



BS/ST/WG/R(99)1

**REPORT OF THE
MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP
ON COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

Busteni, Romania, 14-16 December 1999

1. The Fifth Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology, proposed by Romania, was held in Busteni, Romania, on 14-16 December 1999.
 2. The Meeting was attended by the following BSEC Participating States:
 - Republic of Azerbaijan
 - Georgia
 - Republic of Moldova
 - Romania
 - Russian Federation
 - Republic of Turkey
 - Ukraine
 3. The Meeting was also attended by the Alternate General Director of the International Center for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS).
- The list of participants of the Meeting is attached as Annex I.
4. The Meeting was chaired by Prof. Marian-Traian GOMOIU, Deputy Director of the National Institute for Marine Geology and Geoecology of Romania, Member of the Romanian Academy, Professor at University "Ovidius", Constantza.
 5. Prof. Dr. Eng. LANYI Szabolcs, President of the National Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation of Romania, greeted the delegations on the occasion of the Meeting with a welcoming speech. The text is attached as Annex II.
 6. Mr. Evgueny BORISSENKO, Deputy Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS addressed the Meeting. The text of the statement is attached herewith as Annex III.
 7. The draft agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The agenda is attached as Annex IV.

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS OF MEMBER STATES ON ELABORATION OF REGIONAL PROJECTS IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

8. All participating delegations of the BSEC introduced the necessary information and materials regarding the activities of their national research and scientific centers. They exchanged views and proposals for the implementation of the current and prospective plans of their national programs which can directly concern the projects related to the BSEC region. The delegations unanimously supported the idea of employing the scientific and technological potential of the BSEC countries for an accelerated economic development of the BSEC region particularly taking into account the BSEC's transformation into a regional economic organization.

9. The delegations expressed that bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the field of science and technology between the BSEC countries can be a real contribution in the process of the economic development of the whole BSEC area, as it was adopted by the Thessaloniki Council of Ministers on 27 October 1999.

10. The participants guided by the main principles of the Istanbul Summit Declaration of 17 November 1999, underlined that cooperation in the field of science and technology should be considered as its vitally important component at a new crucial stage; it is also indicative of the need to cooperate more closely in identifying new forums and directions of regional scientific and technological cooperation, in exchanging information and experience, sharing best practices and undertaking joint projects of common interest to all the BSEC countries.

11. The delegations called upon the Governments of the BSEC Member States and the leading international economic organizations to promote and support further development of collaboration in science and technology in the BSEC region. They came to the conclusion that the existing scientific and technological potential of the BSEC countries can and should play a greater role in the multilateral cooperation and the economic development as well.

12. During the discussions, the delegations made some concrete proposals and took note of the following:
- The Russian Delegation submitted for consideration the information given by Professor V.A. Babeshko about the project REC-004, according to the direction adopted by BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology. The project is being carried out according to the received grant, financed by US Civilian Research and Development Foundation for the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union and the Russian Government. The Delegation recommended the participation of scientific establishments of BSEC countries in competitions receiving joint grants announced by international funds. It was recommended to assist in choosing partners for participating in competitions on the projects, which are of interest for the BSEC countries or for a separate country and to work out a mechanism for this work fulfilment.

In order to offer the project REC-004 administration, from Russian point of view, should undertake the assistance in training of young scientists of BSEC countries on the grounds of "Research and Education Ecoanalytical Center for the System Studies, Mathematical Modelling and Geocological Safety of the South of Russia" on the competition basis. The Delegation also submitted for consideration their number of proposals and in particular:

- "The system of multilevel geophysical monitoring of the earthquake forerunners in territories and aquatories of the Black Sea region" aimed at improving the accuracy and reliability of the earthquakes forecast on the basis of regular registration of the earthquake forerunners at various altitudes from the land surface up to the ionosphere.

