership” adopted by the BSEC Council in Belgrade, on 11 June 2012, as an important document which provides a comprehensive vision for the role and strategy of the BSEC in short and medium terms. He made particular reference to Goal 9: Support for the Sustainable Development of the SME Sector and the “Working Groups’ Programme Implementation and Impact Survey” and the “Medium-Term (2013-2015) Orientation Survey”, communicated to the Member States.

11. In this regard, the WG decided on the following:

- to call upon the relevant authorities of the Member States to send their replies on the Surveys as soon as possible;

- to invite the Country-Coordinator to make proposals for updating the Terms of Reference and the Plan of Action of the Group, if necessary, on the basis of the outcome of the Surveys and the goals of the BSEC Economic Agenda.

COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

12. The Secretary General of INSME made a presentation of the activities of INSME and the areas of interest for cooperation with BSEC. Particular reference was made to the upcoming 9th INSME Annual Meeting that will take place at Izmir, Turkey from 21st to 24th of May 2013. The presentation is attached as Annex III.

13. The representatives of the UNDP Black Sea Trade and Investment Promotion Programme (BSTIP) presented an overview of the current activities and results achieved and highlighted the possibilities of strengthening the collaboration between BSTIP Climate and Business Initiative and the BSEC Working Group on SMEs. Furthermore, the representative of

BSTIP Program presented information on the project entitled “Introducing Climate Change in the Environmental Strategy of the Protection for the Black Sea”. The presentations are attached as Annex IV.

14. The participants took note of the presentations and expressed interest in the development of cooperation of BSEC Organization with INSME and UNDP/BSTIP. The WG instructed the BSEC PERMIS to continue the working contacts with the secretariats of these organizations and to explore the possibilities for developing the collaboration between the BSEC Organization and other regional and international organizations.

EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE OUTCOME OF THE WORKSHOP ON INFORMATION SHARING ON PROMOTION OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN SMEs (ISTANBUL, BSEC HEADQUARTERS, 21 NOVEMBER 2012)

15. The Workshop on Information Sharing on Promotion of Energy Efficiency in SMEs was held in Istanbul on 21 November 2012, as a sub-event of the BSEC Working Group on SMEs.

16. The representative of the Turkish Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organization (KOSGEB) made a presentation and briefed the WG about the “Turkish SMEs, KOSGEB, Energy Efficiency and Related KOSGEB Studies” as an exchange of knowledge and experience.

17. The representative of the Ministry of Environment and Urbanisation of the Republic of Turkey presented the energy efficiency practices in Turkey in the building sector. After a brief introduction, relevant information regarding energy efficiency in the building sector was given. In addition, projects which were conducted by the above-mentioned Ministry were summarized.

18. The representative of the Technology Development Foundation of the Republic of Turkey (TTGV) presented to the participants the energy efficiency activities and support approach of the TTGV. After a brief introduction about the TTGV, technology development and environmental projects supports, such as environmental technologies, energy efficiency and renewable energy were explained in detail.

19. The representative of the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of the Republic of Turkey made a presentation on the recent energy efficiency policies and implementation in Turkey. The presentation included the energy service, energy efficiency law, main policies, implementation and future plans.

The above-mentioned presentations made by the Delegation of the Republic of Turkey are attached as Annex V.

20. The WG expressed its appreciation to the Republic of Turkey for the initiative to organize this Workshop and decided to submit to the Committee of Senior Officials the following draft decision:

“The Council took note of Proceedings of the Workshop on Information Sharing on Promotion of Energy Efficiency in SMEs held in Istanbul on 21 November 2012 and stressed the importance of the exchange of experiences regarding the support of SMEs development in the BSEC Member States.”

PREPARATION OF AN ELECTRONIC BEST PRACTICE BOOKLET RELATED TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN SMEs

21. The Republic of Turkey proposed a draft template of the electronic “Best Practices Booklet” which would collect best practices of the BSEC Member States in promoting energy efficiency on SMEs. The draft template is attached as Annex VI.

22. The participants exchanged views on the proposed draft template and agreed that the Republic of Turkey would finalize the template taking into account the opinions and suggestions of the Member States made during the meeting and those that would be provided at a later stage. To this effect, the WG invited the Member States to convey their proposals regarding the content of the template not later than 1 February 2013.

CONSIDERATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BSEC-KAS WORKSHOP ON “INNOVATIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR SMEs” (TBILISI, 12-14 SEPTEMBER 2012)

23. The WG considered the outcomes of the Workshop on “Innovative Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Development for SMEs” held in Tbilisi, Georgia, on 12-14 September 2012, jointly organized by the BSEC PERMIS and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (Foundation) (KAS) in Turkey.

24. The WG stressed the importance of the recommendations of the Workshop for the support of SME development and invited the Member States to take them into consideration in the elaboration and implementation of their SME policies.

25. The WG proposed to the Committee of Senior Officials the following draft decision:

“The Council took note of the Summary Proceedings of the BSEC-KAS Workshop on “Innovative Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Development for SMEs” (Tbilisi, 12-14 September 2012) and:

- expressed its appreciation to the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (Foundation) (KAS) for providing its continued support to the development of the SMEs in the BSEC Region;*
- invited the Member States to take into consideration the recommendations of the Workshop in elaboration and implementation of their policies regarding the development of the SME sector.”*

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BSEC PUBLIC COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

26. The WG took note of information provided by the BSEC PERMIS representative regarding the newly adopted BSEC Public Communication Strategy and the outcome of the Meeting of the Communication Officers held in Istanbul on 15 October 2012.

27. The BSEC PERMIS informed the participants that the text of the BSEC Public Communication Strategy has been added to the new Manual prepared by the PERMIS for the Country-Coordination of the Working Groups.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

28. No issue was raised under this agenda item.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

29. The exact date and venue of the next meeting of the WG on SMEs will be communicated by PERMIS to the Member States at a later stage.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

30. The WG adopted the present Report for its submission to the Committee of Senior Officials and the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs for their consideration.
