



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, 4-5 November 2010

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group (WG) on Cooperation in Science and Technology was held in Istanbul, on 4-5 November 2010.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Dr. Efthimios SAKELLARIOU, Head of the Division of Bilateral Relations of the General Secretariat for Research & Technology of the International S&T Cooperation Directorate-European Union Division of the Ministry of Education, Life Long Learning & Religious Affairs of the Hellenic Republic.
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
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine
4. The representatives of the BSEC Business Council (BSEC BC) and the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) participated in the Meeting as BSEC Related Bodies.
5. The representatives of the Czech Republic, the United States of America and the European Commission also participated in the Meeting as Observers.

6. The representatives to the Black Sea ERANET Project and ERANET Russia Project attended the meeting as Guests.

The list of participants of the Meeting is attached as **Annex I**.

7. 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 RESPONSIBLE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:

8. The representative of BSEC PERMIS informed on the state of implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the BSEC Council and, in particular, he noted that lately the Member States paid due attention to prepare core documents (Ministerial Declaration, BSEC Action Plan on Cooperation in Science and Technology 2010-2014, Working Group Plan of Action 2010-2012) as being instrumental to the Working Group future activities.

9. The representative of ICBSS briefed on the work done by ICBSS and the Member States in preparing a BSEC Action Plan on Cooperation in Science and Technology (2010-2014), which has provided the Working Group with substantial tool for its activities and priority engagement.

10. The participants agreed to pay greater attention to the commitments taken at the Working Group meetings, proceed with a follow-up and, if necessary, introduce adjustments to it.

PRESENTATION BY THE COUNTRY COORDINATOR, DISCUSSION AND ADOPTION OF BSEC WORKING GROUP PLAN OF ACTION 2010-2012.

11. The participants discussed, amended and adopted the BSEC Working Group Plan of Action 2010-2012; the Plan of Action 2010-2012 is attached as **Annex III**.

DISCUSSION ON BSEC MAIN AXES OF COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (HUMAN RESOURCES, CAPACITY BUILDING, RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE, INNOVATION, SYNERGY WITH EUROPEAN FP 7 PROJECTS, HISTORICAL RELATIONS AND CULTURAL TIES IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY).

12. The Hellenic Republic in its capacity as Country Coordinator of the Working Group gave a presentation on the BSEC Working Group Plan of Action 2010-2012 along the axes of cooperation. The presentation is attached as **Annex IV**.

13. With respect to Para 12, the Representative of Turkey commented on the issue of the “Multilateral Science and Technology Cooperation in the framework of BSEC” Programme suggesting a broader approach ensuring the involvement of all Member States within this

proposed scheme as well as the need to develop a more detailed concept paper on the action foreseen.

14. The representative of Romania, with regard to Para 12, drew attention on possible overlapping effect in terms of objectives, framework and activities of the proposed “Multilateral Science and Technology Cooperation in the framework of BSEC” Programme and the “Black Sea Research Programme” (BSRP) to be developed under the BS- ERA.NET Project, and expressed doubts on raising funds at national level for closely related funding schemes.

15. The representative of the Hellenic Republic provided explanation on the above mentioned comments (Para 13 and 14) dispelling doubts of overlapping of the programs and of a narrow approach to the “Multilateral Science & Technology Cooperation in the framework of BSEC” Programme by asserting that both issues would be open for discussion and amendments at the next Working Group Meeting upon the presentation of a Concept Paper by the Country Coordinator.

16. The representative of the European Commission (EC) informed the participants on the synergy between the BSEC Action Plan 2010-2014 and the Plan of Action 2010-2012, and the opportunities under the Framework Programmes and made an appeal to the BSEC Member States to work together more effectively in taking up the opportunities.

17. The representative of Romania made an appeal to the participants and the Member States to acquire more pro-active role relative to the involvement of the Working Group in FP7 activities and specifically in the BS-ERA.NET BSRP Task Force.

