



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

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**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP
ON COOPERATION IN TOURISM**

Moscow, 11-12 March 2011

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism (WGCT) was held in Moscow, on 11-12 March 2011.
2. The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Alexander RADKOV, Deputy Head, and Mr. Valery KOROVKIN, Head of International Cooperation Department, Federal Agency of Tourism, Ministry of Tourism, Sport and Youth Policy of the Russian Federation.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:
 - Republic of Albania
 - Republic of Armenia
 - Republic of Azerbaijan
 - Republic of Bulgaria
 - Romania
 - Russian Federation
 - Republic of Serbia
 - Republic of Turkey
 - Ukraine
4. The representative of the BSEC Business Council attended the Meeting as the BSEC Related Body.
5. The List of Participants is attached as **Annex I** to the present Report.
6. Mr. Alexander RADKOV, Deputy Head, Federal Agency of Tourism, Ministry of Tourism, Sport and Youth Policy of the Russian Federation, delivered a welcoming speech.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL AND THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE DECLARATIONS AND JOINT STATEMENTS ADOPTED BY THE MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR TOURISM OF THE MEMBER STATES (MINISTERIAL DECLARATION, ATHENS, 2010)

8. The representative of the PERMIS informed on ways and dynamics of the implementation of the Resolution of the 15th BSEC Council (Moscow, 1 November 2006) with reference to the activities of the Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism relative to the implementation of the BSEC Council Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations.

9. The participants acknowledged information on the issue provided by the BSEC PERMIS and expressed willingness to proceed actively in securing the necessary dynamics of the implementation of the Council Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations, as well as the Ministerial Declaration.

10. The participants invited the Russian Federation in its capacity of the Country-Coordinator to prepare the Evaluation Report on the activities of the Working Group and submit it to the next Meeting of the WGCT for assessment.

ADOPTION OF THE ACTION PLAN 2011-2012

11. The WGCT Action Plan 2011-2012 was discussed, amended and adopted. The Action Plan as adopted is attached as **Annex III**.

CULTURAL TOURISM PROJECTS IMPLEMENTATION

12. The Working Group discussed the issue of how best to promote the projects and secure their implementation.

13. The representative of the Republic of Albania informed of the willingness of his country to join in “The Silk Road Project” and “The Route of the Roman Emperors”

14. The representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan informed on their decision to call off their earlier proposal of the project “Myths of the Two Seas” as this project lost its importance for today.

15. The representative of Romania stressed the importance of securing an institutional framework for the projects, namely Terms of Reference, Action Plan, Memorandum of Understanding, etc. that could be discussed at the special WGCT Meeting dedicated to these issues.

16. As for the raising of the funds, the representative of Romania underlined the necessity of using all opportunities by the national and international organizations, institutions and associations and both, public and private sectors.

17. The representative of the Republic of Turkey informed that Turkey will organize a meeting on “Silk Road Project” with the participation of the project partners, regional and international organizations and institutions, by the end of this year or at the beginning of 2012.

18. The representative of the BSEC Business Council, while stressing the importance of implementation of projects, pinpointed to the necessity to organize promotional events for the projects, and to raise fund through the national and international organizations, and other available resources. The BSEC Business Council representative also took a commitment to assist to the achievement of the projects through the engagement of the BSEC Business Council towards private and semi-private sectors (business people, tour and travel agencies, etc.).

19. The representative of BSEC PERMIS, while stressing the importance of providing an institutional framework for the projects, be it Terms of Reference or Action Plan, underlined the importance of raising funds, that would require full-fledged engagement on behalf of national representative to BSEC WGCT, respective national ministries and other related structures.

20. The WGCT decided to consider the issue and to provide further ideas on institutional framework and on funding for the implementation of the projects to be discussed at the next Working Group meeting.

TOURISM COOPERATION AREAS:

a) Maritime and Nautical Tourism Cooperation among the BSEC Member States

21. The Working Group, while stressing the importance of this issue, especially with regard to improving port infrastructure and increasing cruise float, decided to continue discussions at the next WGCT Meeting.

22. The representative of the Republic of Turkey informed on a Regional Cruise Meeting to be held in Turkey, in December 2011; the detailed information will be communicated to the BSEC Member States through PERMIS in due course.

b) Balneology, Wellness and Spa Tourism

23. The representatives of the Republic of Albania, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Bulgaria, Romania and the Russian Federation informed on their national policies in improving and promoting Balneology, Wellness and Spa Tourism, while at the same time providing hints on eventual cooperation among the BSEC Member States.

24. The Working Group decided to continue discussions on how best to promote cooperation in this area at its next Meeting.

c) Creative Tourism

25. The Working Group decided to continue discussions at its next Meeting, while assigning the representative of Romania to prepare brief information on the issue with special emphasis on Black Sea potential and opportunities.

d) University Environment Integration for Specialist Training in Tourism Sphere of the Black Sea Region

26. The representative of the State University of Saint-Petersburg of the Russian Federation made a presentation on the issue. The presentation is attached as **Annex IV**.

27. The Working Group took note of the presentation and decided to start preparation for creating the Black Sea Regional Tourist Education and Science Consortium. For this aim, it should investigate possibilities and intentions of the national universities to participate in it, and inform PERMIS on the results of this investigation.

28. The Russian Federation will organize the meeting of the university representatives from the BSEC Member States to estimate the goals and the routes of further cooperation on the issue.

NATIONAL POLICIES AND BEST PRACTICES IN THE FIELD OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN BSEC

29. The representatives of the Republic of Albania and the Russian Federation informed on their national legislation with regard to best practices in the field of sustainable tourism development in their countries.

30. The Working Group decided to continue discussions and exchange of experience at the next WGCT Meeting.

PARTICIPATION AT TOURIST EVENTS AND FAIRS HELD IN THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

31. The Working Group decided to communicate through PERMIS a notification on relevant tourist events to be held in their countries in 2011.

BSEC TOURISM MEETINGS IN 2011

32. The representative of Romania informed the participants on the Priorities of the Romania Chairmanship in BSEC while stressing the importance given to tourism area of cooperation.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND (PDF)

33. The Working Group decided to finalize the priorities for PDF funding at the next WGCT meeting.

34. The national representatives to the Working Group decided to communicate through PERMIS their proposals regarding the priorities of the WGCT for PDF funding.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

35. There were no discussions under this Agenda Item.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

36. The participants expressed their sincere gratitude to the government of the Russian Federation for the hospitality extended to the participants and for the excellent organization of the Meeting of the Working Group and the International Travel Fair «Intourmarket (ITM)-2011».

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

37. The Working Group adopted the present Report and submitted it for consideration to the Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials of the BSEC Member States.