



BS/TED/WG/R(2004)2

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

Istanbul, BSEC Headquarters, 6-7 October 2004

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Trade and Economic Development was held at the BSEC Headquarters in Istanbul on 6-7 October 2004.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Archil SOKHADZE, First Secretary, International Economic Relations Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Azerbaijan
Georgia
Romania
Russian Federation
Serbia and Montenegro
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine
4. The Meeting was attended by the representative of the BSEC Business Council.
5. The representative of the BSEC-URTA also participated in the Meeting.

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 exchanged 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”.

8. The participants appreciated the submission of the information presented in the form of “An exemplary list of non-tariff measures on trade, which are applied in the Member States”. Together with this the Working Group proposed to encourage 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 30 November 2004.

9. 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 for further consideration.

10. The Working Group agreed to examine possibility of further consideration of non-tariff measures under separate categories with a view to eventually reduce or eliminate them.

11. The Working Group proposed to find a way to receive a “feedback” from businessmen, facing different non-tariff barriers on trade. For this purpose the Working Group instructed the BSEC PERMIS to further elaborate on this proposal for consideration at the next meeting.

12. The Working Group took note on the readiness of the BSEC Business Council to support the activities of the Working Group towards trade facilitation in the region.

CONSIDERATION OF JOINT ACTIONS TOWARD HARMONIZING BORDER CROSSING 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 Working Group appreciated presentations made by BSEC-URTA entitled “Consideration on Simplification of Border Crossing Procedures for International Road Transport in the BSEC region” and “International Vehicle Weight Certificate – Instrument for Harmonization and Facilitation Border Crossing” (attached as Annex III).

14. The Working Group took note on the efforts made by CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) and SECI (South-East European Cooperative Initiative)-under the umbrella of UN/ECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe), on introduction of IVWC (International Vehicle Weight Certificate) as an instrument for harmonization and simplification of Border Crossing Procedures and agreed that cooperation between BSEC, SECI and CIS on this issue could be further studied.

15. The Working Group agreed on the necessity to have a closer cooperation between BSEC and other international organizations with regard to harmonizing border crossing and customs regulations. For this purpose the Working Group instructed the BSEC PERMIS to seek the possibilities for such a cooperation.

16. The participants agreed that further consideration of harmonizing border crossing 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 samples of documents on foreign trade applied in the BSEC countries, to do so by 30 November 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.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

17. Under this agenda item the participants have exchanged their views on the issue of promotion of e-commerce policy. The delegations agreed to further discuss this issue at one of the next meetings of the Working Group.

18. The delegations further discussed the Draft Action Plan (attached as Annex IV) and encouraged the Member States to present their final comments by 30 November 2004.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

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

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

20. The Working Group adopted the present report for submission to the Committee of Senior Officials and the Eleventh Meeting of the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (Tbilisi, 29 October 2004).
