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

(Antalya, Turkey, 24-26 May 1999)

1. The First Meeting of the Working Group (WG) on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in particular in its Organized Forms was held in Antalya, Turkey, on 24-26 May 1999.

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

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

3. The Opening Ceremony was chaired by Dr. Recep GÜLTEKİN, Head of International Relations Department at the General Directorate of Security in the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Turkey. On behalf of the host country, Mr. Natik CANCA, Director of Antalya Provincial Security and Mr. Necati BİLİCAN, Governor-General Director of Security addressed the participants with inaugural statements.

4. The Meeting was chaired, on behalf of the host country, by Dr. Yusuf Ziya ÖZCAN, Lecturer at Police Academy who delivered a welcoming speech.

5. Mr. Evgueny BORISSENKO, Deputy Secretary General, addressed the Meeting on behalf of the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat. The text of his statement is attached as Annex II.

6. The draft agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The agenda, as adopted is attached as Annex III.

EVALUATIONS AND PROPOSALS OF THE MEMBER STATES CONCERNING SOLUTIONS OF THE COMMON PROBLEMS RELATED TO COMBATING CRIME IN PARTICULAR IN ITS ORGANIZED FORMS

7. During the discussions the participants took note of the following:

a) The delegations underlined that the international community is facing now, at the end of this century, the alarming growth of the threats focused against the public peace and order such as the organized crime, illegal traffic of drugs, firearms and radioactive materials, severe smuggling, money laundering, computer crimes and terrorism.

b) The WG declared that the fight against criminal acts, especially in its organized forms, should be considered as a top priority task, mobilizing to its implementation on the national and global levels, including appropriate activities of the international organizations and institutions, particularly those which are directly involved in regional cooperation in the BSEC area.

c) Having recognized the importance of expanding the collaboration among the respective national authorities in the field of combating crime in particular in its organized forms, the participants exchanged their views on the concrete steps to be undertaken in this direction.

d) The delegations unanimously stressed the importance of the Agreement among the Governments of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in particular in its Organized Forms as a framework for further activities and mechanisms to be established in order to strengthen the fight against organized crime in the Black Sea region.

e) All participants agreed to take concrete actions by way of sharing information, planning operations together to curb pressing crime problems in the region. They all welcomed the idea of exchanging experience in combating crime that is important at various levels in the BSEC member countries.

f) The WG stressed the point that it would be better to take preventive measures against all kinds of crime rather than just reacting to them. It became clear that this can only be accomplished by close cooperation of all States in the BSEC region.

g) Organized criminal groups and criminals, not only in the BSEC region, but all over the world, are increasingly combining the efforts; using modern technologies

and sophisticated methods and committing new types of crime. In order to face the challenge of organized crime and to be successful in preventing and combating this malicious phenomenon which is undermining the welfare of people, there is no other choice except to coordinate and to join efforts and fully mobilise the resources for a common struggle.

IDENTIFICATION OF THE MAIN PRIORITIES IN BSEC MEMBER STATES FOR COOPERATION IN COMBATING ORGANIZED CRIME, IN PARTICULAR IN ITS ORGANIZED FORMS

8. Taking into consideration that the main priorities in the BSEC Member States for cooperation in combating crime, in particular in its organized forms were described in detail in the Agreement among the Governments of the BSEC Participating States (Article 1- Areas of Cooperation), the WG unanimously adopted the proposal of being guided by this provision and decided to terminate the discussion on this item of the agenda during the Meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF THE MEMBER STATES' PROJECTS WITH REGARD TO TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE WORKING GROUP

9. The Turkish Delegation proposed to set up a Police Liaison Center in order to combat crime, in particular in its organized forms, more efficiently and to respond to such acts in prompt manner.

The duties of the proposed center were specified as:

- to facilitate exchange of information between the Member States;
- to collect, compare and analyse data and documents;
- to transmit information about crime through national units;
- to improve expertise knowledge about procedures of investigations;
- to help and improve effective and productive usage of resources that are available at the national level for the operational activities;
- to prepare assessment report at certain intervals.

The financing of the proposed police liaison office will be supplied by the country where the Center is to be established. The member country who will send a liaison officer to the Center will be responsible for this officer's salary, pension and other personal rights during the period which the officer stays in the host country. Operation costs of the Center will be met by the BSEC Secretariat.

The Turkish Delegation did not specify any location for the Police Liaison Center but left it to the WG to decide. The center will provide a permanent contact point for member countries which is essential for dealing with all types of crime.

The representatives of the Participating States in general evaluated the Turkish proposal favorably. In this connection majority of delegations expressed their support in principle and some of them assessed it as an interesting approach. The delegation following a thorough discussion on the issue requested from the Turkish side to forward a detailed draft and an explanatory note covering all the aspects of the proposal taking into consideration the arising issues such as its duties and legal, financial, operational, etc. dimensions.

The requested draft and explanatory note will be forwarded to the experts consideration in order to submit to the Fourth Meeting of Ministers of Interior to allow the Participating States to clarify their views on it.

