



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 TOURISM**

BSEC Headquarters, 22-23 September 2014

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism (WGCT) was held at the BSEC Headquarters, on 22-23 September 2014.
2. The Meeting was co-chaired by Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES, Coordinator of the Hellenic Chairmanship-in-Office of the Organization of BSEC, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic and Mr. Spyridon PARTHENIS, Deputy Director for International Relations, Ministry of Tourism of the Hellenic Republic.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Albania
Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Republic of Bulgaria
Georgia
Hellenic Republic
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine
4. The representatives of the Culture Routes Society attended the Meeting as guests.
5. The List of Participants is attached as **Annex I** to the present Report.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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 COUNCIL, AND THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE DECLARATIONS AND JOINT STATEMENTS ADOPTED BY THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF TOURISM OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

7. The BSEC PERMIS informed on the ways and dynamics of the implementation of the Resolution of the 15th BSEC Council (Moscow, 1 November 2006), since the last Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism (Yalta, 26 February 2014).

8. The Working Group took note of the proposal of Ukraine to announce “The Year of Tourism of BSEC” and invited Ukraine to prepare a Concept Paper on the issue for consideration at the next meeting. The Member States are invited to communicate to BSEC PERMIS their views/observations on the proposal in advance of the next meeting of the Working Group.

9. The Working Group took note of the information on the possibility of inclusion of youth and sports issues in the agenda of the Working Group, presented by BSEC PERMIS and agreed to consider the issues within the item on Special Interest Tourism at the next meeting. The Member States are invited to communicate to BSEC PERMIS their views/observations on the idea in advance of the next meeting of the Working Group.

SPECIAL INTEREST TOURISM COOPERATION AREAS:

a) Gastronomy and Wine Tourism and b) Film-induced Tourism

10. The Working Group took note of the presentations on gastronomy and wine tourism and on film-induced tourism, delivered by the delegation of the Hellenic Republic, and decided to continue the consideration of these issues at its next meeting. The presentations are attached as **Annex III and Annex IV**.

11. The Working Group emphasized the need to develop the cooperation among the BSEC Member States in these areas, to exchange information and come up with concrete proposals on how to go on forward in these areas at the BSEC level.

12. The delegation of the Russian Federation suggested that the issue of publishing a booklet with a description of national gastronomy and wine traditions be discussed at the next meeting of the Working Group and included in its draft agenda.

c) Cultural Tourism / Cultural Routes projects

13. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on the issue and emphasized that combined efforts by the Member States are needed to further promote and implement the joint projects.

14. The Member States are invited to communicate updated information on and “road maps” of their respective projects well in advance of the next meeting of the Working Group.

15. The Working Group took note of the information by Romania on “Danube Wine Route” that includes Romania, Serbia, Bulgaria and Croatia.

16. The Working Group took note of the presentation on the cultural route proposal “Evlıya Çelebi”, delivered by the Culture Routes Society (Kültür Rotaları Derneđi, Republic of Turkey). The presentation and the proposal are attached as **Annex V**.

d) Maritime and Nautical Tourism. Development of Cruise Tourism

17. The Working Group took note of the information by Ukraine that the discussion of the project “Development of Cruise Tourism in the BSEC Region” should be deferred to the next meeting.

e) Balneology, Wellness and Spa Tourism

18. The Working Group invited the Member States to communicate to BSEC PERMIS their views/observations on the issue in advance of the next meeting.

f) University Environment Integration for Specialist Training in Tourism Sphere of the Black Sea Region

19. The delegation of the Russian Federation informed that an updated information on the proposal will be communicated in due course.

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT DOCUMENTS (AGENDA AND DECLARATION) FOR THE MEETING OF MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF TOURISM OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES (ATHENS, 23 OCTOBER 2014)

20. The Delegation of the Hellenic Republic introduced the draft documents and informed on ongoing arrangements for the forthcoming Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Tourism of the BSEC Member States, to be held in Athens, on 23 October 2014.

21. The Working Group considered, amended and finalized the Draft Agenda and the Draft Declaration of the Ministers in charge of Tourism. The Draft Agenda and the Draft Declaration are attached as **Annex VI and Annex VII**, respectively.

THE “WAY FORWARD FOR AN ACTION PLAN ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE “ECONOMIC AGENDA TOWARDS AN ENHANCED BSEC PARTNERSHIP” AND THE “GUIDELINES FOR THE BSEC PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT”

22. The Working Group took note of the information contained in the Draft Report on the activities of the Working Group on the implementation BSEC Economic Agenda 2012, prepared by BSEC PERMIS in consultation with the Country-Coordinator, and suggested that it be incorporated in the overall BSEC PERMIS report on the issue, to be submitted to the Committee of the Senior Officials. The information is attached as **Annex VIII**.

23. The Working Group took note of the BSEC PERMIS proposal on Hospitality Traditions in the BSEC Member States and decided to continue its consideration at the next meeting.

24. The Working Group took note of the presentation on the Guidelines of the BSEC Project Management Unit, delivered by BSEC PERMIS. The presentation is attached as **Annex IX**.

25. The Working Group invited the Member States to submit project proposals in compliance with the Guidelines.

REVISION OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE WORKING GROUP

26. The Working Group considered, amended and finalized the Draft Revised Terms of Reference of the Working Group and decided to submit it for consideration to the next meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials. The Draft is attached as **Annex X**.

INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE FRAMEWORKS OF BSEC TOURISM COOPERATION

27. The Working Group took note of the information on the proposal of Georgia “A Common BSEC Tourism Marketing Council”, and invited the Member States to communicate their views/observations to the BSEC PERMIS in advance of the next meeting. The said proposal is attached as **Annex XI**.

28. The representative of Bulgaria informed that the Concept Paper on the proposal “A Branding of the Black Sea Region” will be communicated to the Member States at a later stage.

NATIONAL POLICIES AND BEST PRACTICES IN THE FIELD OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

29. The Working Group took note of the information by Romania on the project on designating Eco-Tourist Destinations in Romania.

PARTICIPATION IN TOURISM EVENTS AND FAIRS HELD IN THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

30. The delegation of Ukraine informed that due to some objective reasons the III Kyiv International Tourism Forum previously scheduled for October 2014, will be held in 2015.

31. The delegation of the Hellenic Republic informed on the following activities in the field of Tourism:

- Philoxenia: the 30th International Tourism Exhibition, 13-16 November 2014, Thessaloniki;
- Greek Tourism Expo: the 1st International Tourism Fair, 5-7 December 2014, Athens;

- Detrop: the 24th International Exhibition of Food, Beverages, Machinery Equipment and Packaging, 26 February – 1 March 2015, Thessaloniki;
- Oenos: the 5th International Wine Fair, 26 February – 1 March, Thessaloniki;
- Food Expo Greece: the 2nd International Food and Beverages Exhibition, 14-16 March 2015, Athens;
- Oenotelia: the 1st Trade Fair Wine and Spirits, 14-16 March 2015, Athens.

32. The delegation of Romania informed that the “Romania Tourism Fair” will be held from 13-16 November 2014 in Bucharest.

33. The delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan informed on the following international events:

- Tourism Exhibition (Baku, April 2015);
- The 1st European Sports Games (Baku, June 2015).

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND (PDF)

34. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS about the state of affairs with the issue of replenishment of the Project Development Fund and of the efforts underway in BSEC to resolve this situation.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

35. No issues were raised under this agenda item.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

36. The Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism adopted the present Report and submitted it for consideration to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials of the BSEC Member States.