



4 May 2017

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**REPORT OF THE  
MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP  
ON TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**BSEC Headquarters, 4 May 2017**

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Trade and Economic Development was held at the BSEC Headquarters on 4 May 2017.
2. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Ms. Serap ÖZCOŞKUN, Special Representative of the Turkish Chairmanship-in-Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey.
3. The Meeting was attended by the following BSEC Member States:  
  
Republic of Armenia  
Republic of Azerbaijan  
Republic of Bulgaria  
Georgia  
Hellenic Republic  
Romania  
Russian Federation  
Republic of Turkey  
Ukraine
4. The following BSEC Observer attended the Meeting:  
  
United States of America
5. The representative of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) attended the Meeting as a Guest.
6. The List of Participants in the Meeting is attached as **Annex I**.

**AGENDA ITEM 1: 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**.

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**AGENDA ITEM 2: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS RELATED TO TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE DECLARATIONS ADOPTED BY THE MEETINGS OF THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF ECONOMY**

8. The representative of the BSEC PERMIS informed on the state of implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BSEC Council (Moscow, 1 November 2006), 16<sup>th</sup> BSEC Council (Belgrade, 19 April 2007), 28<sup>th</sup> BSEC Council (Odessa, 21 June 2013), 32<sup>nd</sup> BSEC Council (Chisinau, 18 June 2015) and 34<sup>th</sup> BSEC Council (Sochi, 1 July 2016).

9. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS and expressed its commitment to take necessary measures in order to secure proper implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the Council.

10. The BSEC PERMIS also invited the Member States to update the list of representatives to the Working Group on a long term basis. The current list of representatives of the Member States to the Working Group on Trade and Economic Development is attached as **Annex III**.

**AGENDA ITEM 3: DRAFT REGIONAL TRADE FACILITATION STRATEGY FOR THE BSEC REGION**

11. The Working Group took note of the outcome of the Informal Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Customs Matters (BSEC Headquarters, 21 April 2017) with regard to the Draft Regional Trade Facilitation Strategy for the BSEC Region, as well as of information provided by the representative of the BSEC PERMIS on further developments on the Draft Strategy.

12. The Working Group discussed, amended and finalized the text of the Draft Regional Trade Facilitation Strategy for the BSEC Region and decided to submit it for its due approval to the upper BSEC bodies. The text of the Draft Strategy, as finalized, is attached as **Annex IV**.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS OF ECONOMIC AND TRADE RELATIONS AMONG THE BSEC MEMBER STATES**

**- Setting up an Information Exchange Mechanism on trade and economic issues in the BSEC Region**

13. The Working Group further considered the Project Proposal entitled “Setting up an Information Exchange Mechanism on Trade and Economic Issues in the BSEC Region”, elaborated by the BSEC PERMIS.

14. The Working Group invited the Member States to send their comments and proposals regarding the content of the Project Proposal to the BSEC PERMIS until 3 July 2017, and decided to continue consideration of the Project Proposal at its next Meeting. The Project Proposal is attached as **Annex V**.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: COOPERATION AMONG THE BSEC MEMBER STATES IN THE SPHERE OF ELECTRONIC COMMERCE**

15. The Working Group exchanged views on the revised Draft Framework for BSEC E-commerce Cooperation, presented by the Russian Federation, and decided to continue consideration of the document with a view to finalizing it at its next Meeting. The Draft Framework is attached as **Annex VI**.

16. The Working Group invited the Member States to send their final comments and proposals regarding the Draft Framework to the BSEC PERMIS until 3 July 2017.

**AGENDA ITEM 6: COOPERATION AMONG THE BSEC MEMBER STATES IN DEVELOPING THE SINGLE WINDOW INSTRUMENT FOR TRADE FACILITATION**

17. The Working Group considered and finalized the text of the Draft Framework for BSEC Single Window Cooperation and decided to submit it for its due approval to the upper BSEC bodies. The text of the Draft Framework, as finalized, is attached as **Annex VII**.

**AGENDA ITEM 7: DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATION BETWEEN BSEC AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS IN THE FIELD OF TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

18. The representative of the UNECE made a presentation on “*Proposal for Single Window Seminar: Step-by-Step planning for Single Window and Interoperability of Single Window Systems*”, to be organized back-to-back with the next meetings of the BSEC Working Groups on Customs Matters and on Trade and Economic Development. The presentation is attached as **Annex VIII**.

19. The seminar will reflect experiences of building Single Window (SW) systems in the BSEC region: national SW projects (Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey); Port Community Systems (Ukraine); or maritime SW. Some BSEC Member States participate in regional SW initiatives in the EU (Bulgaria, Greece and Romania); and the Eurasian Economic Union (Armenia, Russia). The seminar will cover those projects, as well as the new UNCEFACT Recommendation 36 on SW Interoperability with its specific aspects: need and principles of SW Interoperability; technical compatibility and use of international standards for information exchange, creating an enabling legal environment and governance of SW interoperability. The UNECE may help to invite some key experts from the BSEC Member States, the European Commission and the Eurasian Economic Commission on this issue.

**AGENDA ITEM 8: OUTCOME OF THE WORKSHOP ON “OUR COLLABORATION POINT: COMMERCIAL REGISTRY” (BSEC HEADQUARTERS, 19-20 APRIL 2017)**

20. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the representative of the BSEC PERMIS on the Workshop on “*Our Collaboration Point: Commercial Registry*”, held at the BSEC Headquarters on 19-20 April 2017, and expressed its appreciation to the BSEC PERMIS and the Ministry of Customs and Trade of the Republic of Turkey for co-organizing this event.

21. The Working Group discussed the cooperation among the BSEC Member States in the relevant sphere and decided to continue the consideration of this issue in future meetings, taking into account the conclusions and recommendations of the above-mentioned Seminar.

22. The importance of broader participation from the BSEC Member States in the activities which will be organized in the framework of BSEC was emphasized.

### **AGENDA ITEM 9: ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

#### ***- Fourth Meeting of Ministers in charge of Economy***

23. The Delegation of the Republic of Turkey informed the Working Group on preparations of the Fourth Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Economy (Istanbul, 11 May 2017) and the High Level Experts Meeting (Istanbul, 10 May 2017). Information on the BSEC Member States which confirmed their participation in the above Meetings was given. Member States which have not yet confirmed their participation were invited to do so, at their earliest convenience.

24. It was emphasized that a BSEC Business Forum is also going to be organized on the sidelines of the above mentioned Meetings. The Delegation of the Republic of Turkey urged the BSEC Member States to encourage their business communities to take an active part in the Business Forum.

### **AGENDA ITEM 10: DATE AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

25. The date and venue of the next Meeting of the Working Group on Trade and Economic Development will be communicated to the Member States through the diplomatic channels.

26. The representative of the BSEC PERMIS informed the participants that the next Meeting of the Working Group on Trade and Economic Development is planned to be organized back-to-back with the Single Window Seminar.

### **AGENDA ITEM 11: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING**

27. The Working Group adopted the present Report for its submission to the Committee of Senior Officials and the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs for their consideration.

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