



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

**Permanent International Secretariat**

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**BS/WG/CT/R(2016)2**

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

**BSEC Headquarters, 21 November 2016**

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism (WGCT) was held at the BSEC Headquarters, on 21 November 2016.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Vladan LAZOVIC, Minister Counsellor, Special Representative of the Serbian 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  
Republic of Bulgaria  
Hellenic Republic  
Russian Federation  
Republic of Serbia  
Republic of Turkey  
Ukraine
4. The representative of the PABSEC International Secretariat attended the Meeting as the BSEC Related Body.
5. The representatives of the Boğaziçi University attended the Meeting as Guests.
6. The List of Participants is attached as **Annex I** to the present Report.

**AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

7. The Draft Agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The Agenda, as adopted, is attached as **Annex II**.

**AGENDA ITEM 2: 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**

8. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on the ways and dynamics of the implementation of the Resolution of the 15<sup>th</sup> BSEC Council (Moscow, 1 November 2006), since the last Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism (Sochi, 22 June 2016).

**AGENDA ITEM 3: CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT PLAN OF ACTION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON COOPERATION IN TOURISM (1 JULY 2016 - 30 JUNE 2018)**

9. The Working Group considered, amended and adopted the Plan of Action of the Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism (1 July 2016 – 30 June 2018), elaborated by the Country-Coordinator (Republic of Bulgaria). The Plan of Action is attached as **Annex III**.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: ACTION TAKEN OR TO BE TAKEN WITH REGARD TO THE SPECIAL INTEREST TOURISM COOPERATION AREAS**

10. The BSEC PERMIS presented brief information on the sub-items under this agenda item.

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

11. The representative of the Hellenic Republic informed that the Ministry of Tourism submitted a revised table containing data on Gastronomic and Wine tourism and Film-induced tourism in Greece, which was circulated to the BSEC Member States.

12. Representative of Ukraine informed about *the 23<sup>rd</sup> Ukraine International Travel Market - UITM'2016* which was held on 5-7 October in Kyiv. In addition to seminars, presentations of new tourist destinations and services for tour operators, hotels and companies from the field of the Internet technologies, a series of round tables, forums, conferences and congresses, were held within the framework of the Exhibition. One of them was the First Networking «Cool winter in Ukraine», dedicated to the winter holidays in Ukraine, organized by the Department of Tourism and Resorts of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine. Among the cases there were presentations about the stepping up in Ukraine of Gastronomic and Wine tourism, during the winter season 2016/2017.

13. The Working Group reiterated its call to the relevant authorities of the Member States that have not yet done so, to respond to the survey on Gastronomic and Wine tourism and Film-induced tourism.

**c) Balneology, Wellness and Spa Tourism**

14. The Working Group took note of information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on the consideration of the issues within BSEC and decided to consider this sub-item once substantive proposals on the issues are received.

**d) Maritime, Nautical and Cruise Tourism**

15. The BSEC PERMIS informed on the intention to organize jointly with the UNWTO an international meeting with the active participation of BSEC stakeholders and, mainly, with the support of the CLIA (Cruise Lines International Association), in order to explore ways for increasing the presence of cruise vessels in the Black Sea.

16. With regard to development of cruise tourism in the Black Sea region, the representative of the Russian Federation informed on the plans to organize an *International Yacht Festival “Black Sea Friendship”, Russia – Turkey*, in summer 2017, and invited the BSEC Member States to participate in it. The detailed information about the event will be provided in due course.

17. The representative of Ukraine referred to the Concept of the project on “*Development of Cruise Tourism in the BSEC Region*”, proposed by Ukraine, that will have to be adjusted in view of the situation in the Black Sea Region, according to international law. The representative of Ukraine proposed to defer the consideration of the issue to the next meeting of the Working Group.

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

18. The Working Group took note of the *Concept Paper on the University Environment Integration for Specialist Training in Tourism Sphere of the Black Sea Region*, provided by the representative of the Russian Federation. The *Concept Paper* and the *draft Agreement on the International Research and Education Consortium of Universities in the Member States of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation in Tourism* are attached as **Annex IV**.

19. The Member States were invited to appoint focal points from their interested Universities in order to find the ways to proceed with the above mentioned draft Agreement.

20. The Working Group took note of a presentation delivered by the representative of the UNWTO affiliated Boğaziçi University Applied Tourism Administration and Research Center (ATARC) on the *Activities and possible areas of collaboration between the Center and the BSEC*. The presentation is attached as **Annex V**.

21. The Working Group expressed readiness to develop collaboration with the Center on possible joint projects, in compliance with the MoU signed between the BSEC PERMIS and the Center in 2002.

