



2008 BS/C/WG/R(2008)2

**REPORT OF THE
THIRD MEETING
OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON CULTURE**

Istanbul, 10-11 November 2008

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Culture was held at the BSEC Headquarters in Istanbul on 10-11 November 2008.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Ms. Hasmik GHARAGHAZARYAN, Senior Specialist at the International Co-operation and Diaspora Department of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:
 - Republic of Armenia
 - Republic of Bulgaria
 - Georgia
 - Hellenic Republic
 - Romania
 - Russian Federation
 - Republic of Serbia
 - Republic of Turkey
 - Ukraine
4. The representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Co-operation (PABSEC), the BSEC Business Council (BSEC BC) and the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) also participated in the Meeting.
5. The List of Participants is attached as Annex I.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. The Draft Agenda of the Meeting was discussed, amended and adopted. The Agenda, as adopted, is attached as Annex II.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL AND THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE DECLARATIONS AND JOINT STATEMENTS ADOPTED BY THE MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR CULTURE

- a) The Action Plan of the WG on Culture
- b) Statement by the Ministers for Culture of the Member States of BSEC (Sounion, 4 July 2007)

7. The Action Plan 2006-2008 was discussed and it was decided to consider it as technical till the adoption of the new Action Plan which would be drafted and presented by the Country Coordinator (Georgia).

8. The Country Coordinator elaborated on the priority activities during their term-in-office to be included in the Draft Action Plan 2008-2010. The Non-paper amended version of the Priorities of Georgia as Country Coordinator are attached as Annex III.

PRESENTATION OF THE EVALUATION REPORT BY THE OUTGOING COUNTRY COORDINATOR

9. The former Country Coordinator (Hellenic Republic) presented the Evaluation Report on the activities of the Working Group in 2008. The Report is attached as Annex IV.

10. The participants commended the Hellenic Republic for the efforts and engagement during their term-in-office as a Country Coordinator.

DISCUSSION ON SO FAR ADVANCED OR NEW IDEAS AND PROJECT PROPOSALS OF MEMBER STATES

11. The participants took note of the explanation provided by BSEC PERMIS on the projects presented at the previous meeting of the Working Group for consideration among Member States and joining in the areas of “Networks of co-operation in the field of contemporary culture”, “Cultural Itineraries” and “Intercultural Dialogue”.

12. The representative of the Republic of Bulgaria and of the Republic of Turkey made appeal to Member States to reconsider projects they have already presented (“The Route of the Rose” and “The Route of the Silk Road”).

13. The participants decided in order to assist the establishment of these networks and itineraries to continue with the discussion at the next meeting of the Working Group.

14. The representative of the Republic of Armenia informed on the establishment of “The Golden Apricot” Cinema school for young directors from the Black Sea and Caucasian Countries to be held by the end of November 2008 in Yerevan.

15. The WG decided with reference to the Item 14 of the present Report that the Member States be granted ten days time-span for the final decision on eventual participation.

16. The Representative of the Russian Federation informed on the possibility of establishing of an Agreement on Cultural Cooperation among interested BSEC Member States.

17. The Russian Federation proposed to resume the practice of convening annual international art festivals of the BSEC Member States.

EXCHANGES OF VIEWS ON CULTURAL CO-OPERATION BETWEEN BSEC AND RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

18. Upon information of the representatives of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Hellenic Republic and of BSEC PERMIS on the activities and projects of the UNESCO, the Council of Europe and the European Commission relative to BSEC region (such as the “Kyiv Initiative” and the “Regional Program for Cultural and Natural Heritage of the South-East Europe 2003-2009”), as well as on possibilities of cooperation with regional organizations (Adriatic-Ionian Initiative and the Council of Ministers of Culture of the South East Europe) the WG has decided to continue discussions at the next meeting of the Working Group.

19. The representative of the Republic of Bulgaria invited BSEC Working Group on Culture to apply for the Observer status with the Council of Europe Steering Committee for Culture.

PREPARATION TO CONVENING THE MID TERM MINISTERIAL MEETING ON CULTURE

20. The participants decided to hold the next BSEC Ministerial Meeting on Culture (Mid-term Meeting) in the second half of 2009. In order to start preparations for the Meeting, the participants assigned the Country Coordinator with the task to elaborate on the issue at the next meeting of the WG on Culture.

PRESENTATION BY BSEC PERMIS OF THE AMENDED PDF MANUAL OF OPERATION

21. The Working Group took note of the information by the BSEC PERMIS Representative on the new regulation of BSEC Project Development Fund (PDF) according to which the priorities project areas need to be defined. He provided information on the establishment of the Hellenic Development Fund (HDF) and in this respect deliberated on opportunities it provides for funding BSEC projects.

22. The participants proposed that concrete assignments for those projects which could be submitted to PDF, HDF and International Organizations and institutions (UNESCO, Council of

Europe and European Commission) for consideration and eventual financial support should be determined and adopted at subsequent stages of co-operation, upon evaluating the priorities.

**PRESENTATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA WITHIN THE CHAIRMANSHIP-
IN-OFFICE OF THE BSEC**

23. The representative of the Republic of Armenia made a presentation on Cultural Programme to be held in Yerevan, 4-5 December 2008 (Round Table on establishing “Cultural News of the Black Sea”, “Carpet Exhibition and Child Exhibition” entitled *Sunny Sky to the Black Sea*) and kindly asked the participants to register not later than 20 November 2008.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

24. The Representative of BSEC PERMIS informed the participants on the conclusions of the BSEC High Level Conference on Cultural Tourism “Co-operation as a decisive tool for sustainable cultural tourism development” (Tirana, on 14 October 2008).

25. The participants with regard to the presentation on High Level Conference on Cultural Tourism decided to include cultural tourism as a topic of discussion at their meetings.

26. The representative of BSEC informed the participants on the Council of Europe meeting in Belgrade (29-31 October 2008) on “Cultural Corridors/Wine Cultural Tourism Exchange”

27. The Country Coordinator indicated that he will inform the Member States through PERMIS on the venue and the date of the next meeting of the Working Group.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

28. The Working Group adopted the present Report and submitted it for consideration to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials of BSEC Member States.