



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**

Istanbul, 25-26 April 2013

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Trade and Economic Development (WG) was held in Istanbul, on 25-26 April 2013.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Sergey KRIUCHKOV, Director of Department for Trade Cooperation with WTO and Trade Remedies, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine.
3. The following BSEC Member States participated in the Meeting:
 - Republic of Albania
 - Republic of Armenia
 - Republic of Azerbaijan
 - Republic of Bulgaria
 - Hellenic Republic
 - Georgia
 - Republic of Moldova
 - Romania
 - Russian Federation
 - Republic of Turkey
 - Ukraine
4. The representatives of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the European Commission also participated in the Meeting as the BSEC Observers.
5. The representative of the UNDP Black Sea Trade and Investment Promotion Programme (UNDP-BSTIP) participated in the Meeting as Guest.
6. The List of Participants of the Meeting 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: PREPARATION OF THE MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF ECONOMY OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

1.1. State of affairs – short briefing by the Chairman-in-Office and tour de table

8. The WG took note of the information provided by the representative of the Ukrainian Chairmanship-in-Office on the preparations for the Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Economy of the BSEC Member States, scheduled to take place in Yalta, on 23 May 2013.

9. The Member States are invited to inform the Chairmanship-in-Office about the composition of their delegations to the Ministerial Meeting and their intentions concerning bilateral meetings at the level of heads of delegations no later than **15 May 2013**.

10. The representative of Ukraine kindly requested the Member States to confirm their participation at the Ministerial Meeting as soon as possible. The related documents will be circulated in due course through the BSEC PERMIS.

2.2. Draft text of the Yalta Joint Declaration of the Ministers of Economy of the BSEC Member States

11. The WG considered the text of the Draft Joint Declaration of the Ministers in charge of Economy of BSEC Member States, elaborated by Ukraine, for the adoption by the Ministers at their Meeting in Yalta on 23 May 2013. The text of the Draft Joint Declaration agreed in general by the Working Group is attached as Annex III.

12. The Member States may submit their additional comments/proposals/positions on the text of the Draft Joint Declaration, after the consultations with their relevant institutions, until **15 May 2013**.

13. The Ukrainian Chairmanship-in-Office informed about their readiness to convene a formal meeting of the WG, if necessary, in the afternoon of 22 May 2013.

AGENDA ITEM 3: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BSEC COUNCIL AND THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE DECLARATIONS AND JOINT STATEMENTS ADOPTED BY THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF ECONOMY

14. The BSEC PERMIS representative informed on the state of implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the 15th BSEC Council (Moscow, 1 November 2006), 16th BSEC Council (Belgrade, 19 April 2007), 24th BSEC Council (Bucharest, 8 June 2011) and 27th BSEC Council (Istanbul, 15 December 2012) related to the activity of the Working Group on Trade and Economic Development.

15. The WG 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.

16. The WG invited those Member States who have not yet appointed their representatives of the relevant Ministries to the WG, to do so as soon as possible, and to update the existing list of representatives.

17. The WG welcomed the willingness of Ukraine to assume the task of Country-Coordinator of the Working Group on Trade and Economic Development and recommended to Committee of Senior Officials to submit to the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States the relevant draft Resolution.

AGENDA ITEM 4: THE WAY FORWARD FOR AN ACTION PLAN ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE “ECONOMIC AGENDA TOWARDS AN ENHANCED BSEC PARTNERSHIP

18. The WG considered the themes approved by the Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs in the document “The Way Forward on the Implementation of the BSEC Economic Agenda” on which it should focus on during 2013-2015 and agreed to enhance cooperation within the following priority areas:

- a) Identifying constraints affecting intra-regional trade expansion, particularly policy barriers that enterprises have to overcome, and other barriers that hamper the trade of goods and services among the Member States.
- b) Facilitating visa procedures for business people of the BSEC Member States, in accordance with the national legislation of each Member State.
- c) Recommending to create BSEC networks in the interested BSEC Member States aimed at promoting intra-regional trade and investments.

19. The WG requested the BSEC PERMIS to prepare **by 31 May 2013** a Working Paper containing proposals regarding projects to be undertaken in the priority action areas, taking into account the discussions on the Priorities for the future activities of the WG at its previous meetings, the Decisions of the Council regarding the implementation of the Economic Agenda and the Joint Declaration to be adopted by the Ministers in charge of Economy that will take place in Yalta on 23 May 2013.

20. The WG called upon the BSEC Member States to inform BSEC PERMIS on their project proposals within the scope of the priority areas, if any, **by 31 May 2013**.

4.1. Consideration of the Priorities incorporated in the Working Paper prepared by BSEC PERMIS for the future activities of the Working Group on Trade and Economic Development

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

AGENDA ITEM 5: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS OF ECONOMIC AND TRADE RELATIONS AMONG BSEC MEMBER STATES

22. The participants emphasized the importance of exchanging information on developments in the BSEC Member States related to economic and trade relations pertaining to the economic cooperation in the region, in particular through electronic means.

23. The representative of Ukraine proposed to establish a BSEC Country Notification and Information Inquiry Unit.

24. The WG took note of the information provided by the representative of the Republic of Turkey and by the BSEC PERMIS regarding their contacts with Turkish Statistical Institute about resuming the activities of the BSEC Coordination Center for the Exchange of the Statistical Data and Economic Information during 2013.

AGENDA ITEM 6: CREATION OF BSEC NETWORKS IN THE INTERESTED MEMBER STATES AIMED AT PROMOTING INTRA-REGIONAL TRADE AND INVESTMENTS

25. The WG took note of the presentation on this issue, delivered by UNDP-BSTIP on its efforts to support the initiative to create BSEC networks in the interested Member States aimed at promoting intra-regional trade and investments.

AGENDA ITEM 7: TRADE FACILITATION IN THE BSEC REGION

26. The WG took note of the presentation delivered by UNDP-BSTIP on its efforts to support the initiative on trade facilitation in the BSEC region.

27. The WG invited Member States to communicate their comments regarding the Concept Paper on Trade Facilitation, presented by the Republic of Turkey during the WG Meeting of 18-19 October 2012.

28. The Republic of Armenia officially supported the Concept Paper.

AGENDA ITEM 8: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BSEC PUBLIC COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

29. The BSEC PERMIS representative informed that the WG at its last Meeting started the discussion on the ways and means to implement the BSEC Public Communication Strategy.

30. The WG decided on the following key messages regarding its activities and achievements based on the areas on which the WG will focus its work during 2013-2015 under Goal 1 - Intensifying Intra-regional Trade and Investments:

- Facilitating visa procedures for business people of the BSEC Member States, in accordance with the national legislation of each Member State.

- Creation of BSEC networks in the interested BSEC Member States aimed at promoting intra-regional trade and investments.

AGENDA ITEM 10: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

31. No issue was raised under this item.

AGENDA ITEM 11: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

32. The Working Group adopted the present Report for the submission to the Meeting of the Committee of the Senior Officials of the BSEC Member States.