- “Coastal Erosion in the Black Sea and Sea of Azov” connected with the creation of a mathematical model describing the processes of sea-wave erosion of beaches and sediment transportation in the coastal area.
- “Black Sea Floating University” devoted to training of students and post graduates from the BSEC countries on board of research vessel during the scientific cruise in the Black Sea.
- “Capsule hydroelectric stations at mountain rivers in seismically active regions” aimed at effective supply of these regions with the electric power.

13. - The Romanian Delegation proposed a Scientific and Technical Cooperation Program for BSEC Member States (STICOP) representing a multilateral framework program for cooperation in science and technology, with the following distinct programs, presented in Annex V:

- **Program BSEC-SOC**, focused on actions in partnership for solving regional issues with social impact (such as quality of the environment, health, education, unemployment also), for large categories of beneficiaries (some social categories, mainly the unfavored ones, as well as ministries, or the countries involved).
- **Program BSEC-ECON**, focused on actions in partnership for solving regional issues with measurable economic impact; in the program partnerships are directly formed with the beneficiaries of the results, which are also co-financers of the respective projects;
- **Program BSEC-COOP**, supports and promotes the participation of member countries to other RTD European/international RTD programs (EU RTD FPV, EUREKA, COST, NATO scientific Program), where a part of the projects costs may be covered through those programs and/or by the countries involved.

One or several types of projects, as well as specific participation, evaluation and financing conditions are identified for each of these programs and are to be presented in the respective information packages.

In order to support the financing of projects proposed under the STICOP Program, Romania proposed a “Joint Fund for Science and Technology Financing” (the S&T Fund, in short) to be created, on the basis of an annual contribution of each BSEC country. The annual amount of the contribution of each country participating to the Fund would be the equivalent of 20% of its annual contribution to the regular BSEC budget. A bank deposit would be constituted for the S&T Fund, in the same conditions as, but independent of, the regular BSEC budget.

The BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology will be responsible for:

- the formation of a Program Committee, which will ensure the management of the STICOP Program to fulfill its duties, it shall use international experts.
- the elaboration of the Regulations for the functioning and operation of the Program Committee.

The Delegation proposed to create a web site in order to present the activity of the BSEC WG on Cooperation in Science and Technology as well as the information on scientific and technological cooperation.

In order to create a joint Fund to finance and support scientific and technological programs and projects, Romania proposed a draft Agreement between the Member States of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation on cooperation in science and technology (Annex VI). The point of view of each country will be submitted to Romania through the PERMIS. Romania also proposed that in the next meeting of the WG, the Document be discussed by the delegations on the national level, this Agreement should be finalized and it will be signed by the authorized representatives of each country as soon as possible.

The Delegation presented the projects in the following fields of cooperation :

- Agriculture; - GIS-Remote Sensing; - Electronic Commerce in the Black Sea region;

- Modern Technologies for Energy Generation and Environment Protection;
- Ecological Maritime Cooperation;
- Creation of the Black Sea Medical Center for Diabetics.

In order to make easier for the scientists to establish contacts for the implementation of regional and international programs, Romania proposed to put in contact the persons in charge with international cooperation of the governmental institutions dealing with S&T in their countries. A list of this must be available at the PERMIS (containing all the necessary contacts).

14. - The Ukrainian Delegation informed the participants regarding the fulfillment of the scientific regional projects which were adopted on the Fourth Meeting of the WG (Krasnodar, 1998) and Joint Meeting of the WG and the ICBSS Board of Directors held in Yalta, June 1999. It was noted that the Protocol of Intention was signed between the Ukrainian Ministry of Science and Technology, National Academy of Sciences and the ICBSS regarding creation of the International Center on the Water Resources for the BSEC Region. It was announced that Ukraine is elaborating the “Program of the Creation of the International LASER Center for the Rehabilitation of the Children”, particularly for the young people who have suffered in the ecological, natural and technological catastrophes in the BSEC countries.

Taking into account the solutions of the previous WGs, the Ukrainian Delegation suggested to organize the scientific-practical conference on the emergency problems in the BSEC region (April-May 2000) together with the organizing of the exhibition of the scientific technologies and equipments for the liquidation of consequences of ecological, man-made disasters.

