



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

Istanbul, BSEC Headquarters, 27 September 2010

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism was held in Istanbul, at the BSEC Headquarters, on 27 September 2010.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Sarantis MOSCHOVIS, First Counsellor for Economic and Commercial Affairs, B2 Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic.
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
Russian Federation
Republic of Serbia
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine
4. The representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of the BSEC (PABSEC) and the BSEC Business Council attended the Meeting as the BSEC Related Bodies.
5. The representative of the Danube Tourist Commission also participated in the Meeting as the Official Guest.
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, amended and adopted. The Agenda, as adopted, is attached as **Annex II**.

ELABORATING ON THE DRAFT DECLARATION OF THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF TOURISM OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES (ATHENS, 15 NOVEMBER 2010)

8. The Draft Declaration of the forthcoming Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Tourism of the BSEC Member States, to be held in Athens on 15 November 2010, as prepared by the Chairman-in-Office, was discussed and amended. The text of the Draft Declaration is attached as **Annex III**.

9. The Working Group decided to communicate, through the PERMIS, their amendments to the draft Declaration not later than by 20 October 2010.

10. The final draft Declaration will be elaborated by the Hellenic Chairmanship-in-Office, taking into account the comments made by the Member States and communicated to the Ministers in charge of Tourism / Heads of the Tourism Administrations of the BSEC Member States before the Ministerial Meeting to be held on 15 November 2010.

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT ACTION PLAN FOR 2011-2012, PROPOSED BY THE FORTHCOMING COUNTRY-COORDINATOR

11. The Russian Federation, in its capacity of the incoming Country-Coordinator of the BSEC WG on Cooperation in Tourism, presented the Draft Action Plan for 2011-2012, which is attached as **Annex IV**.

12. The participants decided to communicate to PERMIS their comments to the draft Action Plan by 29 October 2010 in order to finalize it and to submit to the next meeting of the Working Group.

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

13. The issue was deferred to the next meeting of the Working Group.

“THE STANDING INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT ON BSEC COOPERATION IN TOURISM” – STATE OF AFFAIRS

14. The representative of the Hellenic Republic provided information on the issue of the launching of the Standing International Secretariat on Cooperation in Tourism in the first quarter of 2011.

15. The unofficial translation of the draft law concerning the establishment of the Standing International Secretariat on Cooperation in Tourism is attached as **Annex V**.

16. The Working Group expressed its appreciation to the Hellenic Republic for the work done so far in preparing the launching of the Secretariat.

17. The Hellenic Republic proposed to present to the Member States the issues related to the organization, the operation and the staffing of the Standing International Secretariat on Cooperation in Tourism at the next meeting of the Working Group.

“FORUM ON COOPERATION OF THE ASSOCIATIONS OF TRAVEL AND TOURISM AGENCIES OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES” – STATE OF AFFAIRS

18. The representative of the Hellenic Republic informed on the preparations for the organization of the meeting “Forum on Cooperation of the Association of Travel and Tourism Agencies of the Member States of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation”, which will be held along with the Workshop organized on the occasion of the launching of the International Standing Secretariat on BSEC Cooperation in Tourism.

“A COMMON BSEC TOURISM MARKETING COUNCIL”- EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

19. The Working Group agreed, upon the request of Georgia, to postpone the issue to the next Meeting of the Working Group.

“CREATING A BRANDING OF THE BLACK SEA REGION”- EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND SETTING UP CONCLUSIONS

20. The Working Group decided to defer this issue to the next Meeting to give opportunity to the Member States to communicate their comments to the non-paper “Creating a Branding of the Black Sea Region”.

MARITIME AND NAUTICAL TOURISM COOPERATION AMONG MEMBER STATES: PROGRESS EVALUATION

21. The issue has been deferred to the Joint Meeting of the WG on Cooperation in Tourism and on Culture to be held in Istanbul, on 28 September 2010.

THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE (CoE) “WINE CULTURAL TOURISM EXCHANGE PROJECT’ AND BSEC – ACTUAL STATE OF AFFAIRS

22. The representative of the PERMIS briefed the participants on the latest developments of the issue.

EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON PARTICIPATION AT TOURIST EVENTS AND FAIRS HELD IN BSEC MEMBER STATES

23. Professor Gerhard SKOFF, President of the Danube Tourist Commission, proposed to make a study on tourist events and fairs, thus preparing ground for more effective participation to the said events.

BALNEOLOGY, WELLNESS AND SPA TOURISM – FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSIONS

24. The participants decided to defer the issue to the next meeting.

REVIEW AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON NATIONAL POLICIES AND BEST PRACTICES IN THE FIELD OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN BSEC COUNTRIES

25. The participants decided to defer the issue to the next meeting.

PARTNERSHIP AND MARKETING DEVELOPMENT IN CREATIVE TOURISM

26. The participants decided to defer the issue to the next meeting.

JOINT MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUPS ON COOPERATION IN TOURISM AND ON CULTURE – EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

27. The Working Group decided to continue convening of the Joint meetings on Tourism and on Culture issues on ad hoc basis.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

28. The delegation of Georgia invited the representatives of the Hellenic Republic and the Republic of Turkey to consider the possibility to encourage leading tourism vocational training centers of their countries to establish branches in Georgia as well as to organize special training for Georgian tourism industry stakeholders and trainers.

29. The Hellenic Republic and the Republic of Turkey representatives acknowledged the kind request and pledged to inform competent National authorities.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

30. The Working Group adopted the present Report and submitted it for consideration to the Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials of the BSEC Member States to be held in Istanbul, on 20-21 October 2010.
