



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

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BS/WG/S&T/R(2016)2

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

BSEC Headquarters, 24-25 October 2016

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology was held at the BSEC Headquarters, on 24-25 October 2016.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Vladan LAZOVIC, Minister Counsellor, Special Representative of the Serbian Chairmanship-in-Office of BSEC.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:
Republic of Armenia
Hellenic Republic
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Serbia
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine
4. The representative of the European Commission attended as BSEC Observer.
5. The list of participants of the Meeting is attached as **Annex I**.

AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. The draft agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The agenda, as adopted, is attached as **Annex II**.

AGENDA ITEM 2: 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 Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on the implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the Council and the follow up of the Declarations and the Statements of the Ministers in charge of Science and Technology since the last Meeting of the Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology (Rostov-on-Don, 16-17 May 2016).

AGENDA ITEM 3: CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT PLAN OF ACTION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (1 JULY 2016 – 30 JUNE 2018)

8. The Working Group considered and amended the draft Plan of Action of the Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology for a period 1 July 2016 - 30 June 2018, elaborated by the Country-Coordinator (Russian Federation), and decided to finalize it at its next meeting. Interested Member States are invited to submit their additional comments by 31 December 2016. The text of the draft Plan of Action is attached as **Annex III**.

AGENDA ITEM 4: ACTIONS TAKEN OR TO BE TAKEN WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE THIRD BSEC ACTION PLAN ON COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (2014-2018)

9. The Working Group took note of information on the steps taken to implement the Third BSEC Action Plan on Cooperation in Science and Technology (2014-2018), provided by the BSEC PERMIS.

10. The BSEC PERMIS also delivered to the participants the Report of the ICBSS on the “Black Sea Horizon” project (<http://blacksea-horizon.eu>) and other activities of the ICBSS in the field of Science and Technology.

11. The delegation of the Russian Federation introduced information on “Unique research infrastructure on the territory of the Russian Federation” (attached as **Annex IV**), explained that the data contained in the information will be annually updated and made available on the internet.

AGENDA ITEM 5: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE “BSEC ECONOMIC AGENDA 2012”: FIRST YEAR OF THE SECOND MEDIUM-TERM (2016-2018)

12. The participants took note of information on the developments with regard to the implementation of the “BSEC Economic Agenda 2012” and the priorities for the second medium-term (2016-2018), provided by the BSEC PERMIS.

13. The Working Group reiterated its call to the relevant authorities of the Member States that have not yet responded to the Questionnaire on national innovation related structures, to do so as soon as possible, so that a data base of the national innovation related structures of the BSEC Member States be created. The Questionnaire is attached as **Annex V**.

14. The Working Group considered, amended and approved the Achievements Report on the implementation of the “BSEC Economic Agenda 2012” for 2016, prepared by BSEC

PERMIS, and decided to submit it to the next meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials. The Achievements Report is attached as **Annex VI**.

AGENDA ITEM 6: YOUTH AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

15. The Working Group took note of information presented by the BSEC PERMIS on the consideration of Youth and Sports issues within BSEC and encouraged the Member States to propose projects reflecting the interconnection between Science and Technology and Youth.

16. The delegation of the Russian Federation proposed to make a list of national competitions for young people on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) open for participants from BSEC Member States.

AGENDA ITEM 7: PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND (PDF) AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT (PMU) PROJECTS

17. The Working Group took note of information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on the state of affairs with regard to the replenishment of the Project Development Fund (PDF) and on the Guidelines for the BSEC Project Management Unit (PMU).

AGENDA ITEM 8: MEMORANDUM OF INTENT ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY BSEC-USA

18. The BSEC PERMIS recalled that the Working Group proposed to the United States of America in 2015 to consider the possibility of organizing a joint workshop/training on Science and Technology, as an initial step in the implementation of the Memorandum of Intent and that the response from the United States is still pending.

AGENDA ITEM 9: COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

19. The Working Group took note of the information provided by BSEC PERMIS on the collaboration with other international and regional organizations.

20. The representative of the European Commission informed that the European Commission is committed to increase cooperation in the Black Sea region in research and innovation and beyond through Horizon 2020, Cross-Border Cooperation, Integrated Maritime Policy and on the blue economy. Taking into account that BSEC Member States are already involved in a number of Horizon 2020 projects with a Black Sea focus, the European Commission encourages all Member States to continue to promote the involvement of their research and innovation communities.

AGENDA ITEM 10: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

21. The Working Group took note of information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on the plans to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the BSEC in 2017.

AGENDA ITEM 11: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

22. 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.