The Ukrainian Delegation also made a proposal to organize the international conference for the BSEC countries on the problems of the scientific aspects of the economic development in October 2000, using for this purpose the premises of the Kyiv State University of Trade and Economics.

15. The Georgian Delegation submitted as some priority projects which can be recommended for the consideration and adoption of the WG such as:

- Geophysical models of estimation of pollution situation at East Coastal Zone of the Black Sea;
- Study of strong earthquakes precursors and triggering factors for seismoactive regions of Caucasus, Greece and Turkey;
- Information network of the Black Sea Countries;
- Progresses of development of the Black Sea coastal zone, future tasks and problems concerned with coast protection;
- Assessment of reliability of functioning of port cities and port structures in seismically active regions.

16. The Azerbaijan Republic Delegation submitted for the consideration as a priority project “Elaboration of Effective Methods of Control of Ceroplastes Japonicus Green by the means of Introduced Insect (Microterice)’.

OBTAINING FINANCIAL AND OTHER SUPPORT OF THE EU FOR THE BSEC PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS. THE ROLE OF ICBSS IN ELABORATION OF SECTORAL STUDIES ON THE INTERFACE OF THE BSEC PROJECTS WITH THE EXISTING EU PROGRAMS

17. Upon the request of the participants, Alternate General Director of the International Center for Black Sea Studies, Ambassador Evgeny Kutovoy, made a detailed presentation of the activities of the Center.

18. The emphasis in the ICBSS activities is on practical things which are important to the Member States and their academic and business communities. The ICBSS encourages scientific and academic exchanges and dialogue in the region, assists in identifying the most promising areas of cooperation and elaborating practical solutions to acute problems of the BSEC region.

19. The delegations welcomed the results and recommendations, which have been presented to the first Meeting of the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Thessaloniki in October 1999, of the Halki Conference organized in September 1999 by the ICBSS in cooperation with Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP).

20. The participants welcomed the activities of the ICBSS (Annex VII).

21. The WG took note of the information and recommended that the national research centers and institutes of excellence of Member States will render to the ICBSS necessary scientific support.

22. The participants agreed that the ICBSS would involve the scientists of BSEC Member States in:

- Elaboration of sectorial studies;
- Participation on specific projects of the Black Sea of regional impact financed from the Fifth Framework Program of the European Union.

STRENGTHENING COOPERATION AMONG THE DIFFERENT COMPONENTS OF THE BSEC ACADEMIC DIMENSION: WG ON COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ICBSS, STANDING ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

23. The participants stressed the importance of more effective interaction between the different components of the BSEC academic dimension and the other BSEC Subsidiary Bodies, namely the Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology, the International Center for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS), Standing Academic Committee.

24. The experts of the WG defined the specific fields of science and technology and invited the BSEC Member States to solicit and submit project proposals through the PERMIS. At the same time, the delegations noted that the joint proposals, involving institutions at least from representatives of the Member States, are submitted to PERMIS, after being prescreened by the relevant national bodies which are duly authorized for this purpose.

CONSIDERATION OF THE CONCEPTION OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION PROGRAM BETWEEN THE BSEC COUNTRIES

25. Taking into consideration the resolution of the previous WG Meeting as well as solution of the joint Meeting of the WG and the ICBSS, the Ukrainian Delegation submitted for consideration the Conception of the Development of the Research and Technological Cooperation Program between the BSEC countries.

The purpose and priorities of the program have the following joint projects; projects for the regional infrastructure development which provide innovation processes in the priority trends of economy and the projects for development both modern approaches and institutions of education and training.

The Ukrainian delegation suggested that the program development will implement in the following sequence:

- a) Information and orientation stage: collecting of necessary information, preparation of working materials for the Program draft, discussion these materials in the BSEC countries and creation the International Project Group.
- b) The first stage: development of the Program draft and its adoption by the BSEC authorities (the end of 1999)
- c) The second stage: development of goal and theme structure of the Program, and organization of discussion of these materials in the BSEC countries (winter 1999/2000)
- d) The final stage to ensure the development of the Program in order to debate and adopt the above Program (spring-summer of 2000).

