



BS/WG/EM/R(2007)1

**REPORT OF THE
MEETING OF THE
BSEC WORKING GROUP ON COOPERATION
IN EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**

Istanbul, 28-29 March 2007

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group (WG) on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance was held at the BSEC Headquarters in Istanbul on 28-29 March 2007.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Branko MARJANAC, Deputy Director, Directorate for Multilateral Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia.
3. The Meeting of the Working Group was attended by the following BSEC Member States:
 - Republic of Armenia
 - Republic of Azerbaijan
 - Republic of Bulgaria
 - Romania
 - Russian Federation
 - Republic of Serbia
 - Republic of Turkey
 - Ukraine
4. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the Czech Republic as BSEC Observer.
5. The representative of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) also participated in the Meeting.

The List of Participants is attached as Annex I.

6. The participants of the Meeting were addressed by Ambassador Andrey URNOV, Deputy Secretary General of BSEC PERMIS. In particular, he underlined the importance of cooperation in

emergency assistance and of the necessity of implementation of the decisions reached at the previous meetings of all levels. Special attention Ambassador URNOV paid to the necessity to establish as soon as possible the Liaison Officers Network in accordance with the Additional Protocol to the Agreement among the Governments of the BSEC Participating States on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance and Emergency Response to Natural and Man-Made Disasters. He expressed his hope that the Member States will expedite the completion of their internal procedures required for the Additional Protocol to enter into force.

7. The Draft Agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The Agenda, as adopted by the Working Group, is attached as Annex II.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE DECLARATIONS AND JOINT STATEMENTS ADOPTED BY THE MINISTERS FOR EMERGENCIES AND HEADS OF EMERGENCY SERVICES:

a. Report of the Republic of Bulgaria, as a Country-Coordinator, about implementation of Working Programs for the period of May 2005 – May 2007

8. The delegation of Bulgaria, as the Country-Coordinator, presented the evaluation report of activities of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance for the period May 2005 – April 2007 (attached as Annex III). It was noted that the Working Group conducted its activities in accordance with the Plan of Action and Working Programs for 2005 and 2006.

9. In the course of this period the Member States took part in a number of events of practical nature on cooperation in the field of emergency assistance – exercises, workshops and seminars. The BSEC established good relations with the Black Sea Commission and mutual participation in the events held by both organizations complimented their efforts in establishing reliable mechanism for meeting challenges that can be caused by the emergency situations.

10. The Working Group finalized the elaboration of the Additional Protocol to the Agreement among the Governments of the BSEC Participating States on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance and Emergency Response to Natural and Man-Made Disasters which was signed by nine countries in 2005-2006.

11. The Meeting of the Ministers and Heads of Emergencies and Rescue Governmental Agencies of the BSEC Member States, held in Sochi on 6-7 June 2006, gave a new impetus to cooperation in emergency assistance. Following the Meeting the Working Group paid special attention to the follow-up of the guidelines contained in the Joint Statement.

12. The Working Group assessed positively the achievements of the Bulgarian coordinatorship and expressed its high appreciation to the Bulgarian side for the work done.

b. State of affairs with respect to the Additional Protocol to the Agreement among the Governments of the BSEC Participating States on Cooperation in

Emergency Assistance and Emergency Response to Natural and Man-Made Disasters

13. The participants were informed that on 15 December 2006 the Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Istanbul informed the PERMIS by its note that the Russian Federation has completed internal procedures necessary for entry into force of the above-mentioned Additional Protocol.

14. At the same time, PERMIS noted that, as a depository of the Additional protocol, it expects to receive the instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval by the Russian Federation in due time.

15. The delegations of Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine stated that their internal procedures necessary for the Additional Protocol to enter into force are still under way. They agreed to speed up the process of completion of internal procedures in order to convene, as soon as possible, the Inaugural Meeting of the Network of Liaison Officers.

16. The delegation of Armenia stated that it will be in a position to sign the Additional Protocol in the nearest future.

c. Consideration of the draft Modalities of the Liaison Officers Network functioning

17. The participants decided to defer the consideration of this item to next meeting of the Working Group. The PERMIS was requested to prepare the draft Modalities of the Liaison Officers Network functioning and submit it for consideration of the Members States. The Member States were invited to communicate their proposals on the matter.

d. Options for attracting additional financial resources for rapid response to emergencies

18. The participants agreed to forward to PERMIS their proposals with regard to possible options for attracting additional financial resources for rapid response to emergencies by the end of April 2007.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL COORDINATING CENTRE(S)

19. The delegations resumed deliberation on the issue. They recalled the relevant provision of the Joint Statement of the Ministers for Emergencies and Heads of Emergency Services Meeting of the BSEC Member States that for reaching a closer cooperation of existing national forces and facilities for rendering emergency assistance and their interaction with regional forces for mutual fast response in case of wide-scale emergency it is reasonable to provide training of the personnel of rescue teams of BSEC Member States in accordance with international standards. In this regard the participants were reminded about the proposal of the Russian Federation made at the previous meetings, to use the Rescue Training Center of EMERCOM of Russia “Krasnaya Polyana” (Krasnodarskiy Region) as well as national training centers of other BSEC Member States.

