



BS/ST/WG/R(2007)2

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

Istanbul, 30 October 2007

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology was held in Istanbul, on 30 October 2007.

2. The following BSEC Member States participated in the Meeting:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Republic of Bulgaria
Georgia
Hellenic Republic
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Serbia
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine

3. The representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of BSEC (PABSEC) and the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) participated in the Meeting as BSEC Related Bodies.

4. The Republic of Poland participated in the Meeting in its capacity of BSEC Observer.

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

5. The Meeting was chaired by Prof. Dr. Ömer ANLAĞAN, Vice President of the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK).

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

WELCOME SPEECH BY THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OF TURKEY (TÜBİTAK)
PRESENTATION ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION POLICY IN TURKEY AND THE ROLE OF TÜBİTAK

7. The welcome speech and the presentation were made by Prof. Dr. Ömer ANLAĞAN, Vice President of TÜBİTAK.

8. The participants appreciated the presentation which highlighted the prominent role of TÜBİTAK in Science, Technology and Innovation Policy in Turkey and its valuable contribution to the cooperation in this field within the BSEC framework. The presentation is attached as Annex III.

9. The Romanian delegation proposed that since one of the aims of the Working Group in Science and Technology is to further advance the cooperation between the BSEC Member States, it is expedient to include in the Agenda of each meeting of the Working Group a presentation of the R&D&I system by one of the BSEC Member States, on a voluntary basis. If more Member States express their interest in giving a presentation, the Member State chairing the next meeting, together with the Country-Coordinator will decide in advance on the duration and the number of presentations.

STATE OF AFFAIRS WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BSEC ACTION PLAN ON COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY APPROVED BY THE 13TH BSEC COUNCIL (CHISINAU, 28 OCTOBER 2005) AND THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE DECLARATION OF THE MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES (ATHENS, 28 SEPTEMBER 2005).

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT REPORT ON THE SAID ISSUES TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE MIDTERM MEETING OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (ISTANBUL, 31 OCTOBER 2007) AND OF THE DRAFT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.

10. The discussion was focused on the Draft of the Midterm Report (2006-2007) on the implementation of the BSEC Action Plan prepared by the ICBS in cooperation with Romania as Country-Coordinator and BSEC PERMIS and based on the contributions by eight Member States (Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Turkey) containing answers to the agreed upon Questionnaire.

11. The participants commended the drafters of the Report.

12. The participants highly appreciated the significance and topical character of the Action Plan and the Athens Ministerial Declaration, in particular their political impact in opening a regional dimension of cooperation in the field of science and technology and stimulating an increased dynamics of such cooperation.

13. The deliberations showed that all the participants shared the assessments, conclusions and recommendations of the Midterm Report. The Working Group agreed to submit the said

Report with the amendments made in the course of the session for the approval of the Meeting of the Ministers Responsible for Science and Technology to be held in Istanbul, on 31 October 2007. The said Report is attached as Annex IV.

14. After a thorough discussion, it was also agreed to submit to the said forthcoming Meeting the amended Draft of the Ministerial Statement. The said Draft Statement is attached as Annex V.

STATE OF AFFAIRS WITH RESPECT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR 2006-2008

15. The participants decided to defer the discussion of the item to the next Meeting of the Working Group.

PRESENTATION ON BSEC-EU COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITHIN THE 7TH FRAMEWORK PROGRAM

A) VIEWS OF TURKEY TO DEVELOP COOPERATION WITH THE BSEC COUNTRIES WITHIN THE EU 7TH FRAMEWORK PROGRAM

B) THE PRESENTATION OF THE INCO-NET EECA (EAST EUROPE CENTRAL ASIA) PROJECT BY THE ICBSS

16. The presentation on sub-item (A) was made by Ms. Asli VURAL, Energy and Environment NCP FP7, TÜBİTAK. The presentation is attached as Annex VI.

17. The presentation on sub-item (B) was made by Dr. George BONAS, Advisor on Science and Technology, ICBSS. The presentation is attached as Annex VII.

18. The Working Group positively assessed views of the Republic of Turkey on the development of cooperation among BSEC Member States with EU 7th Framework Programme.

19. The Working Group appreciated the willingness of TÜBİTAK to regularly inform the Member States on the forthcoming calls of FP7 offering opportunities for their participation in the Programme.

20. The Working Group commended the ICBSS for the preparation of the IncoNet EECA Project which had been accepted by the EU.