26. The Delegations underlined that taking into account the results of the preliminary discussions and the potential of the BSEC region, it is possible to assume that the scientific and technological cooperation within the Program, first of all, should be developed on the following directions:

- Elaboration of the accompanying mathematical modelling of dynamic phenomena accompanying complex physical, chemical, technological, economic, ecological and natural processes;
- Seismological researches;
- Natural and climatic features the Black Sea region and its bioresources; technologies of protection and renewal of natural resources;
- Technologies raising agricultural producing performance and agriculture production handling work and storage;
- Energy production, storage, modern transportation and use (including renewable and non-traditional sources);
- Development of contemporary transport infrastructure which may be integrated in European transportation system first of all;
- Medicine: treatment, equipment and pharmacology;
- New functional and building materials;
- Information Technologies;
- Social and Economic Development Forecasting.

27. The Azerbaijan Republic Delegation underlined that the economic development of the region of Black Sea is a component of the problem of human development, without which no development can be achieved in general and especially of steady character.

The new concept of development should give back the man a priority in development, to consider economic growth as a means, instead of as the purpose to protect vital opportunities of the present and future generations to give attention to natural environment ensuring life.

28. Taking into account the similarity between the Ukrainian and Romanian proposals regarding the Conception of the Development of the Research and Technological Cooperation Program between the BSEC Countries, the delegations invited Ukrainian and Romanian sides to join their efforts to achieve one final version to be discussed on an ad hoc Meeting to be held in Istanbul at the Headquarters of the BSEC PERMIS in September-October 2000.

CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSAL ON THE CREATION OF A SEISMOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION IN THE BSEC REGION

29. The participants stressed the importance of scientific research in the seismological field and the cooperation among the scientists of the BSEC Member States, particularly in the light of consequences of the recent earthquakes in Turkey and Greece in 1999 and taking into account the unfavorable seismic situation of the BSEC region as a whole.

30. The Delegations agreed to participate together with the Kuban State University (Russia) Project REC-004 and the Institute of Geodynamics (Greece) in the workshop of BSEC seismologists which is going to be organized in Krasnodar on 29-30 March 2000.

31. Taking into account that seismological problem is vitally important for the BSEC countries, first of all, because the Black Sea Region is a territory with high level of risk of natural and technogenic catastrophes, the delegations supported the proposal of the creation of a seismological association in the BSEC region. At the same time it was recommended that the final solution regarding this matter should be adopted taking into account the views of the WG experts on cooperation in emergency assistance which are going to discuss this problem during the next WG meeting in 2000.

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ANY OTHER BUSINESS

32. The delegations took note of the initiative of the Krasnodar Region Administration and they highly appreciated and recommended for further distribution the personal initiative of Mr. Nikolay Kondratenko, the Governor of the Krasnodar Region of the Russian Federation, on allocation of the Region's budget funds (on the equal basis with other funds) for scientific research in the interests of the Krasnodar Region.

33. The delegations appreciated the presentations made by the Academician Vladimir Balabanov (Russian Academy of Entrepreneurship) and Prof. Victor Bazilevich and Mrs. Nelly Sterlik, of the Kyiv State University of Trade and Economics, regarding the activities of their institutions in the training of the specialists and managers for the purpose of the BSEC countries in transition economy.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

34. The participants expressed their sincere thanks and gratitude to the Romanian side for hosting the Meeting and for the excellent arrangements as well as for the warm hospitality extended to them during their stay in Busteni.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

35. The Ukrainian Delegation proposed to host the next meeting of the WG in November-December 2000. The exact date and venue will be communicated to the Member States through the PERMIS.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

36. The WG adopted the present report for submission to the Second Meeting of the Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Organization of the BSEC, to be held in Chisinau, Moldova in April 2000.