



BS/ST/WG/R(2009)1

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

Istanbul, 5-6 May 2009

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group (WG) on Cooperation in Science and Technology was held in Istanbul, on 5-6 May 2009.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Ambassador Altai EFENDIEV in his capacity as the Representative of the Chairmanship-in-Office of BSEC.
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
 - Romania
 - Russian Federation
 - Republic of Turkey
 - Ukraine
4. The representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of BSEC (PABSEC) and the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) participated in the Meeting as BSEC Related Bodies.
5. The representatives of the CORAL Project, from DAEDALUS Informatics, Mr. Evangelos M. MYLONAS and the Black Sea Interconnection (BSI) Project, from ULAKBIM TUBITAK, Mr. Beyhan CALISKAN also attended the Meeting as Guests.

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

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

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL AND THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE DECLARATIONS AND JOINT STATEMENTS ADOPTED BY THE MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:

a) Assessment on the implementation of BSEC Council Resolutions, Decisions, and Recommendations and of Ministerial Declaration/Joint Statement provisions;

7. The participants agreed that the activities of the Working Group have been consistent with the BSEC Council Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations and with the Ministerial Declarations (Athens 2005, Istanbul 2007).

8. Following the Committee of Senior Officials request to the Working Group (CSO Meeting, Istanbul, January 2009), to make clarifications with regard to para 20 of the Report of the Working Group Meeting (Borovets, 6-7 November 2008), the participants agreed that the appropriate wording in para 20 should be “the Working Group encouraged the ICBSS.....”.

9. The participants expressed their views that upon the clarifications made by the Working Group, the Committee of Senior Officials may wish to endorse the Report of the Meeting of the Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology, held in Borovets, on 6-7 November 2008.

b) Retrospective overview and assessment of the implementation of the Plan of Action of the Working Group on Science and Technology 2006-2008 and of the BSEC Action Plan on Cooperation in Science and Technology 2005-2009;

10. The participants discussed and overviewed the implementation of the WG Plan of Action 2006-2008 and of the BSEC Action Plan on Cooperation in Science and Technology 2005-2009, and decided to proceed with elaborating an assessment of the BSEC Action Plan 2005-2009.

11. The participants decided to proceed with preparing a template on the issue with concrete specifications with regard to inputs to be included in the assessment with the aim to get a full fledged picture of the results of the four-years activities of the Working Group in implementing the said Action Plan.

12. The Country-Coordinator, BSEC PERMIS and ICBSS are entrusted with the task of formulating the template not later than 1 June 2009 which would best serve the Member States to formulate their inputs in the Assessment Paper.

13. The participants decided to observe a time-table for accomplishing the commitments and to provide the Country-Coordinator, the BSEC PERMIS and the ICBSS with inputs not later than 30 June 2009.

14. Upon receiving the inputs from Member States, the Country-Coordinator, the BSEC PERMIS and the ICBSS will finalize the Assessment Paper and disseminate it to Member States not later than 1 September 2009.

15. The participants decided to include the synopsis of the mentioned Assessment Paper to the BSEC Action Plan 2010-2014.

c) Presentation of the Evaluation Report by the Country Coordinator

16. The participants kindly requested the Country-Coordinator to prepare the Evaluation Report on the Working Group activities covering the period October 2008-September 2009, and communicate it to BSEC PERMIS not later than 15 September 2009.

ADOPTION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY 2008-2010

17. The participants discussed and adopted the Plan of Action of the Working Group on Science and Technology 2008-2010. The said Plan of Action 2008-2010 is attached as **Annex III**.

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT BSEC ACTION PLAN ON COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR 2010-2014

18. The Draft BSEC Action Plan on Cooperation in Science and Technology 2010- 2014 was presented by the Representative of the ICBSS. The said Draft BSEC Action Plan 2010-2014 is attached as **Annex IV**.

19. The participants took note of the Draft Action Plan and decided to communicate their comments and suggestions through BSEC PERMIS to the ICBSS and the Country-Coordinator not later than 30 June 2009.

20. Upon receiving the comments and suggestions from Member States, the Country-Coordinator and the ICBSS together with BSEC PERMIS will prepare the revised version of the Draft BSEC Action Plan on Cooperation in Science and Technology 2010-2014 and disseminate it to the Member States not later than 1 September 2009.

