

ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

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

Istanbul, BSEC Headquarters, 24-25 November 2011

- 1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Trade and Economic Development (WGTED) was held in Istanbul, at the BSEC Headquarters, on 24-25 November 2011.
- 2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Tofik MELIKOV, Trade Representative of the Russian Federation in the Republic of Turkey (Chairmanship-in-Office).
- 3. The following BSEC Member States participated in the Meeting:

Republic of Armenia

Republic of Azerbaijan

Republic of Bulgaria

Hellenic Republic

Romania

Russian Federation

Republic of Serbia

Republic of Turkey

Ukraine

- 4. The representatives of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic also participated in the Meeting as the BSEC Observers.
- 5. The List of Participants of the Meeting is attached as <u>Annex I</u>.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BSEC COUNCIL AND THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE DECLARATIONS AND JOINT STATEMENTS ADOPTED BY THE MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- 7. The BSEC PERMIS representative informed on the ways and dynamics of the implementation of the Resolution of the 15th BSEC Council (Moscow, 1 November 2006), with reference to the activities of the Working Group on Trade and Economic Development relative to the implementation of the BSEC Council Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations, since the last Meeting of the Working Group (27-28 April 2011).
- 8. The participants acknowledged the information on the issue provided by the BSEC PERMIS and expressed willingness to proceed more actively in determining the future priorities of the Working Group in order to secure the necessary dynamics of the implementation of the Council Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations.

DISCUSSION ON THE WORKING PAPER ON THE PRIORITY ISSUES OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- 9. The BSEC PERMIS representative explained that, based on the Joint Declaration of Ministers in charge of Economy of the BSEC Member States (Bucharest, 17 May 2011) and the previous discussions at the Working Group Meetings, the BSEC PERMIS revised the Working Paper "Priorities for the future activities of the BSEC Working Group on Trade and Economic Development". He also recalled that the Working Group at its last Meeting decided to examine and finalize this Working Paper at the present Meeting, taking into account amendments and proposals by the Member States.
- 10. The Working Group discussed, amended and adopted the Priorities for its future activities, attached as <u>Annex III</u>.

EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS OF ECONOMIC AND TRADE RELATIONS AMONG THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

- 11. The BSEC PERMIS representative recalled that at one of the previous Working Group's meetings the participants decided to have a regular exchange on foreign trade data among the BSEC Member States.
- 12. The representative of the Republic of Turkey recalled the position of her Country, circulated by the BSEC PERMIS Verbal Note No: BS/INFO.2011.0051 on 7 February 2011, with regard to the current situation of the BSEC Coordination Center for the Exchange of the Statistical Data and Economic Development.
- 13. The Working Group, while emphasizing the need for setting up an efficient BSEC mechanism for the exchange of information and data relevant for the development of intraregional trade and intra-regional investment, invited the BSEC Member States to submit to the BSEC PERMIS their comments and proposals on the issue <u>not later than 20 February</u> 2012, with a view to its consideration at the next Meeting of the Working Group.

BSEC PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND (PDF)

- 14. The BSEC PERMIS representative informed on the new "Manual and Standard Applications for Funding a BSEC Project" and proposed that the WGTED should discuss and define priority project areas.
- 15. The participants considered the issue in the light of the "Priorities for the future activities of the BSEC WGTED", adopted at the present Meeting of the Group, and decided to finalize the discussion at its next Meeting.
- 16. The Working Group invited the BSEC Member States to submit to the BSEC PERMIS their comments and proposals on the PDF priority project areas at least 15 days before the next Meeting of the WGTED.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 17. The Working Group requested the BSEC PERMIS to prepare a draft Plan of Action of the WGTED for the consideration at its next Meeting.
- 18. The BSEC PERMIS representative, while recalling that no Country-Coordinator for the WGTED was appointed up to now, invited the Member States to consider this issue and put forward their respective candidature for this important function.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

19. The Working Group adopted the present Report for the submission to the next Meeting of the Committee of the Senior Officials of the BSEC Member States, to be held in Moscow, on 14-15 December 2011.