



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

Sakıp Sabancı Cad., Müşir Fuad Paşa Yalısı, Eski Tersane, 34467 Emirgan – Istanbul/Turkey
Tel: ++90 212 2296330-35 Fax: ++90 212 2296336
E-mail: info@bsec-organization.org www.bsec-organization.org

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

(BSEC Headquarters, 29 November 2016)

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Trade and Economic Development (WGTED) was held at the BSEC Headquarters, on 29 November 2016.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Vladan LAZOVIC, Minister Counsellor, Special Representative of the Serbian Chairmanship-in-Office of BSEC, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia.
3. The following BSEC Member States attended the Meeting:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Republic of Bulgaria
Hellenic Republic
Republic of Moldova
Russian Federation
Republic of Serbia
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 is attached as **Annex I**.

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: 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 15th Meeting of the BSEC Council (Moscow, 1 November 2006), 16th BSEC Council (Belgrade, 19 April 2007), 28nd BSEC Council (Odessa, 21 June 2013), 31st BSEC Council (Thessaloniki, 12 December 2014) and 32nd BSEC Council (Chisinau, 18 June 2015), 34th 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 appropriate measures in order to secure proper implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the BSEC Council.

10. The delegations of the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and Ukraine provided the BSEC PERMIS with updated information on their representatives to the Working Group on Trade and Economic Development. The updated list of representatives in the Working Group on Trade and Economic Development is attached as **Annex III**.

11. The Working Group considered and adopted the Plan of Action for the period from 1 July 2016 until 30 June 2018, submitted by the Republic of Turkey in its capacity of the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group. The Plan of Action is attached as **Annex IV**.

AGENDA ITEM 3: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS OF ECONOMIC AND TRADE RELATIONS AMONG THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

i) Setting up an Information Exchange Mechanism on trade and economic issues in the BSEC Region

12. The Working Group 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.

13. The delegation of the Russian Federation submitted suggestions on possible areas of information exchange among the BSEC Member States to be further incorporated in the Project Proposal. The above-mentioned suggestions are attached as **Annex V**.

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 15 March 2017, and decided to continue consideration of the Project Proposal at its next Meeting. The Project Proposal is attached as **Annex VI**.

ii) Proposal of the Republic of Turkey to organize the Workshop “Our Collaboration Point: Commercial Registry”

15. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the Republic of Turkey on the Workshop “Our Collaboration Point: Commercial Registry” to be held at the BSEC Headquarters on 19-20 April 2017.

16. The Working Group invited the BSEC Member States to nominate their experts for participation at this event and provide relevant information to the Organizers and the BSEC PERMIS until 31 March 2017.

AGENDA ITEM 4: COOPERATION AMONG THE BSEC MEMBER STATES IN THE SPHERE OF ELECTRONIC COMMERCE

17. The Working Group took note of the Draft Framework for BSEC E-commerce Cooperation, presented by the Russian Federation.

18. The Working Group invited the BSEC Member States to submit their comments on the Draft Framework until the 31 March 2017.

19. The Working Group decided to continue consideration of the document at its next Meeting. The Draft Framework is attached as **Annex VII**.

AGENDA ITEM 5: COOPERATION AMONG THE BSEC MEMBER STATES IN DEVELOPING THE SINGLE WINDOW INSTRUMENT FOR TRADE FACILITATION

20. The Working Group took note of the Draft Framework for BSEC Single Window Cooperation, presented by the Russian Federation.

21. The Working Group decided to continue consideration of the issue at its next Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 6: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE “BSEC ECONOMIC AGENDA 2012”: FIRST YEAR OF THE SECOND MEDIUM-TERM (2016-2018)

22. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS and invited the Member States to make their proposals on projects/deliverables to be implemented within each priority goals of the Working Group for the 2016-2018 term.

AGENDA ITEM 7: IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREEMENTS AND MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING

23. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on the issue and invited the BSEC Member States to make their suggestions on Agreements, Protocols and Memoranda to be concluded among them as well as between the BSEC Organization and Third Parties with a view to promoting the objectives set by the BSEC Economic Agenda 2012 in the field of trade and economic development.

AGENDA ITEM 8: OUTCOME OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF EXPERTS ON TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (BSEC HEADQUARTERS, 28 NOVEMBER 2016)

24. The Working Group took note of the outcome of the Special Meeting of Experts on Trade and Economic Development held at the BSEC Headquarters on 28 November 2016. The Draft Regional Trade Facilitation Strategy for the BSEC Region, as agreed at the Special Meeting of Experts, is attached as **Annex VIII**.

25. The Working Group decided to submit the Draft Regional Trade Facilitation Strategy for the BSEC Region to the experts of the Working Group on Customs Matters for their consideration.

26. The Republic of Turkey, as the incoming BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office, proposed to organize a Joint Meeting of the Working Groups on Trade and Economic Development and on Customs Matters, in April 2017, in order to continue consideration and finalize the Draft Regional Trade Facilitation Strategy for the BSEC Region.

AGENDA ITEM 9: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

27. No issue was raised under this agenda item.

AGENDA ITEM 10: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

28. The Working Group adopted the Report of the Meeting to be submitted to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials.