



**BS/TED/WG/R(2004)1**

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

**Istanbul, BSEC Headquarters, 16-17 February 2004**

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Trade and Economic Development was held at the BSEC Headquarters in Istanbul on 16-17 February 2004.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Elnur ALIYEV, Desk Officer on the BSEC issues, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:  
  
Republic of Armenia  
Republic of Azerbaijan  
Republic of Bulgaria  
Georgia  
Romania  
Russian Federation  
Republic of Turkey  
Ukraine
4. The Meeting was also attended by the representatives of the PABSEC and the BSEC Business Council.
5. The representatives of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the State of Israel and the Republic of Poland attended the Meeting as observers.

The list of participants of the Meeting is attached as Annex I.

6. The draft agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The agenda, as adopted, is attached as Annex II.

**EXAMINATION OF THE INFORMATION ON THE NON-TARIFF MEASURES WHICH ARE APPLIED IN THE MEMBER STATES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF “AN EXEMPLARY LIST OF NON-TARIFF MEASURES ON TRADE” AND CONSIDERATION OF THE WAYS FOR ESTABLISHING OF AN APPROPRIATE MECHANISM FOR REDUCTION AND POSSIBLE ELIMINATION OF NON-TARIFF BARRIERS ON TRADE IN BSEC REGION**

7. The participants of the Meeting re-emphasized the importance of “An exemplary list of non-tariff measures on trade, which are applied in the Member States”.

8. Taking into account that some changes occurred in non-tariff measures applied by some Member States since the last Meeting of the WG, the WG agreed that the Member States who have already sent the above mentioned list would review it and, if there are any changes, will submit the updated list to the BSEC PERMIS.

9. While appreciating the submission of the relevant information by the Member States, the Working Group noted that the Member States that have not provided the BSEC PERMIS with the filled form of “An Exemplary list of non-tariff measures on trade”, should do so by 15 May 2004.

10. The delegations agreed that the BSEC PERMIS upon receiving the said filled forms along with disseminating them among Member States shall summarize them with the objective to update the Paper on most widespread non-tariff barriers on trade. At the same time the Working Group invited the Member States to present the relevant written replies to the points raised in the Lists.

11. The delegations agreed to discuss at the next Meeting of the Working Group proposals on undertaking joint steps aimed at reduction and possible elimination of non-tariff barriers on trade in the BSEC region.

12. The BSEC Business Council expressed its support to activities of the Working Group towards trade facilitation in the region.

**CONSIDERATION OF JOINT ACTIONS TOWARDS HARMONIZING CROSS-BORDER AND CUSTOMS REGULATIONS WITH THE AIM OF FACILITATING THE MOVEMENT OF GOODS AND SERVICES WITHIN BSEC REGION. EXAMINATION OF THE POSSIBILITIES OF SIMPLIFICATION OF PROCEDURE IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE BY UNIFICATION AND STANDARDIZATION OF DOCUMENTS IN FOREIGN TRADE BASED ON UNITED NATIONS LAYOUT KEY FOR TRADE DOCUMENTS**

13. The delegations took note in a positive manner of the presentation prepared by the Turkish delegation on E-document Project based on the UN trade facilitation model (attached as Annex III).

14. The delegations agreed to include the issue of promotion of e-commerce policy into the agenda of the next meeting of the WG as well as into the Action Plan of the WG.

15. The Turkish delegation proposed the following to be undertaken by the Secretariat: a closer cooperation with UN/ECE; starting a survey among the Member States in order to find out the national bodies responsible for trade facilitation and their activity; launching a feasibility project on capacity building on trade facilitation.

16. The participants agreed that further consideration of harmonizing cross-border and customs regulations should be continued at the next Meeting. For the said purpose they invited the Member States who had not submitted yet to the BSEC PERMIS a short list and sample of documents on foreign trade applied in the BSEC countries, to do so by 15 May 2004. The BSEC PERMIS upon receiving the said information shall circulate it to the Member States and identify issues related to changes in legislation or of technical nature.

#### **PRESENTATION BY THE BSEC PERMIS ON THE DYNAMICS OF THE FOREIGN TRADE OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES**

17. The delegations appreciated the presentation prepared by the BSEC PERMIS on the dynamics of the foreign trade of the BSEC Member States (attached as Annex IV) and encouraged the PERMIS to further compile and conduct analysis of the statistical indicators on foreign trade of the BSEC countries in order to present it to the meeting of the WG. To this end WG stressed the expediency of submitting by the Member States their updated trade indicators. The WG would welcome the possible contribution of the BSEC Business Council to this analysis.

#### **PERSPECTIVES OF COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION IN TRADE RELATIONS OF ENTITIES OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES**

18. The delegations took note of the information presented by the BSEC PERMIS on existing bilateral agreements on avoidance of double taxation concluded between the BSEC Member States (attached as Annex V). The WG stressed the importance of such agreements for the trade promotion and facilitation in the BSEC region.

#### **DISCUSSION OF THE PERSPECTIVE WORKING PLAN OF THE WORKING GROUP PROPOSED BY THE RUSSIAN DELEGATION**

19. In the capacity of the Country-Coordinator of the WG on Trade and Economic Development the delegation of the Russian Federation presented the Draft Action Plan of the WG (attached as Annex VI). The delegations exchanged their preliminary opinions regarding the proposed plan and agreed to submit their final comments on the paper by 15 May 2004 .

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

20. Under this agenda item the BSEC PERMIS informed the delegations on the results of the WG on Agriculture, namely on the Paper “Policy Recommendations on the BSEC-FAO Project on Institutional Strengthening to Facilitate Intra- and Inter- regional Agricultural Trade among BSEC Member States” (attached as Annex VII). The WG highly appreciated the work done so far and agreed to open a broad discussion of the Paper in its next meeting in order to capitalize on the most interesting ideas and recommendations.

**DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

21. The exact date and venue of the next meeting of the WG will be communicated to the Member States through BSEC PERMIS in due course.

**ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING**

22. The Report was adopted for submission to the Committee of Senior Officials.

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