10. The WG took into account the proposal of the Delegation of the Hellenic Republic regarding the common mechanism for the collection and systematic analysis of information on organized crime in the European Union. It was recommended to study the EU experience on this matter dealing with the practical identification and classification of the organized crime on the basis of its characteristics for the purpose of potential use of the BSEC countries, provided that the mechanism is accepted. The participants addressed to the Greek side to submit to the delegations through the BSEC Secretariat all relevant documents in order to include this problem for consideration at the next WG meeting.

11. The Greek Delegation also proposed as a means of enhancing the effectiveness of cooperation, especially in practical terms, to initiate and take forward work on controlled deliveries, given that this method has been proven to be very efficient in dismantling illegal drug trafficking criminal networks. According to this proposal, the first step in the BSEC area is to exchange legal texts, regulating the matter and define contact points of Law Enforcement Agencies, including telephone and fax numbers. The participants welcomed the Greek proposal and stated that this proposal should be submitted to the next experts meeting and for the following Fourth Meeting of Ministers of Interior.

The Greek Delegation expressed its readiness to circulate through the PERMIS to the Heads of present Delegations the text of the Draft "European Union Manual on Controlled Deliveries" for its eventual use while elaborating appropriate documents within the framework of the BSEC.

The participants welcomed the proposal of the Russian Delegation to carry out the gathering and disseminating legislative provisions regulating the issues of conducting cross-border controlled deliveries in the BSEC Participating States, as well as preparing a list of

appropriate contact points and persons including their telephone/fax numbers and other liaison channels in the law-enforcement and customs agencies. In this connection it was agreed to send the above-mentioned documents and information (in Russian and/or English) directly to the Ministry of Interior of the Russian Federation by 1 September 1999, latest.

12. The WG agreed to elaborate in all aspects the proposal of the Russian Delegation to create subgroups or ad hoc groups on combating concrete types of transnational crime; for instance, illegal traffic in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors, illegal trafficking of weapons, economic crime, including frauds, money laundering, smuggling, counterfeiting, forgery of banknotes and credit cards, organized criminal acts related to migration and high technology crime, acts of terrorism.

13. With the view of enhancing effectiveness of the WG (ref: para 3f- Terms of Reference), it was proposed by the Russian Delegation to recommend setting up special experts groups (or holding special meetings) on countering most dangerous transnational criminal groups acting in three or more BSEC Member States.

SETTING UP THE SCHEDULES AND THE TOPICS FOR THE EXPERT MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING AND SPECIALIZATION SEMINARS FOR THE COMPETENT PERSONNEL

14. The Delegation of the Hellenic Republic submitted an application to the European Commission of the EU for the approval of a Community co-financed program and in particular for the organization of a three-day seminar in October 1999. The subject of the seminar will be the “Confrontation of illegal immigration and the organized networks, in the area of Balkans and the Black Sea”. In this seminar, representatives from the competent authorities of the BSEC and the European Union member countries as well as EUROPOL and the European Commission will be invited to participate.

15. The Turkish side expressed its readiness to provide education in the Police Academy for four years to the students from the BSEC Member States.

16. The Delegation of Turkey proposed to organize seminars and courses for duration of three to fifteen days for the relevant staff of the member countries on:

- examination of fingerprint;
- examination of scene of crime;
- photography for police;
- riot control;
- ballistics;
- voice analysis;
- graphology and forgery;
- explosives;
- forensic chemistry and biology;
- combating against drug smuggling;
- combating against illegal human trafficking and organized crime.

The Turkish Delegation proposed to organize a training course on fingerprint inspection for three days.

CONSIDERATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE FOURTH MEETING OF MINISTERS OF INTERIOR

17. The WG stressed that it would be reasonable to submit to the Ministers of Interior the recommendations of Turkey, Greece and Russia and discuss it in the experts meeting of the WG.

18. The WG emphasized that it would be reasonable to prepare a Joint Statement of the Ministers of Interior regarding Cooperation in Combating Transnational Crime in 21st Century and addressing the Governments, Parliaments and international organizations.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

19. Recognizing the growing problems of theft embezzlement motor vehicles and considering the difficulties faced by owners in securing the return of motor vehicles stolen or embezzled, the participants took note with appreciation the initiative of the Russian Delegation to distribute among the experts copies of the signed Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden for the Return of Stolen and Embezzled Motor Vehicles. It was underlined that the said materials will really help the BSEC experts in the solution of the illegal trafficking of stolen cars as a part of another criminal activity with a peculiar development.

20. The participants unanimously proposed that each member country would pass legislation on controlled deliveries and finalize all necessary internal procedures for ratification and approval of the Agreement among the Governments of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in particular in its Organized Forms.

21. In order to ensure continuity in the activities of the WG, the participants recommended to send to the second and subsequent meetings at least one representative, who participated in the previous WG meeting.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

22. The participants took note with appreciation the proposal of the Romanian Delegation to host the Fourth Meeting of Ministers of Interior sometime in April-May 2000. The exact date and venue of the said Meeting would be communicated to the Participating States through the BSEC PERMIS.

23. The delegations agreed that the date and venue of the second WG meeting would also be communicated to the Member States through the BSEC Secretariat.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

24. The participants expressed their sincere thanks and gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Turkey, and in particular to the Ministry of Interior for the warm hospitality and courtesies extended to them and for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

25. This report was adopted by the WG for submission to the Fourteenth MMFA.
