



Istanbul, 16 January 2008

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**REPORT OF THE  
MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE ON THE  
DEVELOPMENT OF THE BLACK SEA RING HIGHWAY**

**Istanbul, BSEC Headquarters, 15-16 January 2008**

1. The Meeting of the Steering Committee (SC) on the Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway (BSRH) was held in Istanbul, at the BSEC Headquarters, on 15-16 January 2008.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Alexander SURIKOV, Head of Division, Department of Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following Parties to the MoU on the Coordinated Development of the BSRH:

Republic of Albania  
Republic of Azerbaijan  
Republic of Bulgaria  
Hellenic Republic  
Republic of Moldova  
Romania  
Russian Federation  
Republic of Turkey  
Ukraine

4. The representatives of the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank also participated in the Meeting.

The list of participants is attached as Annex I.

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

**STATUS OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE COORDINATED DEVELOPMENT OF THE BLACK SEA RING HIGHWAY**

6. The participants welcomed the information of the delegation of Moldova that the MoU was ratified by the Parliament on 21 December and promulgated by the decree of the President of the Republic of Moldova on 29 December 2007. Thus, as of today there are two countries, including

the Republic of Serbia, that informed about completion of their procedures necessary for the entry of the MoU into force.

7. The delegations of Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Russia, and Ukraine informed that the MoU is going through necessary legal procedures in their countries. The delegations of the Hellenic Republic, Romania and the Republic of Turkey informed that the MoU is under consideration of their Parliaments.

8. The delegation of Albania presented a Note of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania informing about appointment of the representatives of Albania to the BSRH SC. The updated List of Representatives is attached as Annex III.

### **DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE BSRH STEERING COMMITTEE**

9. The Draft Rules of Procedure of the BSRH SC was discussed, amended and agreed, with the exception of Rule 2, provision (n), related to the possibility of using, for promotion and publicity reasons, the term "Road of Argonauts". Consideration of this provision will be made at a later stage.

10. The participants agreed to communicate to BSEC PERMIS their proposals and comments with regard to the said provision (n) of Rule 2.

11. The text as agreed is attached as Annex IV.

#### **Draft Rules concerning documents to be submitted to the Steering Committee of the BSRH (Annex to the Draft Rules of Procedure).**

12. The Draft Rules concerning documents to be submitted to the Steering Committee was discussed, amended and agreed. The text as agreed is attached as Annex V.

#### **Draft Standard Format for Documents (Annex to the Draft Rules of Procedure).**

13. The Draft Standard Format for Documents was discussed, amended and agreed. The text as agreed is attached as Annex VI.

### **THE DRAFT MODEL RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE APPOINTMENT OF A NATIONAL COORDINATOR FOR THE COORDINATED DEVELOPMENT OF THE BSRH**

14. No amendments were made to the Draft Model Recommendations on the Appointment of a National Coordinator for the Coordinated Development of the BSRH. The text is attached as Annex VII.

### **DRAFT REGULATIONS OF THE BSRH JOINT PERMANENT TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT**

15. The Draft Regulations of the BSRH Joint Permanent Technical Secretariat was discussed, amended and agreed. The text as agreed is attached as Annex VIII.

## **DRAFT AGREEMENT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BSRH PROJECT SPECIAL PURPOSE COOPERATION FUND AND ITS CHARTER**

16. The delegations had extensive discussions on the Draft Agreement on the establishment of the BSRH project special purpose cooperation Fund and its Charter and they expressed the view that the Fund may positively contribute to the implementation of the BSRH project. They commended the work done by the Russian Chairmanship in the BSRH SC on preparation of the documents.

17. At the same time, it was noted that preliminary consideration of the draft document at the national level raised a number of questions with regard, *inter alia*, to the Fund's objectives, legal status, operation, structure, budget, contributions etc.

18. The delegation of Azerbaijan informed that at this stage its country will not take part in the establishment and work of the Fund due to the fact that the part of the BSRH passing through Azerbaijan is being constructed by national means.

19. It was agreed to arrange a next Meeting of the BSRH SC with participation of financial and legal experts from relevant institutions of the Member States.

20. In order to facilitate further improvement of the draft documents and arrangements for the next Meeting, the Parties will communicate their written comments and proposals to the draft documents to PERMIS by 7 March 2008. It was suggested that the next Meeting of the Steering Committee would take place, if possible, in April 2008.

### **DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

21. The exact date and venue of the next Meeting of the BSRH SC will be communicated by BSEC PERMIS after consultations with the Chairman-in-Office and the BSRH Presidency.

### **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING**

22. The BSRH SC adopted the present Report. The delegations will submit the texts of the draft documents to their authorities for further consideration. The BSRH documents will be finally adopted by the BSRH SC once the MoU has entered into force.

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