



# ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

## Permanent International Secretariat

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BS/ST/WG/R(2013)1

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

Istanbul, BSEC Headquarters, 21 May 2013

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology (WGCST) was held in Istanbul, at the BSEC Headquarters, on 21 May 2013.

2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. İter HALILOĞLU, Expert, Scientific and Technological Research Council of the Republic of Turkey (TUBITAK).

3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Armenia  
Republic of Azerbaijan  
Georgia  
Hellenic Republic  
Republic of Moldova  
Russian Federation  
Republic of Turkey  
Ukraine

4. The representatives of the United States of America and the European Commission attended the Meeting as BSEC Observers.

5. Professor Dr. Sema Z. BAYKARA, Yıldız Technical University, Chemical Engineering Department also participated in the Meeting as Guest.

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, and Declarations and Joint Statements adopted by the Ministers in charge of Science and Technology.

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 in the implementation of those important BSEC documents.

9. The BSEC PERMIS representative also informed that the Plan of Action of the Working Group was approved through the silence procedure on 25 January 2013.

### **THE “WAY FORWARD FOR AN ACTION PLAN ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE “ECONOMIC AGENDA TOWARDS AN ENHANCED BSEC PARTNERSHIP”**

10. The Working Group agreed to focus on the following priorities contained in “The Way Forward for an Action Plan on the Implementation of the Economic Agenda Towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership”:

- focusing on human resources, capacity building, research infrastructure and innovation as areas of action;
- developing a registry of national innovation related structures of the BSEC Member States and creating the conditions for their effective interaction;
- facilitating closer cooperation in the fields of science and technology among the BSEC Member States, the BSEC Related Bodies and with other partners and international organizations in order to encourage co-funding schemes for formulating and implementing regional research projects.

11. The Republic of Turkey, the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group, is invited to elaborate a questionnaire on developing a registry of national innovation related structures (Priority No. 2), to be circulated among the BSEC Member States well in advance of the next Meeting of the Working Group, with a view to collecting information necessary for creating the conditions for their effective interaction.

12. Furthermore, the Member States are invited to submit proposals on the other priorities mentioned above.

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BSEC PUBLIC COMMUNICATION STRATEGY**

13. The Working Group discussed the Draft Paper for raising visibility of cooperation in the field of Science and Technology, presented by the BSEC PERMIS, as a concrete contribution to the implementation of the BSEC Public Communication Strategy. The Draft Paper is attached as **Annex III**.

14. The Working Group instructed the BSEC PERMIS to further elaborate on the Draft Paper, to be circulated among the Member States by 30 June 2013, for their comments and observations.

### **REVIEW OF THE PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SECOND BSEC ACTION PLAN (2010-2014) AND PREPARATIONS FOR ELABORATION OF THE THIRD BSEC ACTION PLAN ON COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (2014-2018)**

15. The Working Group decided to review the progress in the implementation of the Second BSEC Action Plan on Cooperation in Science and Technology (2010-2014) at its next Meeting, on the basis of the evaluation to be elaborated by the Country Coordinator. In this regard, the Member States are invited to communicate their comments and observations by 15 September 2013.

16. The representative of the Republic of Armenia informed on the project proposal on “Candle Light Source in the Republic of Armenia” to be included in the Working Group’s programs for 2014-2018 (BSEC PERMIS Note No: BS/INFO.2012.0865 dated 10 December 2012).

17. The participants reiterated the importance of organizing a Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Science and Technology of the BSEC Member States in 2014.

### **PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND (PDF)**

18. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS representative on the current difficult situation in PDF. On this account, the incoming Chairmanships, in cooperation with the BSEC PERMIS, are invited to do their utmost in order to attract contributions from the International Financial Institutions and other donors to the Fund.

### **MEMORANDUM OF INTENT ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY BSEC-USA**

19. The participants took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS representative on the latest developments concerning the implementation of the Memorandum of Intent (MoI).

20. 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 concrete suggestions and proposals by the BSEC Member States on the implementation of the MoI.

21. The representative of the Republic of Armenia informed on the latest 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)**

22. 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 item in its agenda.

23. The Working Group took note of the information presented by the representative of the European Commission on cooperation between EU and BSEC in Science and Technology.
24. The representative of the European Commission focused in particular on the FP7 and Horizon 2020, informing BSEC on the relevant EU events during the Lithuanian and Greek Presidency. The representative of the European Commission attached importance to the Greek Presidency Event on science and technology which could be beneficial for cooperation between BSEC and EU.
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 reiterated its proposal to organize a joint BSEC-EU international event/conference on science and technology with the participation of experts, scientists and policy makers, possibly in 2014.
27. The Republic of Armenia, as an incoming Chairman-in-Office of BSEC, made a proposal to hold consultations in July 2013 on current state and prospects of the BSEC-EU interaction.
28. The Working Group took note of the presentation delivered by Prof. Dr. Sema Z. BAYKARA of the Yildiz Technical University, Istanbul, on the “Black Sea & Hydrogen Sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S)” project, financed by BS.ERA-NET. The presentation is attached as **Annex IV**.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No issue was raised under this Agenda Item.

#### **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.
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