



BS/IM/R(97)1

**REPORT OF THE SECOND
MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS
OF THE BSEC PARTICIPATING STATES**

Istanbul, 21-22 October 1997

1. The Second Meeting of the Ministers of Internal Affairs of the BSEC Participating States was held in Istanbul on 21-22 October 1997.

2. The Meeting was attended by the following Participating States of the BSEC:

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

3. The representatives of Italy, Israel, the Slovak Republic and Tunisia participated in the Meeting as Observers.

The list of participants of the Meeting is attached as Annex I.

4. The Meeting was opened with an inaugural address delivered by H.E.Mr. Murat Baþesgiođlu, Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Turkey. The text of the inaugural address is attached as Annex II.

5. The opening session of the Meeting was chaired by Minister H.E. Mr. Baþesgiođlu.

6. The meeting was followed by a visit to an Exhibition of Security Equipment by the Heads and Members of the participating Delegations.

7. The opening session continued with Minister Baþesgiođlu in the chair who invited the visiting Ministers and Heads of Delegations to present their views on the original proposal by Turkey titled “Draft Agreement for Cooperation among the BSEC Participating States on Combating International Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Pyschotropic Substances, Weapons and Radioactive Materials, Illegal Migration in the Region, Terrorism and Organized Crime.”

STATEMENTS OF THE MINISTERS OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND HEADS OF DELEGATIONS

8. The Ministers and Heads of Delegations, sharing the view that international illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, weapons and radioactive materials, illegal migration in the region, terrorism and organized crime is the scourge the world faces presently and the threat posed by these to peace, security and stability which is the foundation of sustained growth, have expressed their determination to transform the shared views into a program of concrete action.

9. Accordingly they agreed to initiate the necessary technical work with a view to signing a multilateral Agreement on this score. The Ministers and Heads of Delegations instructed the Senior Officials of the Ministries of Internal Affairs to promptly start work towards this end.

10. Thereafter the Senior Officials of the Ministries of Internal Affairs convened with H.E. Mr. Metin Ýlyas Aksoy, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Turkey in the chair.

11. The draft agenda of the said Senior Officials Meeting, as adopted, is attached as Annex III.

12. Emphasizing the importance of concluding an Agreement as indicated above, the Chairman invited the participating Delegations for a discussion of the Draft Agreement. The following emerged in the course of the discussions:

- Taking the original Draft Agreement as basis, Albania proposed an addition to Article 7.
- On the original Draft Agreement the Hellenic Republic proposed in writing both amendments and additions.
- On the basis of the original Draft Agreement, Romania presented a Note related to various amendments and additions.

- The Russian Federation proposed an alternate Draft Agreement titled “Cooperation in the Field of Crime Control in the Black Sea Region.”
- Ukraine proposed an alternate Draft Agreement titled “Agreement among the Governments of the Participating States of the BSEC on Cooperation in Combating Crime.”

All these written texts have been distributed to the participating Delegations.

13. The Senior Officials of the Ministries of Internal Affairs, while noting considerable similarities in the wording of the above-mentioned proposals including the original Draft Agreement, observed that there are also essential differences in the texts provided. Therefore, the said Senior Officials recommended to establish an ad hoc Group of Experts which will pursue the work initiated and finally draft such an Agreement to be submitted for approval and signature to the Third Meeting of the Ministers of Internal Affairs which is anticipated to convene prior to the Twelfth MMFA in Azerbaijan, sometime in October 1998.

14. The ad hoc Group of Experts will be chaired by the representative from Greece and the Chairman will report of the progress of work to the BSEC Senior Officials which will meet prior to the Eleventh MMFA.

The Heads of Delegations also asked the PERMIS to seize this matter and make all the necessary arrangements to ensure the conclusion of work in accordance with the calendar mentioned above.

15. In the light of the above, the Senior Officials of the Ministries of Internal Affairs agreed to have the first Meeting of the ad hoc Group of Experts in Greece, sometime the end of January/beginning of February 1998.

The work schedule of the ad hoc Group thereafter is expected to be established by itself.

16. The said Senior Officials had also a preliminary exchange of views on the suggestions of the BlackSeaPol and the Research Laboratory of Narcotics Origin. It was agreed that the examination of these two projects will be pursued following the completion of the multilateral Agreement.

17. The Senior Officials of the Ministries of Internal Affairs presented to the Ministers and Heads of Delegations a Joint Declaration on its conclusions to be signed by the Heads of Delegations of the Participating States.

18. The Ministers and Heads of Delegations convened for the second and the final stage of the Meeting of Ministers of Internal Affairs chaired by Minister Baþesgiođlu on Wednesday, 22 October 1997.

19. The draft agenda of the Meeting of Ministers of Internal Affairs, as adopted, is attached as Annex IV.

20. The Ministers and Heads of Delegations discussed and approved the Joint Declaration attached as Annex V.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

21. It was agreed, upon the invitation of the Greek Delegation, to host the Third Meeting of the Ministers of Internal Affairs in Greece, sometime in October 1998. The exact date shall be established through diplomatic channel. The invitation of Greece was welcomed.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

22. The participants expressed their sincere gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Turkey, in particular to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Turkey, for the hospitality extended to the delegations and for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

23. This report was adopted by the Ministers of Internal Affairs for the submission to the Eleventh MMFA.