#### **f) Cultural routes/cultural tourism projects**

22. The BSEC PERMIS distributed to the participants updated information on the project “*LIMEN - Cultural Ports from Aegean to the Black Sea*”, prepared by the European Centre for Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Monuments. In this context, it was recalled that the Ministers in charge of Culture and Tourism in the Joint Declaration (Sochi, 23 June 2016) encouraged the implementation of Cultural tourism / Cultural routes projects in the Black Sea Region and, in this context, supported the establishment of an institution called “the Cultural Port of the Black Sea”.

23. The BSEC PERMIS reiterated the importance of BSEC participation in the establishment of the above institution as, if implemented, it will have a far reaching influence in the cultural and tourism cooperation among Member States and city ports on the Black Sea coast line.

24. The BSEC PERMIS distributed to the participants information on the project “*The New Silk Road – A Route of Peace*”, prepared by a non-profit NGO “Nexos-Alianza Association”.

25. In this connection, the Working Group expressed interest to be kept informed on further development with regard to the project.

26. The Working Group noted that the use of the BSEC logo and the reference to the institutional collaboration with the BSEC, referred to in the above mentioned information, was not authorized by BSEC and instructed the BSEC PERMIS to inform the NGO in question.

#### **g) Youth and Sports issues**

27. The Working Group took note of information on the consideration of Youth and Sports issues within BSEC, presented by the BSEC PERMIS, and decided to consider this item once substantive proposals on the issue are received.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE “BSEC ECONOMIC AGENDA 2012”: FIRST YEAR OF THE SECOND MEDIUM-TERM (2016-2018)**

28. The Working Group took note of information on the developments with regard to the implementation of the “BSEC Economic Agenda 2012” and the priorities for the second medium-term (2016-2018), provided by the BSEC PERMIS.

29. The Working Group considered, amended and approved the *Achievements Report on the implementation of the “BSEC Economic Agenda 2012” for 2016*, prepared by BSEC PERMIS. The Achievements Report is attached as **Annex VI**.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE BSEC AND THE UNWTO**

30. The Working Group considered, amended and agreed on the draft *Action Plan on the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between BSEC and UNWTO*, prepared by BSEC PERMIS. The Action Plan is attached as **Annex VII**.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7: INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE FRAMEWORKS OF BSEC TOURISM COOPERATION**

31. The Working Group decided to consider this item once the substantive proposals on the issue are presented.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 8: NATIONAL POLICIES AND BEST PRACTICES IN THE FIELD OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN THE BSEC MEMBER STATES**

32. No discussion was held under this agenda item.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 9: PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND (PDF) AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT (PMU) PROJECTS**

33. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on the state of affairs with regard to the replenishment of the Project Development Fund (PDF)

and on the Guidelines for the BSEC Project Management Unit (PMU), as well as the creation of the Black Sea Project Promotion Facility.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 10: TOURISM EVENTS AND FAIRS IN THE BSEC MEMBER STATES (1 JANUARY – 30 JUNE 2017)**

34. The representative of the Republic of Bulgaria informed the participants about the following tourism events to be held in Bulgaria in 2017:

- *Vacation and Spa EXPO* (Sofia, February);
- *International Festival and Cultural Tourism* (Veliko Tarnovo, April).

35. The representative of the Hellenic Republic informed the participants about the following tourism events to be held in Greece:

- *12<sup>th</sup> HORECA: Hospitality and Foodservice Trade Fair* (hotel, restaurant, café) (Athens, 10-13 February 2017);
- *Detrop: 26<sup>th</sup> International Exhibition of Food, Beverages, Machinery Equipment and Packaging* (Thessaloniki, 3-6 March 2017),
- *Oenos: 6<sup>th</sup> International Wine Fair* (Thessaloniki, 3-6 March 2017);
- *4<sup>th</sup> Food EXPO Greece: International Food and Beverage Exhibition* (Athens, 18-20 March 2017);
- *Oenotelia: International Wine and Spirits Exhibition* (Athens, 18-20 March 2017).

36. The representative of the Russian Federation informed the participants on the plans to organize an *International Yacht Festival “Black Sea Friendship”, Russia – Turkey* (summer 2017).

#### **AGENDA ITEM 11: ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

37. The Working Group took note of information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on the plans to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the BSEC in 2017.

38. The BSEC PERMIS provided information on the initiative of the Geo Routes Cultural Institute to organize the *First Balkans and Black Sea Cooperation Forum* (Serres, Greece, 25-26 May 2017), with the support of the Region of Central Macedonia and the municipality of the City of Serres. As indicated in the meeting of the Working Group on Culture (BSEC Headquarters, 5-6 October 2016), it is proposed that the event is hosted on an annual basis, in different cities in the region, with the participation and involvement of BSEC in its organization.

39. The Working Group invited the BSEC PERMIS to provide updated information on the issue, as it becomes available.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 12: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING**

40. 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.