21. It was noted that being the most organized nucleus in the EECA Region, BSEC stands to gain substantial benefits from the project. But these benefits will not come automatically. To succeed, BSEC Member States and the ICBSS have to join forces and work hard.

22. With regard to the ICBSS presentation, Romania stated that under the call FP7 – INCO 2007-3, Capacities Specific Programme, a new project proposal is in view. The main objective is the coordination of relevant national policies and activities. Synergies between IncoNet EECA

and the future BS-ERA NET are essential. The BSEC Member States are invited to join the project proposal.

23. It was underlined that securing the EU funds for deepening of science and technology cooperation is essential for resultive BSEC-EU interaction.

24. The participants also agreed that while the cooperation with the EU is most valuable, the importance and necessity of national resources and other channels of funds for the development of bilateral and multilateral Science and Technology Cooperation within the BSEC framework should in no way be underestimated.

25. The importance of market orientation of scientific research, where appropriate, was emphasized.

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT AND CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS RESULTING FROM THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS OF NATIONAL ACADEMIES OF SCIENCES OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES (CoPNAS), WHICH WAS ORGANIZED IN ANKARA ON 5 OCTOBER 2007 BY THE TURKISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (TUBA)

26. The presentation (Annex VIII to the present Report) was made by Prof. Dr. Tarık ÇELİK, Vice President of the Turkish Academy of Sciences.

27. He underlined that in parallel to the BSEC Working Group on Science and Technology and to the ICBSS, there is a need for CoPNAS to become an active player in Science and Technology cooperation within BSEC, in particular as a forum for permanent discussion among the National Academies of Sciences.

28. The decision was taken at the CoPNAS Meeting to form an Ad Hoc Working Group consisting of the representatives of TUBA, the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and of the ICBSS with the task to elaborate a strategic plan concerning the mission and the statutes of the Council, including suggestions on possible amendments to the documents regulating the activities of the Council.

29. The Working Group commended the Turkish side and in particular the TUBA for the organization and funding of the CoPNAS Meeting. The contribution of the ICBSS to the organization of the Meeting was also appreciated.

30. The Working Group welcomed the proposals of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences to hold the next CoPNAS Meeting in Kyiv during 2008 and that of the Academy of Sciences of Georgia to organize in the near future an international Conference that would address key problems pertinent to the Black Sea.

31. Following the decision of the 17th Meeting of the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (Ankara, 25 October 2007), the Working Group pledged to assist CoPNAS in the efforts to enhance its role in Science and Technology Cooperation within BSEC.

32. The Working Group welcomed the information provided by Romania on the networking activity of the Universities that is organized under the Black Sea Universities Network (BSUN).

33. The participants supported the proposal that information on research and development policy activities should be submitted by BSUN and CoPNAS during the Working Group Meetings.

ASSESSMENT OF PDF STANDARD APPLICATIONS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

34. The Working Group considered on the instruction of the Committee of Senior Officials the following projects:

- Project proposal “Study of Mud Volcanoes along the shelves of the Black Sea: Implication for safety of Navigation and underwater systems (BLACKMUD)” submitted by institutions from Turkey (Lead Partner), Ukraine and Russia;

- Project proposal “New cardiovascular planning and diagnostic tool for coronary arteries in BSEC countries using computational simulation”, submitted by institutions of Serbia (Lead Partner), Greece and Romania.

35. The Working Group assessed the said PDF Standard Applications and decided to forward them to the Committee of Senior Officials with the recommendation that the applicants provide additional information on the prospects for the projects’ implementation. In addition, the Working Group strongly recommended that the applicants approach appropriate institutions from the remaining Member States to examine their participation to the projects.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

36. The participants expressed their high appreciation to the Government and the Scientific and Technological Research Council of the Republic of Turkey for the warm hospitality extended to them in Istanbul and the excellent organization of the Meeting.

37. The participants expressed their sincere gratitude to Ambassador Andrey URNOV, Deputy Secretary General of BSEC PERMIS and Ambassador Sergiu CELAC, Alternate Director General of the ICBSS, for their valuable contributions to the activities of the Working Group and other BSEC activities pertaining to the development of science and technology cooperation.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

38. The date and venue of the next Meeting of the Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology will be decided, after consultations by the Country-Coordinator and PERMIS with the Chairman-in-Office and communicated to the BSEC Member States through BSEC PERMIS.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

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