



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

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**BS/WG/CT/R(2016)1**

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

**Sochi, the Russian Federation, 22 June 2016**

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism (WGCT) was held in Sochi, the Russian Federation, on 22 June 2016.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Sergey KORNEEV, Deputy Head of the Federal Agency for Tourism of the Russian Federation.
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 Serbia
4. The List of Participants is attached as **Annex I** to the present Report.

**AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

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

**AGENDA ITEM 2: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL, AND THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE DECLARATIONS AND JOINT STATEMENTS ADOPTED BY THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF TOURISM OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES**

6. The BSEC PERMIS informed on the ways and dynamics of the implementation of the Resolution of the 15<sup>th</sup> BSEC Council (Moscow, 1 November 2006), since the

last Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism (BSEC Headquarters, 20 October 2015).

7. The Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS addressed an urgent appeal to the Member States to assume the function of the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group which has remained vacant since 1 July 2015.

### **AGENDA ITEM 3: ACTION TAKEN OR TO BE TAKEN WITH REGARD TO THE SPECIAL INTEREST TOURISM COOPERATION AREAS**

8. The BSEC PERMIS presented brief information on the sub-items under this agenda item.

#### **a) Gastronomy and Wine Tourism and b) Film-induced Tourism**

9. The Working Group took note of the written information submitted by the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Turkey, the Republic of Bulgaria, the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Serbia in response to the survey of best practices/initiatives, programs, concerning the promotion of gastronomy and wine tourism as well as film-induced tourism, initiated by the Hellenic Republic, and encouraged the relevant authorities of the Member States that have not yet done so, to submit the requested information.

10. The Working Group underlined the importance of this initiative that should help BSEC Member States to consider developing a common regional product on tourism.

11. The Hellenic Republic expressed the readiness to assist BSEC PERMIS in coordinating the activities with regard to the collection and dissemination of the received information.

12. The participants of the meeting agreed that, given the big number of national events concerning gastronomy and wine tourism, they will encourage the organizers of a small number of these events to seek the participation of similar entities from other BSEC Member States. It was agreed that these requests will be addressed to the BSEC PERMIS who will inform accordingly other Member States and ask for the involvement in the event of the applicant state.

#### **c) Balneology, Wellness and Spa Tourism**

13. The Working Group decided to consider the topic once the relevant proposals from the Member States on the issue are received.

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

14. The Working Group took note of the updated information on the proposal regarding the University Environment Integration for Specialist Training in Tourism Sphere of the Black Sea Region, provided by the delegation of the Russian Federation, and invited the latter to present a Concept Paper on the issue in advance of the next meeting of the Working Group.

15. The Working Group took note of the information on the intention of the BSEC PERMIS to revive its cooperation with the UNWTO affiliated Bogazici University Tourism Educational and Training Center in Istanbul, based on the Memorandum of Understanding, concluded between BSEC PERMIS and the Training Center in 2002.

#### **e) Cultural Routes / Cultural Tourism Projects**

16. The Working Group underlined the importance of developing joint regional projects on cultural routes / cultural tourism, in cooperation with the BSEC Working Group on Culture.

17. The participants took note of the letter of the European Center Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Monuments containing information on the proposal on the establishment of the institution of the “*Cultural Port of the Black Sea*” and renewed their support to the initiative.

18. The Working Group took note of the information presented by the Secretary General of BSEC PERMIS on “*The New Silk Road – A Route of Peace*”, a project initiated by Nexos-Alianza Association and requested the BSEC PERMIS to keep it informed on future development with regard to the project. At least one Member State informed about its participation in the above project.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE “BSEC ECONOMIC AGENDA 2012”: PRIORITIES FOR THE SECOND MEDIUM-TERM (2016-2018)**

19. The participants took note of the information on the developments with regard to the implementation of the “BSEC Economic Agenda 2012” and the priorities for the second medium-term (2016-2018), provided by the BSEC PERMIS.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE BSEC AND THE UNWTO**

20. The Working Group took note of the revised draft Action Plan on the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between BSEC and UNWTO, prepared by BSEC PERMIS and decided to revert to the text at its next meeting. The revised Action Plan is attached as **Annex III**.

21. The Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS informed on the intention of BSEC PERMIS to advance the cooperation with the UNWTO, in particular on concrete points included in the above mentioned draft Action Plan.

22. The Working Group recommended to the Committee of Senior Officials to decide on the extension of the duration of the MoU with UNWTO for another period of two years.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6: TOURISM EVENTS AND FAIRS IN THE BSEC MEMBER STATES (1 JULY – 31 DECEMBER 2016)**

23. The representative of the Hellenic Republic informed on the following events:

- *The 32<sup>nd</sup> International Tourism Exhibition “Philoxenia” (Thessaloniki, 18-20 November 2016)*, accompanied by “Branding Destinations Conference”;
- *The 3<sup>rd</sup> Greek Tourism Expo (Athens, 25-27 November 2016)*.

24. The representative of the Republic of Bulgaria informed on *the First World Congress on the Modern Tourism and Ancient Civilizations (Sofia, 29 November – 1 December 2016)*.

25. The participants agreed to explore ways so that in the most important tourism fairs and exhibitions organized with involvement of relevant state agencies, an adequate space should be dedicated to tourism in the BSEC Member States. The material to be exhibited in this stand will be furnished to the organizers of the event by interested Member States.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

26. The delegation of the Russian Federation informed that National Tourism Offices “Visit Russia”, were opened in seven countries (China, Iran, United Arab Emirates, Italy, Germany, Finland and Scandinavian Region, Vietnam).

27. The representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan informed that Representative Offices of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan were opened in four countries (Germany, United Arab Emirates, Turkey and the Russian Federation).

28. The Working Group expressed its appreciation to the Federal Agency for Tourism of the Russian Federation for the warm hospitality and the organization of the Meeting.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 8: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING**

29. The Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism adopted the present Report and submitted it for consideration to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials of the BSEC Member States, to be held in Sochi on 29-30 June 2016.