



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

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REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Istanbul, BSEC Headquarters, 6-7 November 2012

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology (WGCST) was held in Istanbul, at the BSEC Headquarters, on 6-7 November 2012.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Ambassador Bozkurt ARAN, National Coordinator of the Turkish Chairmanship-in Office; Director of Center for Multilateral Trade Studies, Economic Policy Research Foundation of the Republic of Turkey (TEPAV).
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Republic of Bulgaria
Georgia
Hellenic Republic
Republic of Moldova
Russian Federation
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine
4. The representative of the ICBSS attended the Meeting as BSEC Related Body.
5. The representatives of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the United States of America and the European Commission attended the Meeting as BSEC Observers.

The list of participants of the Meeting 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**.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BSEC COUNCIL, AND THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE DECLARATIONS AND JOINT STATEMENTS ADOPTED BY THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

7. The BSEC PERMIS representative informed on the ways and dynamics of the implementation of the Resolution of the 15th BSEC Council (Moscow, 1 November 2006) with reference to the activities of the Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology relative to the implementation of the BSEC Council Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations, since the last Meeting of the Working Group (Istanbul, 28 May 2012).

8. The participants acknowledged the information on the issue provided by the BSEC PERMIS and expressed the willingness to proceed more actively in order to secure the necessary dynamics of the implementation of the Council Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations.

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

9. 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 a strategic document for guiding the cooperation in the BSEC framework in the years to come. He made particular reference to Goal 11 “Strengthening Regional Cooperation in Scientific Research and Technology”, the “Working Groups’ Programme Implementation and Impact Survey” and the “Medium-Term (2013-2015) Orientation Survey”. The text of the Surveys is attached as **Annex III**.

10. The Working Group decided on the following:

- to call upon the relevant authorities of the Member States to send their replies on the Surveys by 16 November 2012 at the latest;

- to consider updating the existing Terms of Reference and the Plan of Action (2012-2014) on the basis of the outcome of the Survey and the goals of the BSEC Economic Agenda.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BSEC PUBLIC COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

11. The Working Group 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.

12. The 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-Coordinators of the Working Groups.

13. The Working Group decided to elaborate its contribution to the implementation of the BSEC Public Communication Strategy.

CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR 2012-2014.

14. The Working Group considered the draft Plan of Action of the Working Group for a period 1 July 2012 – 30 June 2014, presented by the delegation of the Republic of Turkey as Country-Coordinator of the Working Group, attached as **Annex IV**.

15. The Working Group invited the Member States to communicate their comments/views on the draft Plan of Action through the BSEC PERMIS by 20 December 2012. Upon receiving the comments/views, the Country Coordinator should prepare a revised text which will be proposed for adoption through the “silence procedure”.

PREPARATION OF THE MEETING OF THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

16. The Working Group took note of the information by the delegation of the Republic of Turkey that the Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Science and Technology of the BSEC Member States, scheduled for 8 November 2012, was postponed.

17. The participants stressed the importance of organizing a Mid-term Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Science and Technology of the BSEC Member States, to review progress in the implementation of the second BSEC Action Plan (2010-2014), in conformity with the Ministerial Declaration (Sofia, 9 April 2010).

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND (PDF)

18. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS representative on the latest developments within the framework of the PDF, as well as the current financial situation in the Fund.

19. The Member States are invited to continue applying for PDF funding as well as to financially support through their voluntary contributions the Project Development Fund.

MEMORANDUM OF INTENT ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY BSEC-USA

20. The participants took note of the information on the latest developments concerning the implementation of the MoI, including the working visit of the Secretary General of BSEC PERMIS to the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C., on 25 September 2012, provided by the BSEC PERMIS representative.

21. The representative of the United States of America reiterated the position of his country to continue to foster cooperation in science and technology and expressed the readiness to consider suggestions and proposals by the BSEC Member States on the implementation of the MoI.

22. The representative of the Republic of Armenia informed on the developments with regard to its proposal on the establishment of the Association of the BSEC ICT Incubators, under the framework of the above mentioned MoI.

COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (OVERALL EVALUATION, CONCRETE PROJECT PROPOSALS)

23. The participants took note of the information on the issue presented by the BSEC PERMIS representative and reiterated that the Working Group attached great importance to

the issue of the “Cooperation between BSEC and UN, EU as well as other international organizations” as a permanent agenda item.

24. The Working Group took note of the presentation entitled “EU International Strategy for Research and Innovation”, delivered by the representative of the European Commission and of the information on the state of affairs of the EU Framework Program (FP7) and its latest call for proposals. The presentation is attached as **Annex V**.

25. The participants attached high importance to the cooperation between BSEC and EU on science and technology and suggested that an effective partnership in this area should be developed.

26. The Working Group proposed to organize a joint BSEC-EU international event/conference with the participation of experts, scientists and policy makers, possibly back-to-back with the Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology of the BSEC Member States.

27. The representative of the Republic of Turkey provided information on the SEAS-ERA Project and the Black Sea Strategic Agenda Document that put forward the priorities for the Black Sea in marine research. He also informed on the current developments with regard to the Black Sea Research Programme (BSRP) being developed under the Black Sea ERA.NET and the “ERA.NET-RUS” projects and their importance for the BSEC Member States.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

28. The representative of Greece informed on the successful organization of the “First Training School for the Promotion and application of EU Marine Environmental Policy Frameworks in non-EU Mediterranean and Black Sea Countries”, held at Chios Island on 4-8 June 2012.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

29. The Working Group adopted the present Report for the submission to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials of the BSEC Member States.
