



BS/ST/WG/R(2010)1

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

Sofia, 8 April 2010

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group (WG) on Cooperation in Science and Technology was held in Sofia, on 8 April 2010.

2. The Meeting was chaired by Ms. Guenoveva JECHEVA, Head of Transnational Research Initiatives Division, Scientific Research Department, Ministry of Education, Youth and Science of the Republic of Bulgaria.

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
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Serbia
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 Arab Republic of Egypt, the United States of America and the European Commission also participated in the Meeting as Observers.

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 BSEC 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. Following the 21st Council Decision (Baku, 22 October 2009), and the instruction to the Working Group “*to concentrate its activities on finalizing the draft BSEC Action Plan 2010-2014, and on the preparations for the Meeting of the Ministers responsible for the science and technology of the Member States*”, the participants agreed that the said instructions have been implemented.

8. The participants also 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).

b) Presentation of the Evaluation Report by the Country Coordinator

9. The Country Coordinator informed the participants that the End of Term Evaluation Report will be forwarded by 10 May 2010 through PERMIS to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials for consideration.

c) 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 took note of the Assessment of the BSEC Action Plan on Cooperation in Science and Technology 2005-2009 and agreed to submit it to the forthcoming Ministerial Meeting.

d) Report of the Working Group to be submitted to the Ministerial Meeting

11. The Member States which have not yet done so, are kindly requested to submit their contributions to BSEC PERMIS no later than 20 April 2010, so that the Country Coordinator will take them into account while preparing the Evaluation Report.

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

12. The participants discussed, amended and agreed on the draft Second BSEC Action Plan on Cooperation in Science and Technology (2010-2014), to be presented to the Ministers for adoption. The text of the draft as amended is attached as **Annex III**.

FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR THE MEETING OF THE MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES – DRAFT DECLARATION, DRAFT AGENDA

13. The participants discussed, amended and agreed on the Draft Ministerial Declaration, to be presented to the Ministers for adoption. The text is attached as **Annex IV**.

14. The participants exchanged views on the Draft Programme and Draft Agenda for the Ministerial Meeting. The text of the Draft Programme and Draft Agenda are attached as **Annex V**.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND (PDF)

15. The participants agreed to defer the discussion on the issue to the next meeting of the Working Group.

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

16. The representative of the European Commission made a presentation on the actual state of affairs with regard to the EU funded projects within the 7th Framework Program. The presentation is attached as **Annex VI**.

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

17. The participants decided to continue with the discussions on the issue at the next meeting of the Working Group, in line with the approved second BSEC Action Plan on Cooperation in Science and Technology (2010-2014).

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

18. The participants decided to defer the discussion on the issue at the next meeting of the Working Group.

INFORMATION BY ICBSS ON ITS ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

19. The representative of the ICBSS informed the participants on the actual activities in the field of science and technology and in particular:

- on the ongoing and planned activities of the IncoNet EECA Project
- on the launching of the IncoNet CA/SC project with a meeting to be held in Istanbul on 29-30 April 2010, organized by TÜBİTAK.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

20. The representative of the United States of America (USA) informed the participants on the updated draft of the MoI between the USA and BSEC on Cooperation in Science and Technology that was communicated to BSEC PERMIS on 7 April 2010.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

21. The participants expressed their thanks to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science of the Republic of Bulgaria for the hospitality extended to the participants and for the excellent organization of the meeting.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

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

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

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