



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

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

(BSEC Headquarters, 3 March 2015)

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Trade and Economic Development (WGTED) was held in Istanbul, on 3 March 2015.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Ms. Inetta PANURCO, Head of Division of International Bilateral Relations and Cooperation with International Financial Organizations, Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Moldova.
3. The following BSEC Member States participated in the Meeting:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Hellenic Republic
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine
4. The List of Participants in the Meeting is attached as **Annex I**.

AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. 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

6. The BSEC PERMIS informed on the state of implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the 16th BSEC Council (Belgrade, 19 April 2007), 28nd BSEC Council (Odessa, 21 June 2013) and 31st BSEC Council (Thessaloniki, 12 December 2014).

7. The delegations of the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine provided the BSEC PERMIS with updated information on their representatives to the Working Group on Trade and Economic Development.

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

9. The delegation of Ukraine presented brief information on its activities as the Country-Coordinator of the WGTED noting that the Evaluation Report of the activities of the Working Group during its term will be submitted for consideration of the Member States well before the next meeting of the WGTED.

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

i) Mechanism of information exchange

10. Participants discussed the Concept on information exchange mechanism on trade and economic cooperation in the BSEC framework elaborated by Ukraine.

11. The Working Group agreed with the proposal of Ukraine to create such a mechanism and emphasized the need to accommodate it with the proposals on the establishment of the BSEC networks in the esteemed Member States for promoting intra-regional trade and investments.

12. In this regard, the Working Group invited the Country-Coordinator to elaborate, in cooperation with the BSEC PERMIS, a draft Working Paper for consideration at the next meeting of the Working Group.

ii) The need for comparative statistics

13. The Working Group further discussed the issue and invited the Member States which have not yet done so to fill up the Questionnaire elaborated by the BSEC Coordination Center for the Exchange of Statistical Data and Economic Information regarding the type of statistical data to be exchanged through this Center not later than 15 April 2015.

14. In the meanwhile the BSEC Coordination Center for the Exchange of Statistical Data and Economic Information is invited to study/evaluate the existing questionnaires, taking into consideration possible proposals on the issue by the Member States.

iii) Discussion survey procedure for the BSEC Member States: “What prevents active development of trade and economic cooperation in the Black Sea region?”

15. The participants took note of the information provided by the delegation of Ukraine on the issue. The information is attached as **Annex III**.

iv) The BSEC annual report practice “BSEC: assessment of progress made to overcome barriers to trade”

16. The participants took note of the information provided by the delegation of Ukraine on the issue. The information is attached as **Annex IV**.

AGENDA ITEM 4: CREATION OF BSEC NETWORKS IN THE INTERESTED MEMBER STATES AIMED AT PROMOTING INTRA-REGIONAL TRADE AND INVESTMENTS

17. The delegation of the Republic of Turkey informed on nomination of Focal Points to coordinate the functioning of a national BSEC Network aimed at promoting intra-regional trade and investments.

18. The participants discussed the Tasks for the Focal Points, in conformity with the proposal by Ukraine to create a mechanism of information exchange on trade and economic issues. The Tasks are attached as **Annex V**.

19. The delegation of the Republic of Turkey expressed willingness to organize a two-day workshop of “Our collaboration points: trade registries” in the second half of 2015 right previous or following days of the meeting of “Working Group on Trade and Economic Development” in Istanbul. The details of the event will be circulated among the Member States in due course.

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

20. The Working Group exchanged views on the proposal by the Russian Federation regarding “Terms of Reference the expert dialogue on e-commerce” and agreed:

- a) to invite the Member States to provide their views on the proposal not later than 1 June 2015;
- b) to consider the proposal by the Russian Federation during the meetings of the Working Groups on Customs Matters and on ICT;
- c) to convene the First Workshop on e-commerce, in the first half of 2016, with due participation of experts from the relevant Ministries and other governmental bodies, private sector, research institutions, academia and NGOs dealing with e-commerce issues to discuss ways and means to develop the cooperation in this field among the BSEC Member States.

d) to convene a Joint Meeting of the Working Groups on Trade and Economic Development, on Customs Matters and on ICT during possibly the first half of 2016, to discuss, inter alia, this issue, taking into consideration the outcomes of the First Workshop on e-commerce.

AGENDA ITEM 6: CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN THE ORGANIZATION OF BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION (BSEC) AND THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIALISTS AND ENTREPRENEURS (ICIE)

21. The WG discussed, amended and finalized the draft MoU between the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) and the International Congress of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (ICIE). The text of MoU is attached as **Annex VI**.

22. The Working Group decided to submit the following draft Resolution to the next CSO Meeting:

“The Council approved the Memorandum of Understanding between the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the International Congress of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs and authorized the Secretary General of BSEC PERMIS to sign the said Memorandum on behalf of BSEC. The Memorandum of Understanding is attached as ...”.

AGENDA ITEM 7: BSEC PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND (PDF) AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT (PMU) PROJECTS

23. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on this issue.

AGENDA ITEM 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

i) Implementation of the “Economic Agenda 2012”: Launching in June 2015 of the surveys for the next medium-term (2016-2018).

24. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on this issue.

AGENDA ITEM 9: DATE AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

25. The date and venue for the next Meeting will be communicated in due time through the BSEC PERMIS, after consultations with the Chairman-in-Office.

AGENDA ITEM 10: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

26. 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.