BSEC

ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

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REPORT OF THE
MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP
ON INSTITUTIONAL RENEWAL AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

Istanbul, BSEC Headquarters, 7-8 December 2010

1.   The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Institutional Renewal and Good Governance was held in Istanbul, at the BSEC Headquarters, on 7-8 December 2010.

2.   The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Antonios PSARAKIS, Special Advisor to the Deputy Minister of Interior, Decentralization and Electronic Governance of the Ministry of Interior of the Hellenic Republic, and Mr. Dmytro CHUPRYNA, the Deputy Director of the Center for Adaptation of the Civil Service to the Standards of the European Union under the Main Department of the Civil Service of Ukraine.   .

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

> Republic of Armenia
> Republic of Azerbaijan
> Republic of Bulgaria
> Hellenic Republic
> Republic of Moldova
> Russian Federation
> Republic of Turkey
> Ukraine

4.   The representative of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of BSEC (PABSEC) also participated in the Meeting as a Related Body.

The list of participants is attached as Annex I.

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

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL AND THE PROVISIONS OF THE JOINT DECLARATIONS ADOPTED BY THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

6.   The representative of the BSEC PERMIS informed the Working Group on the implementation status of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the Council and the provisions of the Joint Declarations adopted by the Ministers in Charge of Public Administration of the BSEC Member States.

7.   In pursuance of the Resolution of the BSEC Council (Belgrade, April 2007) PERMIS reiterated its request to the Member States which had not appointed their representatives – national contact points in the Working Group yet, to do so as soon as possible. The list of the appointed representatives is attached as Annex III.

DISCUSSION ON THE ISSUES OF PROVIDING ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES, PARTICULARLY CHARGED SERVICES

8.   The Country-Coordinator (Ukraine) introduced the issue and informed that five Member States namely Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Greece and Ukraine had forwarded their replies to the Questionnaire on the issue, noting that all countries attach serious importance to the improvement of administrative services and undertake certain efforts in this direction.

9.   The delegations of the Republic of Turkey and Ukraine delivered the presentations on administrative services progress in their countries. The presentations are attached as Annex IV and will be placed on the BSEC website.

DISCUSSION ON THE ISSUES OF DEVELOPMENT AND INTRODUCTION OF THE E-GOVERNMENT IN THE MEMBER STATES

10.   The delegations of the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and Ukraine informed the Working Group on the development and introduction of the e-government in their countries.

11.   It was underlined that introduction of e-government could be considered as the main tool for administrative services development, including, for example, such areas as healthcare, education, and as an additional incentive for improving the existing relevant legislation, guidelines and rules, interaction between institutions of central and local government.

12.   The presentations provided are attached as Annex V and will be placed on the BSEC website.

13.   The Member States that had not sent their replies to the Questionnaires, to be placed on the BSEC website, are requested to do so **by the end of January 2011** to enable the

Country-Coordinator to finalize the information back-ground paper on Administrative Services, Development and Introduction of E-Government in the BSEC Member States with the aim to place it on the BSEC website.

REVIEW AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON NATIONAL POLICIES, ON THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED AND ON BEST PRACTICES IN THE PROCESS OF REFORMING THE PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS AND OF IMPROVING THE GOVERNANCE CAPACITIES IN THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

14.   The delegation of the Republic of Bulgaria informed the participants on the latest developments in the national policies in the field of reforming the public institutions and improving the governance capacities.

PRESENTATION OF THE BSEC PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND

15.   The Project Coordinator of BSEC PERMIS made a presentation of the BSEC Project Development Fund (PDF) describing the goals and mechanism of its activities. The presentation is attached as Annex VI.

16.   It was agreed that the Member States will forward their proposals on the priority areas for the PDF projects to be discussed at the next meeting of the Working Group.

17.   Moreover the Member States were invited to submit possible applications prior to the next meeting of the Working Group.

18.   The participants were advised that additional information regarding PDF and its regulations could be found on the following websites: www.bsec-organization.org and www.bsecprojects.com.

EXCHANGE OF IDEAS ON POSSIBLE MULTILATERAL PROJECTS AND WORKSHOPS, INCLUDING THOSE IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS (EUROPEAN UNION, THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE, ETC.)

19.   The Working Group exchanged ideas on possible development of interaction for promoting multilateral projects and workshops within BSEC, as well as in cooperation with other international organizations.

20.   The Country Coordinator in cooperation with PERMIS will prepare a draft paper on the possibility of partnership collaboration between the relevant structures of international organizations and the BSEC Working Group on Institutional Renewal and Good Governance for launching joint projects and organizing events. The draft document will be discussed at the next meeting.

21.   The Member States are kindly requested to provide the appropriate information on this issue **by the end of February 2011**.

22.   The Member States were requested by the Working Group to forward information and contact details of their relevant ministries/agencies/institutions competent on administrative reform and e-government **by the end of February 2011**.

PROPOSALS OF THE ISSUES FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP

23.   The Working Group agreed to amend the main topic for its next meeting as follows: human resource management, including promotion, benefits and compensation system for civil servants, in the BSEC Member States.

INFORMATION ON THE APPOINTMENT OF THE COUNTRY-COORDINATOR OF THE WORKING GROUP FOR THE NEXT TERM-IN-OFFICE

24.   PERMIS informed the participants on the appointment of the Republic of Turkey as the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group on Institutional Renewal and Good Governance as of 1 July 2011 for a period of two years by the 23rd Meeting of the Council (Thessaloniki, 26 November 2010).

25.   It was agreed to convene the meeting of the outgoing and incoming Country-Coordinators and PERMIS as provided by the Resolution of the BSEC Council (Belgrade, April 2007) immediately before the next meeting of the Working Group.

26.   In view of the preparation of the next draft Plan of Action for 2011- 2013 the Member States were invited to forward their proposals and ideas.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

27.   No issue was raised under this agenda item.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

28.   The dates 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

29.   The Working Group adopted the present Report for submission to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials.

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