



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

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BS/WG/TED/R(2013)2

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

Istanbul, 31 October – 1 November 2013

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Trade and Economic Development (WG) was held in Istanbul, on 31 October – 1 November 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 Armenia
 - Republic of Azerbaijan
 - Republic of Bulgaria
 - Hellenic Republic
 - Romania
 - Russian Federation
 - Republic of Turkey
 - Ukraine
4. The representatives of the BSEC Business Council participated in the Meeting as the BSEC Related Body.
5. The representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt also participated in the Meeting as the BSEC Observer.
6. The List of Participants of the Meeting is attached as Annex I.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

7. The Draft Agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The Agenda, as adopted, is attached as Annex II.

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT PLAN OF ACTION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR THE PERIOD 2013-2015 TO BE PRESENTED BY THE COUNTRY-COORDINATOR

8. The Working Group discussed, amended and adopted the Plan of Action for the period 1 July 2013 - 30 June 2015, elaborated by Ukraine as the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group. The Plan of Action is attached as Annex III.

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

9. 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), 28th BSEC Council (Odessa, 21 June 2013) related to the activity of the Working Group on Trade and Economic Development and of the provisions of the Joint Declarations of the Ministers in Charge of Economy of the BSEC Member States, adopted at the Meetings in Bucharest on 17 May 2011 and in Yalta on 23 May 2013.

10. 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 and the Joint Declarations of the Ministers.

11. The WG agreed to focus *inter alia* on exploration of possibilities of trade facilitation among the BSEC Member States and setting up an information exchange mechanism, to promote investment cooperation in the Black Sea region within the framework of the Plan of Action of the WG. Consequently, the WG decided:

- to invite the Member States to communicate, through the BSEC PERMIS, not later than 15 January 2014, their views on the content on the Concept Paper on Enhancing Cooperation Regarding Trade Facilitation in the BSEC Region, presented by the Republic of Turkey at the Meeting of the WG on 18-19 October 2012;

- to undertake the necessary measures to organize a Joint Meeting of the Working Groups on Trade and Economic Development, on Agriculture & Agro-Industry and on Custom Matters, BSEC Business Council for a comprehensive exchange of views on trade regimes, customs issues, information exchange mechanism and to adopt concrete recommendations.

12. In connection with the issue of appointing representatives to the Working Groups on a long term basis, the delegations of the Russian Federation, Republic of Turkey and Ukraine provided updated information about the representatives of their respective countries to the Working Group on Trade and Economic Development. The List of Representatives is attached as Annex IV.

13. The WG invited the Member States to communicate through the Ministries of Foreign Affairs updated information about their representatives on a long term basis to the Working Group on Trade and Economic Development.

THE “WAY FORWARD FOR AN ACTION PLAN ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE “ECONOMIC AGENDA TOWARDS AN ENHANCED BSEC PARTNERSHIP” (ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNTRY COORDINATOR ON THE PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECONOMIC AGENDA)

14. The Working Group took note of the statement by the Country-Coordinator that a Report on the process of implementation of the Action Plan of the WG will be provided before the forthcoming Meetings of the CSO and CMFA, in conformity with the “Way Forward for an Action Plan on the Implementation of the ‘BSEC Economic Agenda towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership’ ”, adopted at the 27th Meeting of the BSEC Council (Istanbul, 15 December 2012).

15. With this regard, the Working Group took note of the proposals submitted by the BSEC PERMIS concerning the possible projects to be undertaken within the priority areas of action. The proposals are attached as Annex V.

16. The WG agreed:

- to take into consideration these proposals in the context of the implementation of the Plan of Action of the WG;

- to invite the Member States to communicate through the BSEC PERMIS their views regarding the above mentioned proposals.

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

17. The WG discussed the issue and took note of the Memorandum for the BSEC Working Group on Trade and Economic Development, presented by the UNDP Black Sea Trade and Investment Promotion Programme (attached as Annex VI), submitted to the WG on 1 April 2013, and agreed:

a) to consider the proposed Memorandum in the context of the implementation of the Plan of Action of the WG;

b) to invite the Member States to communicate through the BSEC PERMIS their views regarding this Memorandum.

EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS OF ECONOMIC AND TRADE RELATIONS AMONG BSEC MEMBER STATES

18. The BSEC PERMIS representative recalled that the Goal 13 of the Economic Agenda entitled “Harmonization and Exchange of Economic and Social Statistical Data and Information”, contains the following framework of action relevant for the issue:

- Enhancing the exchange of accurate, comparable and timely statistical data and providing support for publication of periodic reports on the economic performance of the BSEC Member States.
- Reactivating and strengthening the work of the existing Coordination Center for the Exchange of Statistical Data and Economic Information, as an Affiliated Center of BSEC.

19. The BSEC PERMIS representative also reminded that the Working Group, at its last Meeting, while emphasizing the importance of exchanging information on developments in the BSEC Member States related to economic cooperation in the region, in particular through electronic means, took note of proposal by Ukraine to establish a BSEC Notifications and Information Inquiry Unit and of the information provided by representative of the Republic of Turkey and by the BSEC PERMIS regarding their contacts with the BSEC Coordination Center for the Exchange of Statistical Data and Economic Information on the issue of resuming the activities of the BSEC Coordination Center for the Exchange of Statistical Data and Economic Information during 2013.

20. The BSEC Coordination Center for the Exchange of Statistical Data and Economic Information was invited by the WG to elaborate a questionnaire regarding the type of statistical data that might be exchanged through this Center which should be submitted to the Member States, through the BSEC PERMIS.

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN BSEC PERMIS AND THE MEMBER STATES

21. The Working Group took note of the PERMIS proposals regarding the improvement of the communications between the BSEC PERMIS and BSEC Member States and decided to continue the discussion at its next meeting.

22. The delegation of Romania proposed to include the BSEC Related Bodies, Observers and Sectoral Dialogue Partners in the proposed communication system.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

23. No issue was raised under this Agenda item.

DATE AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

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

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

24. The Working Group on Trade and Economic Development adopted the present Report and submitted it for consideration to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials of the BSEC Member States.