20. The delegation of Romania emphasized the importance of regional coordination in the maritime rescue operations. The delegation of Turkey stressed the role of the national centers.

21. It was agreed that the exchange of information about the activities of national rescue centres should be arranged.

22. The participants expressed the view that prior to the establishment of international centers on the basis of the national ones an inventory of national centres, their means, forces and training possibilities is desirable. In this regard, they agreed to provide PERMIS with the information on their national centres so that summarized information could be considered at the next meeting.

BSEC-BSC COOPERATION

23. The representative of the Black Sea Commission (BSC) made a presentation “BSC Activities, Contingency Planning and Emergency Response”. She informed about the exercises “Black Sea Alpha (-Bravo, - Charlie, - Delta, - Echo)” that are periodically being held by the BSC in order to be duly prepared for emergency situations in the Black Sea. Detailed information was provided on the forthcoming DELTA Exercise to be held by Turkey (SULH 2007) in the mid - September 2007.

24. The participants were informed about the BSC Pilot Project “Black Sea Vessel Traffic Oil Pollution Information System (VTOPIS)” and other projects.

25. The delegations reiterated the necessity to strengthen cooperation between BSEC and BSC and noted the importance for the BSEC Member States to take part in the BSC exercises and, in particular, SULH 2007.

COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF SEISMOLOGY. THE OUTCOME OF THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON SEISMOLOGY OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES (KRASNODAR, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, 28-29 NOVEMBER 2006

26. The delegations were acquainted with the outcome of the Second International Workshop on Seismology of the BSEC Member States (Krasnodar, Russian Federation, 28-29 November 2006), organized by the Kuban State University (KubSU).

27. The representative of PERMIS informed that the Workshop was of practical nature. Its participants agreed to jointly elaborate some projects and made some proposals and recommendations for strengthening cooperation in the field. They unanimously supported the initiative of the Kuban State University to include the KubSU geophysical test site as the first international center in the field of seismology for the BSEC Association for Seismic Protection.

28. Delegations of Armenia and Azerbaijan highly estimated the work done by the KubSU in developing international cooperation in the field of seismology and providing scientific information on seismic activity.

29. The delegations expressed the opinion that the activation of the BSEC Association for Seismic Protection and its Secretariat will help to substantially enhance the work in this field.

PRESENTATION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS

30. The Delegation of Turkey made a presentation of two project proposals, namely:

- a. Tele-Health Centres;
- b. The BSEC Countries Medical Rescue Team.

31. The purpose of the project proposal “Tele-Health Centre” is to engage existing Tele-Health Centres in the BSEC Members States into effective collaboration.

32. The purpose of the project proposal “The BSEC Countries Medical Rescue Teams” is to ensure medical rescue services by the BSEC Member States during possible disasters and emergencies through establishing medical rescue teams, arranging their trainings in accordance with standard models and in this way to develop standard operational approach models in the BSEC countries. Implementation of the project foresees establishment of a “Joint Logistic Database and Communications and Information System” and “Disaster and Crisis Training Centre on Health”.

33. The Working Group took note of the Draft Project Proposals presented by the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Turkey, and invited the Member States to express their views on the said projects at their earliest convenience.

34. It was proposed to include the Turkish Tele-Health Center into the scenario of the forthcoming Exercise SULH 2007 dealt with in the BSC presentation.

APPROVAL OF THE WORKING PROGRAMME OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON COOPERATION IN EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR THE YEAR 2007

35. The participants agreed to send to the PERMIS their inputs to the Working Program for the year 2007 before the end of April 2007. The incoming Country-Coordinator is expected to draft the said Working Program in cooperation with PERMIS.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

36. No issue was raised under this Agenda Item.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

37. The date and venue of the next Working Group Meeting will be communicated to the Member States through BSEC PERMIS.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

38. The present Report will be submitted to the Committee of Senior Officials for consideration.
