



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

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BS/WG/CC/R(2013)1

**REPORT
OF THE MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON COOPERATION
IN COMBATING CRIME, IN PARTICULAR IN ITS ORGANIZED FORMS**

Istanbul, 21-22 November 2013

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in Particular in Its Organized Forms, was held at the BSEC Headquarters in Istanbul on 21-22 November 2013.

2. The Meeting was chaired by Ms. Vilhelmina LUCINESCU, Chief Police Commissioner, Directorate of European Affairs and International Relations, Ministry of Internal Affairs of Romania.

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

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

The list of participants is attached as **Annex I**.

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

**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE JOINT**

DECLARATIONS OF THE MINISTERS OF INTERIOR/PUBLIC ORDER OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

5. The BSEC PERMIS informed the participants on the Status of Implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the Council and follow-up to the Joint Declarations of the Ministers of Interior/Public Order of the BSEC Member States.
6. The Member States were requested to forward available updated information with respect to the existing List of Representatives - National Contact Points in the Working Group on Combating Crime in Particular in Its Organized Forms. The list is attached as **Annex III**.
7. The Working Group took note of the information presented by BSEC PERMIS on the Council of MFA Decision on The “Way Forward for an Action Plan on the Implementation of the Economic Agenda towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership”, adopted December, 2012.
8. The participants agreed that the provisions of the mentioned document pertaining to the issues of combating crime should be taken into consideration in the future activities of the Working Group.
9. The WG considered the follow-up actions within the framework of the Joint Declaration of the Ministers of Interior/Public Order of BSEC Member States on Strengthening the Cooperation in the Field of Fight Against Transnational Crimes in particular Smuggling, Trafficking of Human-Beings, Trafficking of Light Weapons, Economic, Financial Crimes and Terrorism, Istanbul, 23 November 2012.
10. The Working Group discussed the PERMIS proposals regarding the improvement of the communications between the BSEC PERMIS and BSEC Member States, and agreed, in parallel with the official correspondence, to use the existing e-mail network to facilitate communication between the BSEC Secretariat and the permanent representatives assigned by the Member States to the Working Group on Cooperation in Combating Crime.

ACTIVITIES OF THE NETWORK OF THE LIAISON OFFICERS ON COMBATING CRIME

11. The Working Group took note of the outcome of the Meeting of the Liaison Officers on Combating Crime, held in Istanbul on 17-18 September 2013, and decided to continue organizing meetings of the Network in the same format and prior to the meetings of the Working Group.
12. The following draft decision of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC was agreed by the Working Group for submission to the forthcoming Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials:

“The Council took note of the Report of the Meeting of the Network of Liaison Officers on Combating Crime held at the BSEC Headquarters on 17-18 September 2013 and in compliance with items 2 and 3 of Article 6 of the Additional Protocol to the Agreement Among the Governments of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in Particular in Its Organized Forms, done in Kyiv on 15 March 2002, invite those Member States which have not done so to appoint a Liaison Officer and his/her Alternate to the Network.”

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL ON COMBATING TERRORISM TO THE AGREEMENT AMONG THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE BSEC PARTICIPATING STATES ON COOPERATION IN COMBATING CRIME, IN PARTICULAR IN ITS ORGANIZED FORMS

13. BSEC PERMIS informed of its participation in the 2013 OSCE Counter-Terrorism Conference “Priority issues for international co-operation in the fight against terrorism”, 10-11 October 2013, Kyiv.

14. The Working Group proposed the following draft Recommendation by the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of BSEC for consideration at the Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials (Yerevan, 10-11 December 2013):

“The Council of MFA took note of the Report of the Meeting of the WG on Combating Organized Crime in Particular in Its Organized Forms (21-22 November 2013) and of the Meeting of the Network of Liaison Officers (17-18 September 2013) and pursuant to the Additional Protocol on Combating terrorism (Kiev, 2002) encouraged the Member States to consider modalities for exchange of information on terrorist threats before and during the international events in the Black Sea region.”

DELIBERATIONS ON THE ANNUAL REVIEW WITH THE ASSESSMENT OF THE TRENDS OF TRANS-NATIONAL CRIME IN THE BSEC REGION FOR 2009-2011

15. The Working Group took note that so far only five countries, namely Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey, have submitted their replies to the Questionnaire on the issue.

16. The participants expressed their views on the Report regarding the annual review of the trans-national crime trends in the BSEC region (2009-2011).

17. The Working Group decided to proceed with the preparation of an Annual Review with the Assessment of the Trends of Trans-national Crime in the BSEC Region for 2012-2013.

18. The Country-Coordinator is invited to provide, in due time, with a revised questionnaire for the new report reflecting the suggestions of the Member States.

FOLLOW-UP TO THE BSEC REGIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR STRENGTHENING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE TO TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN THE BLACK SEA REGION

19. Four Member States, namely the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Bulgaria and the Russian Federation, presented information on national activities in strengthening the criminal justice response to trafficking in persons and the international cooperation in this field.

20. The Working Group invited the Member States to officially submit the information on their activities in strengthening the criminal justice response to trafficking in persons in the Black Sea region by the end of February 2014 to the Country-Coordinator and the BSEC PERMIS with the view to draw an annual report for 2013, according to the Paragraph 6 of the said BSEC Regional Action Plan.

DISCUSSION/ADOPTION OF A DRAFT BSEC ACTION PLAN ON REGIONAL EFFORTS TO PREVENT AND COMBAT CORRUPTION

21. The participants discussed, amended and agreed upon the draft BSEC Action Plan. The document is attached as **Annex IV**.
22. The draft BSEC Action Plan will be submitted for the approval by the BSEC Ministers of Interior/Public Order at the forthcoming Meeting to be held in 2014.

PLAN OF ACTIONS OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON COMBATING CRIME, IN PARTICULAR IN ITS ORGANIZED FORMS (JULY 2013 – JUNE 2015)

23. The participants discussed, amended and approved the draft Plan of Actions of the BSEC Working Group on Combating Crime, in Particular in Its Organized Forms elaborated by the Country-Coordinator (July 2013-June 2015). The document is attached as **Annex V**.
24. The participants agreed that the Plan of Actions is open for further contributions for events by the Member States in their Countries.

ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS IN THE FIELD OF COMBATING ORGANIZED CRIME

25. The participants exchanged views on the possibility of BSEC cooperation with relevant international organizations.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

26. The Hellenic Republic presented brief information on their forthcoming EU Presidency.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

27. The date and venue of the next meeting will be communicated to the Member States in due course by BSEC PERMIS. The Country Coordinator suggested to convene the next meeting of the Working Group in May/June 2014, before the Meeting of the Ministers of Interior/Public Order of the BSEC Member States.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

28. The present Report was adopted for submission to the next BSEC Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials (Yerevan, 10-11 December 2013) and the Twenty-Ninth BSEC Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs for their consideration.