



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

**Permanent International Secretariat**

Sakıp Sabancı Cad., Müşir Fuad Paşa Yalısı, Eski Tersane, 34467 Emirgan – İstanbul/Turkey

Tel: ++90 212 2296330-35 Fax: ++90 212 2296336

E-mail: [info@bsec-organization.org](mailto:info@bsec-organization.org)

[www.bsec-organization.org](http://www.bsec-organization.org)

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28-29 March 2017

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**REPORT OF THE  
MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP  
ON AGRICULTURE AND AGRO-INDUSTRY**

**BSEC Headquarters, 28-29 March 2017**

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Agriculture and Agro-Industry was held at the BSEC Headquarters on 28-29 March 2017.
2. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Ms. Serap ÖZCOŞKUN, Special Representative of the Turkish Chairmanship-in-Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:  
  
Republic of Armenia  
Republic of Bulgaria  
Hellenic Republic  
Republic of Moldova  
Romania  
Russian Federation  
Republic of Turkey  
Ukraine
4. The List of Participants of the Meeting 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**.

**AGENDA ITEM 2: CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT ACTION PLAN OF THE WORKING GROUP**

6. The Working Group considered and adopted the Action Plan of the Working Group on Agriculture and Agro-industry for 2017-2018 proposed by the Republic of Turkey as the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group. The text of the Action Plan is attached as **Annex III**.

### **AGENDA ITEM 3: CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT DECLARATION OF THE MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE**

7. The Working Group considered and amended the Draft Declaration of the Ministers of Agriculture of the BSEC Member States elaborated and submitted by the Republic of Turkey. The text of the Draft Declaration, as considered by the Working Group is attached as **Annex IV**.

8. The Working Group invited the Member States to present to PERMIS by 28 April 2017 their comments, proposals or amendments to the Draft Declaration and decided to continue its consideration at the next meeting.

### **AGENDA ITEM 4: CONSIDERATION OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN BSEC AND FAO**

9. The Working Group considered the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between BSEC and FAO. The text of the Memorandum, as considered by the Working Group, is attached as **Annex V**.

10. The Working Group agreed to finalize the text of the MoU during its next meeting.

### **AGENDA ITEM 5: SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS AND THE FUTURE OF AQUACULTURE**

11. The Working Group took note of the Concept Note “Sustainable Food Systems and the Future of Aquaculture” elaborated by the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock of the Republic of Turkey and exchanged views on this Agenda item.

12. The Member States emphasized that sustainable food systems, which include the production, processing, distribution, preparation and consumption of food, promotes sustainable increase in productivity and production, use natural resources more efficiently, increase resilience and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

### **AGENDA ITEM 6: PROSPECTS OF THE BLACK SEA REGIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF AQUACULTURE**

13. The Working Group exchanged views on this Agenda Item and stressed the importance of enhancing regional cooperation in the field of aquaculture, taking into account the relevant activity of other regional and international organizations.

14. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the Republic of Turkey with regard to the recent developments in the country in the field of aquaculture. The Working Group noted with interest the proposal by the Republic of Turkey to organize training courses on aquaculture in 2017 and 2018.

15. The Working Group decided to further consider the issues at the next meetings with the view of exploring practical means of enhancing Black Sea regional cooperation in the field of aquaculture.

### **AGENDA ITEM 7: COOPERATION AMONG THE VETERINARY, PHYTO-SANITARY AND PLANT QUARANTINE SERVICES OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES.**

16. The representative of the Hellenic Republic informed the participants on the state of affairs with regard to cooperation among the Member States on the control of canker stain disease in the Black Sea region. In this connection the representative of the Hellenic Republic proposed to consider initiating a common project, to be implemented in certain states of the Black Sea region on the application of control methods of this catastrophic disease.

17. The representative of the Republic of Turkey briefed the Working Group on the latest developments in the country in the field of phyto-sanitary measures and planned quarantine services undertaken by the relevant agencies with a view to prevent spreading of harmful organisms in and outside the country.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

18. The representative of the Republic of Turkey made a presentation concerning the possibility of establishing the BSEC Regional Cooperation Center for Sustainable Food Systems, in partnership with FAO, aimed at supporting the implementation of projects in the BSEC Member States in the areas of agriculture and agro-industry. The presentation is attached as **Annex VI**.

19. The Working Group took note of this initiative and invited the Republic of Turkey to present a relevant concept note.

20. The delegation of the Republic of Turkey informed the Working Group on the preparation and other administrative arrangements for the forthcoming Meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture of the BSEC Member States, to be held in Istanbul on 16-17 May 2017. In this regard it was mentioned that the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock of the Republic of Turkey has launched a relevant chapter on its website (agribsec.tarim.gov.tr), which contains the necessary information, including program, draft documents, registration portal for the Ministerial Meeting. Furthermore, the Working Group decided to convene a Meeting of Experts on Agriculture and Agro-Industry on the level of senior officials from the respective Ministries on 16 May 2017.

21. Moreover, it was brought to the attention of the Working Group that an exhibition of handicrafts and agricultural products of the BSEC Member States is envisaged as a side event to the Meeting of the Ministers. In this connection the participants were kindly requested to send to the Host Country the necessary information concerning their contact points responsible for the participation in the said exhibition as well as their requests for bilateral meetings.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 9: DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

22. The date and venue of the next Meeting of the Working Group on Agriculture and Agro-Industry will be communicated to the Member States through the diplomatic channels.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 10: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING**

23. The Working Group adopted the present Report for its submission to the Committee of Senior Officials and the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs for their consideration.