



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

Sakıp Sabancı Cad., Müşir Fuad Paşa Yalısı, Eski Tersane, 34467 İstinye – İstanbul/Turkey

Tel: ++90 212 2296330-35 Fax: ++90 212 2296336

E-mail: info@bsec-organization.org

www.bsec-organization.org

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REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

BSEC Headquarters, 14 October 2015

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Information and Communication Technologies was held at the BSEC Headquarters, on 14 October 2015.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mrs. Brandusa PREDESCU, Special Representative of the Romanian Chairmanship-in-Office of the Organization of BSEC, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Republic of Bulgaria
Hellenic Republic
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Turkey
4. The following BSEC Observer attended the Meeting:

Arab Republic of Egypt
5. The List of Participants of the Meeting is attached as **Annex I**.
6. The draft Agenda of the Meeting was discussed, amended and adopted. The Agenda, as adopted, is attached as **Annex II**.

AGENDA ITEM 2: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE DECLARATIONS ADOPTED BY THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

7. The participants took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS in the context of this item.

AGENDA ITEM 3: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE “BSEC ECONOMIC AGENDA TOWARDS AN ENHANCED BSEC PARTNERSHIP”. PROPOSALS FOR NEW PRIORITIES OF COOPERATION IN THE FIELD WITHIN THE 2nd ACTION PLAN OF THE BSEC 2012 ECONOMIC AGENDA (2016-2018)

8. The Working Group agreed to maintain the priorities selected for the first medium-term (2013-2015) of implementation of the Goal 12 of the “BSEC Economic Agenda 2012” for the next medium-term (2016-2018).

9. The Working Group took note of the draft Medium-Term Achievements Report on the implementation of the “BSEC Economic Agenda 2012”, prepared by PERMIS.

10. The document was discussed, amended and generally agreed upon with a number of exceptions (paragraphs 4 and 5). The document was submitted to the upcoming meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials for consideration. The document is attached as **Annex III**.

AGENDA ITEM 4: EVALUATION REPORT OF THE PREVIOUS COUNTRY-COORDINATOR (REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA) ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKING GROUP 2013-2015

11. The Working Group took note of the Evaluation Report of the previous Country-Coordinator (Republic of Armenia) on the activities of the Working Group in 2013-2015. The document is attached as **Annex IV**.

12. The Working Group commended the Republic of Armenia for the work done during the Coordinationship of the Working Group on ICT.

13. The Republic of Azerbaijan expressed its concerns regarding some aspects in the above mentioned Report.

AGENDA ITEM 5: ICT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

14. The delegation of the Hellenic Republic made a presentation of the main issues of the development of the ICT sector in Greece, giving special attention to the broadband development and progress during the last year. The increased broadband performance, the internet usage indicators accompanied with e-commerce, e-government and e-health indicators, as well as some infrastructure projects which are under implementation, in responsibility of the Ministry of Infrastructure, Transport and Networks, were the main points of the presentation. The presentation is attached as **Annex V**.

15. The delegation of Romania made a presentation on the development registered in the ICT field both for public and private sector. The presentation is attached as **Annex VI**.

AGENDA ITEM 6: COOPERATION BETWEEN BSEC AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS/INSTITUTIONS IN THE FIELD OF ICT

16. The participants took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on interaction of BSEC PERMIS and the Permanent Secretariat of the Black Sea Broadcasting Regulatory Authorities Forum (BRAAF).

17. The Working Group invited the Member States to provide to the BSEC PERMIS their proposals for establishing working contacts with relevant specialized international and regional organizations/institutions, inter alia, by inviting their representatives to participate at meetings of the Working Group on ICT.

AGENDA ITEM 7: OBSERVATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKING GROUP. INITIATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION REGARDING AN EXPERT DIALOGUE ON E-COMMERCE IN THE BSEC REGION

18. The participants exchanged views on the issue.

19. The Working Group welcomed and supported the initiative of the Russian Federation on establishing an Expert Dialogue on e-commerce and invited the Member States to transmit to the BSEC PERMIS their views and proposals on possible input of ICT experts in the development of e-commerce in the BSEC Region.

AGENDA ITEM 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

20. The delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan informed the Working Group on the readiness of Azerbaijan to organize and host a Ministerial Meeting on 3 December 2015 in Baku, preceded by an experts meeting. Invitation letters and the relevant documents will be provided shortly.

AGENDA ITEM 9: DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

21. The date and the venue of the next Meeting will be communicated in due time through the BSEC PERMIS, after consultations with the Chairmanship-in-Office.

AGENDA ITEM 10: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

22. The participants adopted the present Report for its submission to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials and the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs for their consideration.