

**WORK PROGRAM / PLAN OF ACTION
OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
PROPOSED BY ROMANIA (2009 – 2011)**

1. Meeting of the Working Group on Environmental Protection (Istanbul, January 2010)

2. Workshop on developing a Black Sea Information System on sustainable development of the Black Sea region in order to answer to the needs of the internal and external users.
(Proposed agenda: formulation of proposals for the setting up of a general framework and recommendations for the measures to be taken at national and multilateral level; technical aspects; modalities of operation, periodic review mechanism, continuing the efforts under the new country mandate (Istanbul, 12 May 2010).

3. Organisation of the joint Meetings BSEC – BSC (The Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution) in order to strengthen practical cooperation, and ways of complementary cooperation, to avoid the overlapping of both organisations' activity.
(Proposed agenda: improving the functioning of the institutional network of BSEC and the coordination with regional organizations, institutions and initiatives, in particular with the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution.-Istanbul, date to be established with BSC).

4. Regularly exchange of information on the new developments in the environmental legislation and the progress towards protecting the environment, respecting the international laws and agreements (harmonizing with BSC existing work Plan).

5. Organisation of a round table by scientific society in order to update the lists of priority needs in research related to pollution prevention and control.

6. Organisation in cooperation with international organizations of different workshops in the various related issues on environmental priorities (influence of climate change on marine biodiversity, specific topics on land based pollution sources-hot spots, environmental safety aspects of shipping-port facilities, pollution, erosion, environmental emergencies- natural and human, and the development of relevant methodologies related, date and venue to be proposed by the Country Coordinator and the Chairmanship-in-Office).

7. Initiation of joint projects of regional relevance to be supported by the PDF and/or promoted in the framework of an enhanced BSEC - EU interaction and supported through EU financial instruments and programs (during WG Meetings to be established project proposals to be submitted by the BSEC MS). PERMIS will invite the donor organizations at the meeting to support the relevant joint projects on the protection of the Black Sea ecosystem.

8. Strengthening the cooperation with international organizations, especially European Commission, dealing with issues on climate change, integration of environment into the other sectors of economic activities of BSEC, environmental education, the protection and rehabilitation of the Black Sea marine environment, including those on preventing and reducing the pollution of the rivers flowing into the sea and the hydrographical basins of the rivers flowing into the sea (with the contribution of the BSEC Member States).

9. Organization of a Workshop on Public awareness regarding the protection of the Black Sea ecosystem (Constanta, Romania, 29 October 2010).

10. Preparation of the Meeting of the Environmental Ministers of the BSEC Member States, which will assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the Bucharest proposed Action Plan and adopt new objectives and priorities to enhance the BSEC cooperation in the field of environmental protection (date and venue to be established by the next BSEC Chairmanships-in-Office).

11. Development of a regional project concerning the impact of climate change on the Black Sea region environment (together with UNDP).

12. Promotion of linkages and cooperation with other/neighbouring regions sharing similar challenges and where similar activities for the protection of the environment take place, such as the Mediterranean region and the Caspian region.