



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

**Permanent International Secretariat**

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Istanbul, 25 October 2013

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**REPORT OF THE  
MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON  
HEALTH CARE AND PHARMACEUTICS**

**Istanbul, 25 October 2013**

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Health Care and Pharmaceutics was held in Istanbul, at the BSEC Headquarters, on 25 October 2013.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Ms. Nune BAKUNTS, Head of Legal Instruments and Document Flow Management Division, State Hygiene and Anti-Epidemic Inspectorate, Ministry of Health of the Republic of Armenia.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:  
  
Republic of Armenia  
Republic of Azerbaijan  
Hellenic Republic  
Romania  
Russian Federation  
Republic of Turkey  
Ukraine

The List of Participants is attached as **Annex I**.

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

## **STATUS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BSEC COUNCIL**

5. BSEC PERMIS informed that in accordance with the Resolution of the Meeting of the BSEC Council held in Belgrade on 19 April 2007, the Member States are expected “to appoint representatives to the Working Groups on a long term basis and act as their national contact points in respective Groups”.

6. So far nine Member States have appointed their representatives to the Group. The list of the Member States’ representatives, as of 24 May 2013, is attached as **Annex III**. The Working Group instructed the BSEC PERMIS to inquire about the permanent appointees to the Working Group by the countries who have not yet done so.

7. The Representative of the Republic of Armenia as Country-Coordinator of the WG informed of the execution of the Plan of Action of the Working Group on Health Care and Pharmaceutics for 2012 – 2013. The said Plan is attached as **Annex IV**.

8. Other issues pertaining from the Resolutions, Decisions, Recommendation and recommendations of Councils and Declarations of Ministers responsible for Health and Pharmaceuticals were discussed under the relevant Agenda Items.

9. The BSEC PERMIS stressed the need that the implementation of the Plan of Action should be in line with the concept of the BSEC Economic Agenda towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership.

## **COMMUNICATION BETWEEN BSEC PERMIS AND THE MEMBER COUNTRIES**

10. BSEC PERMIS informed the participants at the Meeting of the proposals to improve the communications between the Permanent Secretariat and the Member States by using the Microsoft LYNC to which BSEC PERMIS is connected.

An informative video clip on Microsoft LYNC is available on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ET8wnasqj4&list=TLPNGnUgPvf48>

11. The Member States considered the proposal and decided to continue discussions at the next Meeting.

## **STATE OF AFFAIRS REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NETWORK THE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE WITHIN THE BSEC REGION**

12. Upon the decision of the last Meeting of the Working Group on Health Care and Pharmaceutics (Istanbul, 23-24 May 2013), the Hellenic Republic submitted with Note No.: A.P.F.3605/OSEP/AS 50491 of 18 October 2013 the Draft Terms of Reference of the Ad Hoc Expert Group in order to discuss the issue of establishment of epidemiological surveillance and response to health threats within the BSEC region, as well as the structure and priority areas for regional activities.

13. The participants discussed the proposal and instructed the BSEC PERMIS to call upon the Member States to officially inform of their positions on the Draft Terms of Reference on

establishment of a an Expert Group for the epidemiological surveillance and response to health threats within the BSEC region by the end of January 2014.

14. The Member States are invited to discuss this issue during the next Working Group Meeting with participation of experts on the ground.

#### **STATE OF AFFAIRS REGARDING THE AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF SANITARY PROTECTION OF THE TERRITORIES OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES**

15. The Member States presented information on the process of internal procedures in their countries, with regard to the signing of the Agreement.

16. The representative of the Republic of Armenia, Chairman-in-Office of the BSEC, informed the Working Group that the Republic of Armenia intends to organize the signing ceremony of the said Agreement during the Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States to be held on 12 December 2013.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND COOPERATION IN THE SPHERE OF QUALITY ASSURANCE OF MEDICINES**

17. The text, as amended, is attached **Annex V**.

18. The Member States agreed to secure additional time for further proposals to make amendments in the Draft MoU with the view to adopt the final Draft at the next Meeting of the Working Group.

#### **ACTIVITIES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS (UN, WHO, EU, ETC.) IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH CARE AND PHARMACEUTICS**

19. The BSEC PERMIS presented information on the informal discussions with representatives of the WHO and the intention of both organizations to formalize cooperation between them.

20. The participants agreed that cooperation between the BSEC and the World Health Organization (WHO) will be beneficial for both organizations, and tasked the BSEC PERMIS to inform the Member States on the further developments in due course.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

21. The delegation of the Hellenic Republic informed the participants on the Pan-Hellenic Congress on Crisis Management in the Health Sector to be held in Athens on 8-10 November 2013.

#### **DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

22. The date and the venue of the next Meeting will be communicated to the Member States in due course by the BSEC PERMIS.

## **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING**

23. The present Report was adopted for submission to the next Meeting of the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials to be held in Yerevan on 10-11 December 2013.

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