18. The Secretary General of BSEC Business Council stressed the importance of investigating possibilities of involving the private sector in BSEC science and technology cooperation activities.

19. The representatives of the Black Sea ERANET project and the ERANET RUS project made presentations which are attached as **Annex V**.

20. The representative of the ICBSS presented briefly the latest evolutions of the IncoNet EECA and IncoNet CA/SC project, highlighting in particular:

- The Policy Stakeholder Conference to be held in Astana in Spring 2011, dedicated to Evaluation and Benchmarking;
- The Workshop on Innovation to be held in Athens beginning of 2011;
- The Thematic Workshops on Energy (Tbilisi, Oct. 2010) and Social Sciences and Humanities (Athens, Oct. 2010);
- The ongoing study on successful participations in FP7 of scientists from the region that will help in enhancing such participations.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND (PDF)

PDF Standard Application

21. The participants took note of the BSEC PERMIS Representative information on new PDF Standard Application and accompanying technical documents for PDF Projects.

Priority areas for PDF Projects

22. The participants agreed that priority areas for PDF Projects should be of a broader scope with great visibility and multiplied effects within the main axes of cooperation in science and technology, in the fields of capacity building, human resources, innovation and research infrastructure as stipulated in the Second BSEC Action Plan on Cooperation in Science and Technology 2010-2014.

Projects for PDF Funding

23. The representative of Armenia gave a presentation on two projects for PDF Funding, submitted to the assessment of the Working Group:

a) Project proposal ‘Experimental Deployment of an Integrated Grid and Cloud Enabled Environment in the BSEC Countries on the Base of g-Eclipse’, **submitted by institutions of Armenia (Lead Partner), Moldova, Georgia and Romania.**

b) Project proposal ‘Develop and Prepare an Experimental Sample of Data Logger Radon Measuring Device Set with Data Collection Central Controller’, **submitted by institutions of Armenia (Lead Partner), Georgia and Russian Federation.**

24. The Working Group took note of the presentations and decided to defer discussions on the issue for the next Working Group Meeting.

25. The Working Group took note of the information of the PERMIS Project Coordinator regarding the accomplishment of the project “New cardiovascular planning and diagnostic tool for coronary arteries in BSEC countries using computational simulation” and decided to make assessment of its conclusions at the next meeting.

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

26. The participants decided to have “Cooperation between BSEC-EU” as a permanent agenda item.

27. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the EC representative about the FP programmes and on the possibility that it provides to the BSEC Member States.

28. The BSEC PERMIS representative provided updated information on the issue regarding the finalizing and signing of MoI between BSEC & USA.

29. The representative of the USA took note of the information and expressed gratitude to the work done by the BSEC Member States and BSEC PERMIS.

**PROPOSAL FOR A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING /AGREEMENT
AMONG THE BSEC MEMBER STATES IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY**

30. Since there is no consensus on the proposed MoU on “access to research infrastructures”, the Working Group decided not to continue any further discussion on the issue.

**PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ASSOCIATION FOR THE
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL PARKS OF BSEC**

31. The participants decided to defer discussion on the issue in order to get information on the results of the ICBSS Workshop on Innovation, planned to be held in Athens in the beginning of 2011 which could provide indications on the activities to be undertaken at the BSEC level.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

32. The representative of Ukraine informed that the State Committee of Ukraine on Science, Innovations and Informatization was established in July 2010 as the governmental body of Ukraine in charge of science and technology, technology transfer and innovative activities.

33. The Representative of Romania informed about the setting up by the end of 2010 of an IT tool to support the National Register of the *Research Infrastructures in Romania*.

34. BSEC PERMIS drew attention to the Ministerial Declaration provision which stipulates that the Mid-Term Ministerial Meeting should be convened to review progress in the implementation of the Second Action Plan.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

35. The date and venue of the next meeting of the Working Group will be communicated in due time, through BSEC PERMIS.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

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