



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

**Permanent International Secretariat**

Sakıp Sabancı Cad., Müşir Fuad Paşa Yalısı, Eski Tersane, 34460 İstinye – İstanbul/Turkey

Tel: ++90 212 2296330-35 Fax: ++90 212 2296336

E-mail: [bsec@tnn.net](mailto:bsec@tnn.net) / [bsec1@tnn.net](mailto:bsec1@tnn.net) / [info@bsec-organization.org](mailto:info@bsec-organization.org)

[www.bsec-organization.org](http://www.bsec-organization.org)

---

---

**REPORT OF THE MEETING  
OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP  
ON COOPERATION IN TOURISM**

**Gelendzhik, Russian Federation, 28 October 2011**

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism (WGCT) was held in Gelendzhik, the Russian Federation, on 28 October 2011.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Alexander RADKOV, Head of the Federal Agency for Tourism of the Ministry of Tourism, Sport and Youth Policy of the Russian Federation.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:  
  
Republic of Armenia  
Republic of Azerbaijan  
Republic of Bulgaria  
Hellenic Republic  
Romania  
Russian Federation  
Republic of Turkey
4. The representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt attended the Meeting as the BSEC Observer.
5. The Meeting was attended by the representative of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) as the Official Guest.
6. The List of Participants is attached as **Annex I** to the present Report.
7. Mr. Alexander RADKOV, Head of the Federal Agency for Tourism of the Ministry of Tourism, Sport and Youth Policy of the Russian Federation, delivered a welcoming speech.
8. The representative of the Russian Federation delivered a message to the Participants of the Working Group on behalf of the BSEC Chairman-in-Office, H.E. Mr. Sergey LAVROV, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.

9. The representative of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) addressed the Meeting.

### **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

10. 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 RESPONSIBLE FOR TOURISM OF THE MEMBER STATES (MINISTERIAL DECLARATION, ATHENS, 2010)**

11. The representative of BSEC PERMIS informed on ways and dynamics of the implementation of the Resolution of the 15<sup>th</sup> BSEC Council (Moscow, 1 November 2006), since the last BSEC Council Meeting (Bucharest, 8 June 2011) with reference to the activities of the Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism.

12. The participants acknowledged information on the issue provided by the BSEC PERMIS and expressed willingness to proceed actively in securing the necessary dynamics of the implementation of the Council Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations, as well as the Ministerial Declaration.

### **CULTURAL TOURISM PROJECTS IMPLEMENTATION**

13. The Working Group discussed the issue of how best to promote the projects and secure their implementation.

14. The representative of the Republic of Turkey informed on the preparations for the Conference on Silk Road, to be held in Trabzon in June 2012.

15. The representative of Romania informed that the preparations have been finalized to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on the project on “Cultural Route of the Roman Emperors”. She also suggested that the BSEC projects on cultural itineraries should be linked to the Danube Strategy adopted by the European Union.

16. The representative of the Russian Federation recalled that at the International Conference on Tourism (Gelendzhik, 27-28 October 2011) a proposal was made to organize a film festival on tourism of the BSEC Member States.

17. The representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan expressed the readiness of his country to host the above mentioned film festival in Baku. He informed the Participants on the initiative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to create a web-site on tourism of the BSEC Member States.

18. The representative of the Republic of Armenia informed regarding the intention to organize a Ministerial Summit on Cultural and Historical Heritage of Tourism in Yerevan, in Autumn 2012, and invited the BSEC Member States to participate in it.

19. The representative of the Hellenic Republic expressed the appreciation of her Government to the Republic of Moldova and the Republic of Armenia for joining the project

“The Routes of Coinage”, elaborated by the Athens Numismatic Museum. Following the discussion on the institutional framework for the projects at the previous Meeting of the WGCT, held in Moscow, on 11-12 March 2011 (paragraph 15 of the Report), she pointed out that encouragement of cross-border cultural heritage projects and the elaboration of intertwined project are parts of the Terms of Reference of the BSEC Working Group on Culture and the relevant issues should be discussed at the Joint Meeting of the Working Groups on Cooperation in Tourism and on Culture.

## **INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES FRAMEWORKS OF BSEC TOURISM COOPERATION**

### **a) “The International Standing Secretariat on BSEC Cooperation in Tourism”**

20. Upon the request of the representative of the Hellenic Republic, the Working Group decided to defer this issue for future consideration.

