



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

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**BS/CT/WG/R(2013)2**

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

**Istanbul, BSEC Headquarters, 23-24 September 2013**

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism (WGCT) was held in Istanbul, at the BSEC Headquarters, on 23-24 September 2013.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Mikhail VARDANIAN, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia to the Organization of BSEC.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:  
  
Republic of Armenia  
Republic of Azerbaijan  
Hellenic Republic  
Romania  
Russian Federation  
Republic of Serbia  
Republic of Turkey  
Ukraine
4. The representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) and the BSEC Business Council (BSEC BC) attended the Meeting as the BSEC Related Bodies.
5. The representatives of the Arab Republic of Egypt attended the Meeting as the BSEC Observer.
6. The List of Participants is attached as **Annex I** to the present Report.

## **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

7. 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**

8. The BSEC PERMIS representative informed 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 BSEC Council Meeting (Odessa, 21 June 2013) with reference to the activities of the Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism.

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

## **CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT PLAN OF ACTION OF THE WORKING GROUP (1 JULY 2013-30 JUNE 2015)**

10. The Working Group considered, amended and adopted the Draft Plan of Action for the period 1 July 2013 - 30 June 2015, elaborated by Ukraine as the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group. The Plan of Action is attached as **Annex III**.

## **CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT DOCUMENTS FOR THE MEETING OF THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF TOURISM OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES (KYIV, 10 OCTOBER 2013)**

11. The Delegation of Ukraine introduced the draft documents and informed on the arrangements for the forthcoming Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Tourism of the BSEC Member States, to be held in Kyiv, on 10 October 2013.

12. 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 IV** and **Annex V**, respectively.

## **THE “WAY FORWARD FOR AN ACTION PLAN ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE “ECONOMIC AGENDA TOWARDS AN ENHANCED BSEC PARTNERSHIP”**

13. The Working Group considered, amended and adopted the Report on the activities of the Working Group on the implementation of the BSEC Economic Agenda and decided to forward it to the Council through the Committee of Senior Officials. The Report is attached as **Annex VI**.

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BSEC PUBLIC COMMUNICATION STRATEGY**

14. The Working Group considered, amended and approved the Draft Paper for the BSEC webpage on Tourism, elaborated by the BSEC PERMIS. The Paper is attached as **Annex VII**.

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

16. The representative of the Hellenic Republic presented the basic points of a law recently proposed by the Ministry of Tourism of the Hellenic Republic, which aims at the simplification of procedures for the reinforcement of entrepreneurship in the tourism sector. More specifically, new regulations were introduced in order to update the existing legislation with regard to tourism accommodation, tourism-related investments and major tourism infrastructure projects aiming at sustainable tourism development.

17. The Working Group called upon the Member States to regularly exchange statistical data on tourism through the BSEC PERMIS.

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

18. The representative of Romania invited the BSEC Member States to participate in the International Tourism Fair, to be held in Bucharest, on 17-19 November 2013.

19. The representative of Ukraine invited the BSEC Member States to participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Kyiv International Travel Forum, to be held in Kyiv, on 10-12 October 2013.

20. The representative of the Republic of Serbia invited the BSEC Member States to participate in the 36<sup>th</sup> International Tourism Fair, to be held in Belgrade, on 27 February – 2 March 2014.

21. The representative of the Hellenic Republic invited the BSEC Member States to participate in the 29<sup>th</sup> Philoxenia International Tourism Fair, to be held in Thessaloniki, on 21-24 November 2013.

22. The representative of the Republic of Turkey invited the BSEC Member States to participate in the East Mediterranean Tourism and Travel Exhibition (EMITT), to be held in Istanbul, in January 2014, as well as in the “Travel Turkey”, to be held in Izmir, on 5-8 December 2013.

23. The representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan invited the BSEC Member States to participate in the International Travel and Tourism Fair, to be held in Baku, on 3-5 April 2014.

24. The representative of the Russian Federation invited the BSEC Member States to participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Black Sea Yacht Festival, to be held between 3 July – 25 August 2014.

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

25. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS representative concerning institutional structure frameworks on tourism cooperation which were discussed during the past several years.

26. The Working Group decided to defer consideration of the proposal by Georgia on the creation of “A Common BSEC Tourism Marketing Council” to its next Meeting. The Working Group invited Georgia to submit a working paper on the issue which will be circulated to the Member States for their comments and observations.

27. The Working Group also decided to defer consideration of the issue of “A Branding of the Black Sea Region” to its next Meeting. The Working Group invited the Republic of Bulgaria to submit the relevant information on the issue.

28. In order to continue deliberations on the issue, the Working Group invited the Country-Coordinator to get in touch with the proponents of the above mentioned proposals in order to encourage them to communicate the feedback to the Member States through the BSEC PERMIS.

### **TOURISM COOPERATION AREAS:**

#### **a) Cultural Tourism / Cultural Routes**

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

30. The Working Group took note of the information on the latest development with regard to the project the “Route of the Roman Emperors”, delivered by the representative of the Republic of Serbia.

31. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the representative of the Republic of Armenia regarding cultural tourism / cultural routes events, held in Armenia within the projects on the “Vine and Wine Routes of Armenia” and the “XIII Century Sailing Ship “Cilicia” ”.

32. The Working Group instructed the BSEC PERMIS to ask the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and the Council of Europe to share their experience in implementing cultural tourism / cultural routes projects.

#### **b) Maritime and Nautical Tourism Cooperation**

33. The Working Group took note of the presentation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Black Sea Yacht Festival 2014 (IBSYF-2014), delivered by the delegation of the Russian Federation. The presentation is attached as **Annex VIII**.

34. The representative of Ukraine provided information of the project on the “Development of Cruise Tourism in the BSEC Region” and called upon the Member States to join this project.

35. The representative of the Hellenic Republic presented the basic points of a new law proposed by the Ministry of Tourism of the Hellenic Republic, which modifies the process and the necessary documentation for the siting, the concession and the licensing of tourism ports, aiming at promoting maritime tourism along with sustainable tourism development.

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

**d) Creative Tourism**

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

**f) Wine Tourism**

36. The Working Group decided to defer consideration of sub-items c), d), e) and f) to its next Meeting.

### **PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND (PDF): PROJECT APPLICATIONS IN THE FIELD OF TOURISM**

37. The Working Group recalled that the following priority project areas for the PDF in the field of Tourism were agreed at its last Meeting: new tourism products and routes; research; education and training; marketing and promotion.

38. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS Project Coordinator about the state of affairs with the issue of replenishment of the Project Development Fund and about the decision by the PDF Steering Committee to temporarily postpone receiving project applications to be granted by the PDF.

### **COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN BSEC PERMIS AND MEMBER STATES**

39. The Working Group took note of the PERMIS proposals regarding the improvement of the communications between the BSEC PERMIS and BSEC Member States.

40. While appreciating the existing practice of communication in the tourism field between the BSEC PERMIS and the relevant authorities of the Member States, the Participants expressed different views on the proposals made by PERMIS.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

41. There was no issue raised under this Agenda item.

### **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.