



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

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REPORT OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUPS ON CULTURE AND ON COOPERATION IN TOURISM

Istanbul, BSEC Headquarters, 28 September 2010

1. The Joint Meeting of the BSEC Working Groups on Culture and on Cooperation in Tourism was held in Istanbul, at the BSEC Headquarters, on 28 September 2010.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Sarantis MOSCHOVIS, First Counsellor for Economic and Commercial Affairs, B2 Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Republic of Bulgaria
Georgia
Hellenic Republic
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Serbia
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine
4. The representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of the BSEC (PABSEC) and the BSEC Business Council attended the Meeting as the BSEC Related Bodies.
5. The representative of the Republic of Poland also attended the Meeting as the BSEC Observer.
6. The representative of the Danube Tourism Commission also participated in the Meeting as the Official Guest.

7. The List of Participants is attached as **Annex I** to the present Report.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

CULTURAL TOURISM ITINERARIES:

a) Action Plans Presentation by Projects Proponents;

b) Discussion on Ways and Means to Implement Action Plans (Funding, Evaluation, Launching)

THE ROUTE OF THE ROSE, THE ROUTES OF THE COINAGE, CULTURAL ROUTES OF THE ROMAN EMPERORS, THE SILK ROAD, MYTHS OF THE TWO SEAS, WINE ROUTES OF AZERBAIJAN, VINE AND WINE ROUTES OF ARMENIA AND THE LEGEND OF ARGONAUTS

9. The proponents to the projects presented Action Plans which are attached as:

Annex III - The Routes of Coinage (Hellenic Republic),

Annex IV - Cultural Routes of the Roman Emperors (Republic of Serbia),

Annex V - The Silk Road (Republic of Turkey),

Annex VI – supplement to the Silk Road project by the Hellenic Republic,

Annex VII – Wine Routes of Azerbaijan (Republic of Azerbaijan),

Annex VIII – Vine and Wine Routes of Armenia (Republic of Armenia),

Annex IX – The Legend of Argonauts (Georgia).

10. The proponents and associated partners to the projects discussed the ways and means of implementation of the projects with regard to funding, evaluation and stages.

11. The Joint Working Group decided that each of the proponent to the project summon up the conclusions of the discussions and foster cooperation with partners via internet, or in a meeting (workshop) to be held in due course.

12. The proponents and partners to some projects will explore ways for better integration of their segments (parts) within a regional and inter-regional project, while for the other projects – they may proceed on a whole basis. To this end, necessary joint teams or other entities should be established.

13. The Joint Working Group also decided to explore ways for funding the projects once they are fully envisaged with partners. In this regard the Joint Working Group agreed to invite the BSEC Project Development Fund as well as the Hellenic Development Fund to provide information on the issue.

14. The Secretary General of the BSEC Business Council stressed the importance of mobilizing the private sector in the implementation of the “Silk Road” project. The Secretary General expressed also the BSEC BC willingness to further contribute to the projects partnership by urging the business community to support it through funding and promoting market oriented activities.

15. The Republic of Turkey welcomed the BSEC BC's proposal and invited it to work together for the realization of the project.

16. The representative of the BSEC PERMIS stressed the importance for the Member States involved in the project to find ways to address the public sector for support.

17. The Joint Working Group agreed that the projects should be still open for joining in.

18. The participants decided to establish the list of associated partner countries to the projects. The list as established is:

- a) *“The Route of the Rose” (Bulgaria) - no associated partners.*
- b) *“The Routes of Coinage” (Greece) – Moldova has joined.*
- c) *“Cultural Route of the Roman Emperors” (Serbia) - Bulgaria, Moldova have joined and Romania has expressed willingness to join; Croatia (BSEC Observer) has joined in.*
- d) *“The Silk Road” (Turkey) - Armenia, Georgia, Greece and Moldova have joined; Serbia and Azerbaijan have expressed willingness to join; the BSEC Business Council expressed interest to participate in the project.*
- e) *“Myths of the Two Seas” (Azerbaijan) – Russia and Greece have joined.*
- f) *“Wine Routes of Azerbaijan” (Azerbaijan) – no associated partners.*
- g) *“Vine and Wine Routes of Armenia” (Armenia) – no associated partners.*
- h) *“The Legend of Argonauts” (Georgia) - Greece has joined.*

19. The delegation of the Russian Federation informed on the principle support by the State Federal Tourism Agency (Rostourism) to the “Silk Road” project, proposed by the Republic of Turkey.

20. The Rostourism will further consider the possibility to join the said project.

21. The delegation of the Russian Federation requested the Member States – proponents to the projects – to find the ways to expedite, if possible, elaboration and preparation of the concrete events (workshops, conferences, etc.) in the framework of the relevant projects, so that more partners would be attracted to these projects.

PRESENTATION BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE DANUBE TOURIST COMMISSION “QUESTIONNAIRE ON MARINA NETWORK”

22. The participants took note of the presentation on cruises and marinas network in the Black Sea and lower Danube and survey questionnaire, made by Prof. Gerhard SKOFF, President of the Danube Tourist Commission, which is attached as **Annex X**.

23. The Joint Working Group decided to discuss the issue in more details at the next meeting of the Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

24. There was no discussion under this Agenda Item.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

25. The Joint Working Groups adopted the present Report and submitted it for consideration to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials of BSEC Member States to be held in Istanbul on 20-21 October 2010.