### **b) “Forum on Cooperation of the Association of Travel and Tourism Agencies of the BSEC Member States”**

21. Upon the request of the representative of the Hellenic Republic, the Working Group decided to defer this issue for future consideration.

### **c) “A Common BSEC Tourism Marketing Council”**

22. Since no delegation took the floor on this issue, the Working Group decided to defer this issue for future consideration. The WG instructed BSEC PERMIS to inquire with Georgia, as the proponent of this issue, whether this initiative still stands for consideration.

### **d) “A Branding of the Black Sea Region”**

23. Upon the request of the representative of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Working Group decided to defer this issue for the next Meeting of the Group. BSEC PERMIS was instructed to remind Member States to communicate their respective comments on the issue.

## **TOURISM COOPERATION AREAS:**

### **a) Maritime and Nautical Tourism Cooperation among the BSEC Member States**

24. The Working Group, while stressing the importance of this issue, especially with regard to improving port infrastructure and increasing cruise float, decided to continue discussions at the next WGCT Meeting.

25. The representative of the Republic of Turkey recalled that the “Seatrade Winter Cruising Forum” will be held in Istanbul on 5-7 December 2011 and invited the BSEC Member States to attend the Forum with a view to exploring the possibilities of the common projects.

26. The representative of the Hellenic Republic informed that the government of her country was drafting the new legislation related to maritime and nautical tourism.

## **b) Balneology, Wellness and Spa Tourism**

27. The representatives of the Russian Federation informed that the International Forum on Wellness and Spa Tourism will be held in Anapa, the Russian Federation, in June 2012.

28. The Working Group decided to continue discussions at its next Meeting for further promoting Balneology, Wellness and Spa Tourism.

## **c) Creative Tourism**

29. Upon the request of the representative of Romania, the Working Group decided to postpone this item for the consideration at its next Meeting. Upon the request of the same representative regarding the definition of “Creative Tourism”, the explanation was given by the representative of the Hellenic Republic.

## **d) University Environment Integration for Specialist Training in Tourism Sphere of the Black Sea Region**

30. The representative of the State University of Saint-Petersburg of the Russian Federation made a presentation on the issue. The presentation is attached as **Annex III**.

31. The representative of the Republic of Turkey informed that several Universities in Turkey intend to join the project. The detailed information was communicated to BSEC PERMIS by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey.

32. The representative of the Russian Federation informed about the intention to organize the meeting of the university representatives from the BSEC Member States to estimate the goals and the routes of further cooperation on the issue, to be held in Saint-Petersburg in 2012.

## **NATIONAL POLICIES AND BEST PRACTICES IN THE FIELD OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN BSEC**

33. The representative of the Russian Federation underlined the importance of ensuring safety in the sphere of tourism.

34. The representatives of the Republic of Bulgaria and Romania proposed that the BSEC Member States should regularly communicate to BSEC PERMIS available statistical data on tourism which could be placed on the BSEC web-page.

## **PARTICIPATION AT TOURIST EVENTS AND FAIRS HELD IN THE BSEC MEMBER STATES**

35. The representative of the Russian Federation informed that the International Fair “Intourmarket” will be held in Moscow on 17-20 March 2012, and invited the BSEC Member States to participate in it.

36. The representative of the Republic of Turkey informed that an International Tourism Fair “Travel Turkey” will be held in Izmir in December 2011, and invited the BSEC Member States to participate in it.

37. The representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan informed that International Tourism Fair with the support of UNWTO, will be held in Baku in April 2012, and invited the BSEC Member States to participate in it.

38. The representative of Romania informed that the Second International Congress on Rural Tourism, under the patronage of UNWTO, will be held in Romania in May 2012.

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

39. The WGCT took note of the information provided by the representative of BSEC PERMIS, who recalled that the BSEC approved the new PDF Standard Application, and invited the Member States to apply for funding of specific projects in the field of tourism, in accordance with the relevant rules.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

40. There were no discussions under this Agenda Item.

#### **EXPRESSION OF THANKS**

41. The participants expressed their sincere gratitude to the Government of the Russian Federation for the hospitality extended to the participants and for the excellent organization of the Meeting in Gelendzhik.

#### **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING**

42. 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.