21. The participants decided, bearing in mind the forthcoming Ministerial Meeting, to consider the draft BSEC Action Plan on Cooperation in Science and Technology 2010-2014 at the next meeting of the Working Group scheduled for October 2009.

CONSIDERATION OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING /AGREEMENT AMONG THE BSEC MEMBER STATES IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

22. The participants exchanged views on the issue, which concerns in particular, access to infrastructures. In this regard, the Turkish and Romanian representatives expressed their opinion that such a MoU may be signed only if there is enough additional benefit for BSEC Member

States and further mentioned that there are already ongoing mechanisms at bilateral/multilateral level which fulfill the aims of the proposed Draft MoU.

23. The participants agreed to continue discussions at the next meeting of the Working Group.

COOPERATION WITH RELATED INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

a) Actual state of affairs with respect to BSEC-EU cooperation in the field of Science and Technology (6th and 7th Framework Programme);

24. The representative of the ICBSS informed the participants on the actual state of affairs with regard to the two EU funded projects within the 7th Framework Program, namely on IncoNet-EECA and BS-ERANET.

25. The participants took note of the information provided by the ICBSS Representative.

b) Potential cooperation with relevant regional associations and institutions.

26. The participants took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS Representative on the Council of Presidents of National Academies of Sciences of BSEC (CoPNAS) and the Black Sea University Network (BSUN).

PRESENTATIONS AND PROJECTS BY THE MEMBER STATES AND ICBSS IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:

27. The representative of the Republic of Turkey made a presentation about the Black Sea Interconnection (BSI) Project.

The presentation is attached as **Annex V**.

28. The participants took note in a positive manner of the presentation and suggested that the project be presented by PERMIS to other relevant Working Groups (i.e. ICT) for their consideration and possible involvement and support. The participants also mentioned that this project may be a good example for future BSEC-EU cooperation.

ASSESSMENT OF PDF STANDARD APPLICATIONS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

29. The participants took note of the information provided by PERMIS regarding the new Manual of Operations of the BSEC Project Development Fund and its provision that the WG

specifies priority areas with corresponding timeframes for PDF projects according to its Action Plan.

30. The participants held a preliminary discussion on the priority areas for PDF projects and decided to present their proposals in accordance with the guiding documents of the Working Group in view of taking a final decision at its next meeting for submission to the Committee of Senior Officials.

31. The participants took note of the conclusions and follow-up suggestions presented by the Lead Partner of the PDF project “Operational Framework of an advanced Telematics based Institute, for promotion of services on sustainable development in Integrated Coastal Zone Management - CORAL”.

The presentation is attached as **Annex VI**.

32. The participants have been informed about the successful completion of the pre-feasibility study of the project that was originally endorsed by the Working Group in March 2006 and consequently funded by the BSEC Project Development Fund and encouraged the Lead Partner to continue its efforts in seeking additional funds towards the full scale development of the Coral virtual institute.

33. In addition, the Lead Partner of the project invited the Member States to consider proposing appropriate public or private institutions in their respective countries, as potential partners.

34. The participants took note of the completion of the PDF project “Study of Science and Technological Park Activities as a Black Sea Regional Pole of Development” “TECHPARK” that was originally endorsed in November 2006.

COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF SEISMOLOGY

35. The WG took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS representative.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE MEETING OF THE MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

36. The participants agreed on the necessity to begin with preparations for the Ministerial Meeting and to finalize them at the next meeting of the Working Group scheduled for October 2009.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

37. The representative of the Hellenic Republic provided information about “Proposal for the Establishment of an Association for the Scientific and Technological Parks of BSEC” based on

the outcomes of the PDF project “Study of Science and Technological Park Activities as a Black Sea Regional Pole of Development” ‘TEHPARK’.

The presentation is attached as **AnnexVII.**

38. The participants took note of the presentation and decided to forward their comments via PERMIS not later than 15 June 2009.

39. The participants also decided to include this proposal as an Agenda Item to the next meeting of the WG.

40. The participants took note of the information provided by the Representative of BSEC PERMIS on ongoing consideration by the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials of the Draft Memorandum of Intent between the Government of the United States of America and the Organization of Black Sea Economic Cooperation on Science and Technology Cooperation.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

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