



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

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REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

BSEC Headquarters, 15 - 16 October 2015

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Environmental Protection was held at the BSEC Headquarters on 15 - 16 October 2015.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mrs. Brandușa PREDESCU, Minister Plenipotentiary, Special Representative of the Romanian Chairmanship-in-Office to BSEC.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following Member States:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Republic of Bulgaria
Hellenic Republic
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Turkey
4. The list of participants is attached as **Annex I**.
5. The Draft Agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The Agenda, as adopted, is attached as **Annex II**.

AGENDA ITEM 2: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL AND PROVISIONS OF THE JOINT DECLARATIONS ADOPTED AT THE MEETINGS OF THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

6. The BSEC PERMIS briefed the participants on the status of implementation of the resolutions, decisions and recommendations of the Council and provisions of the Joint Declarations adopted at the Meetings of the Ministers in Charge of Environmental Protection of the BSEC Member States.

7. The issue of appointment of representatives to the Working Groups on a long term basis and the attendance of them at the meetings was raised by BSEC PERMIS.

8. The Working Group was informed of the modalities of preparing the Report of the implementation of the “BSEC Economic Agenda 2012” up to 2015 and the planning for the next period. The Working Group confirmed the three priorities selected for the period 2016-2018.

9. The Country-Coordinator informed the Working Group that Romania is ready to coordinate the Working Group for the next two years (1 January 2016 – 31 December 2017).

10. The Working Group welcomed the application of Romania for Coordinatorship for the next period of two years (1 January 2016 – 31 December 2017), and suggested to the CSO to proceed with the adoption of a relevant decision.

11. The Country-Coordinator briefed the participants on the accomplishment of the goals defined in the previous Plan of Action.

AGENDA ITEM 3: STATE OF AFFAIRS OF THE BSEC REGIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DISCUSSED AT THE LAST WORKING GROUP MEETING (Istanbul, 26-27 March, 2015)

12. The Working Group discussed the BSEC Mid-Term Action Plan for Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection.

13. The delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan suggested some amendments to the said BSEC Mid-Term Action Plan, accepted by the Working Group. The text, as amended, is attached as **Annex III**.

14. Upon the suggestion by the Country-Coordinator, the Working Group agreed with the text of the BSEC Mid-Term Action Plan for Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection, and decided to submit to the consideration of the Committee of Senior Officials the following decision to be adopted by the Council:

“The Council adopted the BSEC Mid-Term Action Plan for Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection and tasked the Working Group on Environmental Protection with its execution.”

AGENDA ITEM 4: CONSIDERATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAM OF THE WORKING GROUP 2014-2015

15. The Country-Coordinator briefed the participants on the execution of the Work Program of the Working Group for 2014-2015. The said document is attached as **Annex IV**.

16. The delegations agreed that the tasks from the said Work Program, which have not been fulfilled, to be integrated in the new Work Program, to be proposed by the Country-Coordinator, for the next period of two years.

AGENDA ITEM 5: MODALITIES OF ESTABLISHING AN INFORMATION EXCHANGE MECHANISM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

17. The Country-Coordinator informed the participants on the development of the issue of establishment of information exchange mechanism for environmental protection and offered to explore the possibility of hosting the web-site of the network.

18. The delegation of the Republic of Turkey raised the language issue if the site is hosted in one of the BSEC Member States.

19. The Working Group agreed with the suggestion that the Country-Coordinator submits in writing the modalities of functioning of the information exchange mechanism to be discussed at the next Working Group meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 6: CONSIDERATION OF A DRAFT BSEC CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION STRATEGY FOR THE BLACK SEA REGION

20. The delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan informed the Working Group of their Verbal Note, reflecting their position on the Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for the Black Sea Region. The said Note was sent to the BSEC PERMIS on 15 October 2015 and disseminated during the Meeting. The delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan also informed the participants of their further suggestions for the amendments to the text of the draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in the Black Sea region, which were duly reflected. The said draft, as amended, is attached as **Annex V**.

21. The Working Group exchanged views on the general framework of the draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in the Black Sea region and expressed appreciation to the UNDP for elaboration of the draft.

22. The participants agreed that a BSEC Strategy on Climate Change Adaptation should reflect the global debate on the issue and especially the forthcoming results of the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to be held in December 2015 in Paris, France.

23. The Working Group invited the Member States to submit their proposals on the Draft of the above mentioned text by the end of February 2016.

24. The Working Group submitted the following draft Council Decision for consideration by the next Committee of Senior Officials:

“The Council took note of the Meeting of the Working Group on Environmental Protection, held in Istanbul on 15-16 October 2015, and recommended to the Working Group to proceed with the discussion on the Draft BSEC Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, in line with the developments within the UN in the field, in particular, the outcome of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).”

AGENDA ITEM 7: PRESENTATION OF THE NEW DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION IN THE MEMBER STATES

25. The representative of Romania informed the participants about the recent developments in the national environmental legislation.

AGENDA ITEM 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

26. No issues were raised under this Agenda Item.

AGENDA ITEM 9: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

27. The Working Group adopted the present Report for submission to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials to be held at the BSEC Headquarters on 3-4 November 2015.