1. The Meeting of the Ministers of Internal Affairs of the BSEC Participating States was held in Yerevan on 17 October 1996.

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

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

3. The representative of Egypt participated in the Meeting as an Observer.

4. The Meeting was also attended as a guest by Mr. Eduard YEGORIAN, Vice-Chairman of the PABSEC Legal and Political Affairs Committee.

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

5. The Meeting was opened with an inaugural address delivered by H.E.Mr. Hrant BAGRATIAN, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia. The text of the inaugural address of H.E.Mr. Hrant BAGRATIAN is attached as Annex II.

6. The Meeting was chaired, on behalf of the host country, by H.E.Mr. Vano SIRADEGHIAN, Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Armenia.
7. The draft agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted with amendments. The agenda, as adopted, is attached as Annex III.

8. The Meeting of the Ministers was preceded by the Meeting of the Senior Officials on 16-17 October. The latter was chaired by the Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, Mr. Roudik HOVAKIMIAN.

STATEMENTS OF THE MINISTERS OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND HEADS OF DELEGATIONS

9. The Ministers and the Heads of the Delegations of the Participating States presented at the Meeting Their Statements on developing multilateral cooperation in the field of combating against the organized crime, terrorism, illicit trafficking of weapons, drugs, radioactive materials illegal migration in the region.

10. Having recognized the importance of expanding the collaboration among the respective national authorities in the field of combating the above-mentioned forms of criminality, the participants exchanged their views on the concrete steps to be undertaken in this direction.

11. They agreed upon the necessity of elaborating, in a spirit of constructive approach, special programs to ensure the participation of the States in the BSEC activities aimed at securing the economic links among the countries of the region.

12. They expressed the request to the National Parliaments to formulate an approach to the elaboration of appropriate national legislations which will contribute to the cooperation of the BSEC Participating States in the said fields.

13. The participants also emphasized the need for strengthening cooperation of the BSEC Participating States’ law-enforcing organs with the relevant international organizations and institutions.

ADOPTION OF THE JOINT STATEMENT OF THE MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE BSEC PARTICIPATING STATES FOR COOPERATION IN COMBATING CRIMES AND LAW VIOLENCE

14. The Ministers and the Heads of Delegations considered, approved and signed the Joint Statement of the Meeting of the Ministers of Internal Affairs of the BSEC Participating States which will be deposited at the Permanent International Secretariat (attached as Annex IV). They requested the Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Armenia to notify accordingly the Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Albania through the BSEC Secretariat and invite him to sign the Statement at the time convenient for him.
DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

15. The participants took note with appreciation the proposal of the delegation of the Republic of Turkey to hold the next Meeting of the Ministers of Internal Affairs in Turkey in October 1997.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

16. The participants expressed their sincere gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Armenia for the hospitality extended to the delegations and for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

17. This report was adopted by the Ministers of Internal Affairs for the submission to the Moscow Meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the BSEC Participating States.