



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

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**REPORT
OF THE MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP
ON COOPERATION IN COMBATING CRIME,
IN PARTICULAR IN ITS ORGANIZED FORMS**

Istanbul, 20-21 November 2014

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in Particular in Its Organized Forms, was held at the BSEC Headquarters in Istanbul on 20-21 November 2014.

2. The Meeting was chaired by the representative of the Chairman-in-Office Mr. Michael B. CHRISTIDES, Ambassador, Director General for International Economic Affairs and Coordinator of the Hellenic Chairmanship-in-Office of the Organization of BSEC, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic, and co-chaired by Mrs. Zacharoula TSIRIGOTI, Police Brigadier General, Head of the International Police Cooperation Division, Hellenic Police Headquarters, Ministry of Public Order and Citizen's Protection, and Ms. Vilhelmina LUCINESCU, Chief Police Commissioner, Directorate of European Affairs and International Relations, Ministry of Internal Affairs of Romania.

3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Republic of Bulgaria
Georgia
Hellenic Republic
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Turkey

The list of participants is attached as **Annex I**.

4. The representative of the Republic of Italy attended the Meeting as Observer.

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

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE JOINT DECLARATIONS OF THE MINISTERS OF INTERIOR/PUBLIC ORDER OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

6. The BSEC PERMIS informed the participants on the Status of Implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the Council and follow-up to the Joint Declarations of the Ministers of Interior/Public Order of the BSEC Member States.

7. The Member States were requested to forward updated information with respect to the existing List of Representatives - National Contact Points in the Working Group on Combating Crime, in Particular in Its Organized Forms. The list as of November 2013 is attached as **Annex III**.

8. The Working Group took note of the information presented by the BSEC PERMIS on the decision of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States on the “Way Forward for an Action Plan on the Implementation of the Economic Agenda towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership” and the Guidelines of the newly established the BSEC Project Management Unit.

9. The participants agreed that the provisions of the mentioned documents pertaining to the issues of combating crime should be taken into consideration in the future activities of the Working Group.

ACTIVITIES OF THE NETWORK OF THE LIAISON OFFICERS ON COMBATING CRIME

10. The Working Group discussed the modalities of the Network of the Liaison Officers on Combating Crime in accordance with the Additional Protocol to the Agreement among the Governments of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in Particular in Its Organized Forms, done in Kyiv on 15 March 2002.

11. The Working Group made proposals for increasing the effectiveness of the Liaison Officers Network.

12. The Working Group suggested that the next meeting of the Liaison Officers on Combating Crime, to be held a day before the Meeting of the Working Group in the first half of 2015.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL ON COMBATING TERRORISM TO THE AGREEMENT AMONG THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE BSEC PARTICIPATING STATES ON COOPERATION IN COMBATING CRIME, IN PARTICULAR IN ITS ORGANIZED FORMS

13. The Working Group decided to defer the discussion on the implementation of the Additional Protocol on Combating Terrorism for the next Meeting of the Working Group.

DELIBERATIONS ON THE ANNUAL REVIEW WITH THE ASSESSMENT OF THE TRENDS OF TRANS-NATIONAL CRIME IN THE BSEC REGION FOR 2009-2013

14. The Working Group took note that so far only 4 countries, namely, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Hellenic Republic and Romania have submitted their replies to the related Questionnaire. The filled up Questionnaires are attached to the report as **Annex IV, Annex V, Annex VI and Annex VII.**

15. The Working Group decided to proceed with the debate on how to improve the Annual Review with the Assessment of the Trends of Trans-national Crime in the BSEC Region at the Meeting of the Network of the Liaison Officers.

FOLLOW-UP TO THE BSEC REGIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR STRENGTHENING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE TO TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN THE BLACK SEA REGION

16. Five Member States, namely, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Bulgaria, the Hellenic Republic, Romania and the Russian Federation presented information on national activities in strengthening the criminal justice response to trafficking in persons and the international cooperation in this field.

17. Two of the reports are attached as **Annex VIII** and **Annex IX**. The rest of the reports presented at the Meeting will be disseminated upon receipt.

18. The Working Group invited the Member States who have not done yet so to officially submit the information on their activities in strengthening the criminal justice response to trafficking in persons in the BSEC Region by the end of 2014 to the Country-Coordinator and the BSEC PERMIS with the view to draw an annual report for 2013, according to the Paragraph 6 of the said BSEC Regional Action Plan.

19. The Working Group invited the Member States to submit the information on their activities in strengthening the criminal justice response to trafficking in persons for 2014 by the end of March 2015.

DISCUSSION/ADOPTION OF A DRAFT BSEC ACTION PLAN ON REGIONAL EFFORTS TO PREVENT AND COMBAT CORRUPTION

20. The Country-Coordinator suggested that the agreed text of the draft BSEC Action Plan on Regional Efforts to Prevent and Combat Corruption be submitted for approval at the next Meeting of the BSEC Ministers of Interior/Public Order.

PLAN OF ACTIONS OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON COMBATING CRIME, IN PARTICULAR IN ITS ORGANIZED FORMS (JULY 2013 – JUNE 2015)

21. The Country-Coordinator informed that no further proposals were made by the Member States to the Plan of Actions (July 2013 – June 2015) and suggested that the BSEC Working Group on Combating Crime, in Particular in Its Organized Forms, should proceed with its implementation. The document is attached as **Annex X.**

22. The Working Group submitted for consideration by the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials the following draft decision of the Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of BSEC, to be held in Thessaloniki on 12 December 2014:

“The Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs took note of the Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Combating Crime, in Particular in Its Organized Forms, held at the BSEC Headquarters in Istanbul on 20-21 November 2014, and instructed it to streamline the implementation of the Agreement and Additional Protocols signed by the BSEC Member States in the field of Combating Crime”.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

23. No issues were raised under this agenda item.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

24. The BSEC PERMIS suggested the preliminary dates for the Meeting of the Liaison Officers and the Working Group as follows: 13 May 2015 and 14 May 2015, respectively. The exact dates and venue of the next meetings will be communicated to the Member States in due course by the BSEC PERMIS.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

25. The present Report was adopted for submission to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials (Thessaloniki, 10-11 December 2014).
