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PRESS RELEASE ON
THE BSEC-KAS JOINT WORKSHOP ON SMEs AND GREEN ECONOMY
(Kyiv, 14-15 April 2016)

A Joint Workshop on “SMEs and Green Economy” was organized by the BSEC PERMIS and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), in Kyiv, Ukraine, on 14-15 April 2016.

Representatives of institutions dealing with SMEs, innovation and clusters, academics and consultants from the BSEC Member States, as well as representatives of the BSEC PERMIS, KAS and the Entrepreneurship Research and Education Network of Central European Universities (ERENET) participated in the Workshop.

The core part of the Workshop was dedicated to an exchange of country experiences concerning SMEs and Green Economy in the BSEC Member States. In this context, the participants made presentations, addressing issues which included, the main barriers to Green Growth and eco-innovation for small firms; the major forces in transition towards the Green Growth Economy; ways for the manufacturing firms, including SMEs, to participate in the reduction of the world’s consumption of resources and wastes; incentives for supporting Green oriented and eco-innovative SMEs; new competencies, transforming and creating new jobs; and policies that could encourage SMEs in investing in Green Growth and eco-innovation.

During the Workshop, presentations were also made on “Bioenergy potential in Ukraine: The ways to make money succeed”, “GoGreen Ukraine – Problems and Task of Doing Ecology Oriented Businesses”, “Eco-innovation and Green SME Action Plan in the European Union” and “Best Practices in Green Economy and Eco-Innovation Management in Ukraine”.

At the conclusion of the Workshop, the participants made a number of recommendations to the governments of the BSEC Member States with a view to incorporating them into their national policies and regulations for promoting the transition to Green Economy. The recommendations pertain to the need to continue integrating Green Growth considerations in long-term socio-economic strategies; to ensure an effective implementation of laws, strategies and programs related to the environment and the allocation of more resources from the national/federal budget for promoting Green

practices; to be proactive in elaborating bankable Green Economy related projects; to encourage SMEs to make environmental improvements in their operations and to go beyond compliance; to encourage SMEs to consider adopting basic house-keeping measures in order to Green their businesses and also to adopt integrated energy and environmental management systems; and to introduce improved regulatory and financial incentives to promote investments in renewable energy, energy efficiency and waste management.

Other recommendations are related to the importance of providing guidance for SMEs by increasing the environmental sensitivity of SMEs, transferring technology from best practices, supporting the implementation of existing Excellence Models and raising awareness towards environmentally friendly practices and applications in businesses through awareness raising campaigns, as well as by adding an environmental education/Green Business component in entrepreneurship education programs.

Finally, recommendations were also made on extending consultancy services to SMEs on the implementation of Green practices, as well as assisting SMEs with subsidies in implementing ISO standards, energy efficiency audits and purchasing ecologically friendly technologies.

At the conclusion of the Workshop, the participants agreed to produce a book on the national policies and best practices for promoting Green Economy in the BSEC Member States.

The findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Workshop will be discussed during the upcoming meeting of the BSEC Working Group on SMEs (Moscow, 27 May 2016) to come up with practical ways of following-up the recommendations in the BSEC Member States.

Background Information

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) in Turkey is one of the core and long-standing partners of BSEC in the sphere of SMEs. Since 1997, 49 workshops and seminars have been jointly organized by the BSEC PERMIS and KAS, aiming to enhance dialogue between the stakeholders and decision-makers in the development of SME policies in the BSEC Member States. Various publications have been produced based on the presentations and conclusions of these events. The outcomes of the workshops are recommended by BSEC to be taken into account in the process of elaboration and implementation of SME policies in the Member States.

BSEC, as a regional economic organization, attaches special importance to the principle of sustainable development to ensure an optimal balance among economic growth, social responsibility and environmental protection. BSEC can play a decisive role in accelerating Green transformations in the region, by encouraging the active involvement of policy makers, market stakeholders and academia.

In this context, one of the priorities of BSEC has been to support the efforts of its Member States to ensure sustainable energy, including the elaboration of a BSEC Green Energy Strategy to promote renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and environmentally friendly technologies.

Recently, the **BSEC Green Energy Network** has been launched to facilitate policy makers, academia and market forces in their efforts to promote renewable energy sources and energy efficiency and to support knowledge transfer to businesses in the BSEC Member States. This Network will be an important instrument for exchanging information and for sharing know-how and good practices among the Member States, which have set for themselves the task of taking gradual steps to materialize the vision of transforming the BSEC region into a model for clean energy by the year 2050. The Network already includes 45 partners and remains open to new participants.

In recent years, BSEC has also been focusing on the elaboration of a **BSEC Strategy on Climate Change Adaptation**, which is in the process of finalization. The Strategy reflects the global debate on the issue and the results of the Paris Conference held in December 2015 (21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change “UNFCCC” - COP21).