



**BS/IM/R(2000)1**

**REPORT OF THE  
FOURTH MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF INTERIOR  
OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES**

**Poiana Braşov, Romania, 27-28 April 2000**

1. The Fourth Meeting of the Ministers of Interior of the BSEC Member States was held in Poiana Braşov, Romania, on 27-28 April 2000.

2. The Meeting was attended by the Ministers or Heads of Delegations from the following Member States of the BSEC:

The Republic of Albania  
The Republic of Armenia  
The Republic of Azerbaijan  
The Republic of Bulgaria  
Georgia  
The Hellenic Republic  
The Republic of Moldova  
Romania  
The Russian Federation  
The Republic of Turkey  
Ukraine

3. The representatives of Israel attended the Meeting as Observers.

4. The Meeting was also attended as guest by the representative of the PABSEC.

The list of participants of the Meeting is attached as Annex I.

5. Mr. Ion PASCU, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania, delivered a message from the Romanian Foreign Ministry in connection with the coming BSEC Chairmanship of Romania.

6. The Meeting of the Ministers was chaired, on behalf of the host country, by H.E.Mr. Constantin Dudu IONESCU who addressed the participants with a welcoming speech.

7. Mr. Evgueni BORISSENKO, Deputy Secretary General, addressed the Meeting on behalf of the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat. The text of his statement is attached as Annex II.

8. The draft agenda of the Ministerial Meeting was discussed and adopted. The agenda, as adopted by the Ministers, is attached as Annex III.

9. The Meeting of the Ministers was preceded by the Meeting of Experts on 27 April. The latter was chaired by Dr. Liviu MUREȘAN, Senior Adviser to the Minister of Interior of Romania and Interim Representative of the Regional Center for Combating Transborder Crime in Bucharest.

10. The delegations took note of the information presented by the PERMIS on the state of ratification process of the Agreement among the Governments of the BSEC Participating States on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in particular in its Organized Forms signed in Kerkyra (Hellenic Republic) on 2 October 1998.

It was mentioned that six BSEC Member States have already notified the PERMIS of their ratifications (Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine), and the other five Member States (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Hellenic Republic) have already submitted their national documents to their parliaments for the ratification procedure. The participants of the Meeting were assured by the said five countries for fulfillment of their obligations in the near future.

11. The Experts evaluated the current state of implementation of the provisions of BSEC Agreement on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in particular in its Organized Forms, and it was recommended to strengthen cross-border cooperation among the competent authorities of the BSEC Member States, particularly in the areas mentioned in Article 1 of the said Agreement. During the course of the discussions which reflected strong desire to establish active and durable cooperation among the Member States, constructive proposals were made by the participants.

12. Practical and constructive exchange of views were held and reliable forms and mechanisms of collaboration were discussed including the cooperation with the European specialized bodies and international organizations such as EUROPOL, INTERPOL, the Bucharest Regional Center for Fighting Transborder Crime, etc.

13. Some delegations underlined that at the present time terrorism and organized crime including its different forms becoming more transnational and have the form of international syndicates. Taking into account the above-mentioned, the Experts proposed to work out a concrete mechanism of implementing the international Agreement in the framework of BSEC and to submit it, at their earliest convenience, to their next Meeting to be held at the beginning of September 2000.

14. The Ministers of Interior and Heads of Delegations endorsed the proposal of the Experts to support and increase cooperation between country bodies specialized in crime counteractions (in particular organized crime). In this connection they decided to further

develop the main joint activities to be carried out in the future, with a view to strengthening practical cooperation between the BSEC institutions. To this effect, an Additional Protocol to the Agreement will be elaborated by the Experts in order to submit it to the Ministers for approval at the Fifth Meeting of Ministers of Interior.

15. Taking into account the necessity of working out an Additional Protocol to the Agreement, some delegations requested the Experts to transmit to the BSEC PERMIS their national proposals and remarks in order to include them in the agenda of the second Working Group Meeting.

16. The Turkish Delegation proposed to merge the Romanian proposal of the “Additional Protocol” with the “BSEC Police Liaison Center” project of Turkey, in order to combat crime, in particular in its organized forms, more efficiently and respond to such acts in a prompt manner.

17. The Delegation of the Hellenic Republic recommended the initiation of an annual meeting or conference from now on, with the participation of competent representatives from each BSEC State, aiming to coordinate, detect and resolve any problem or dispute which is possible to appear during the exchanges of criminal information.

18. The Experts welcomed the proposal that the second Meeting of the Working Group on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in particular in its Organized Forms can be organized at the PERMIS Headquarters in Istanbul in September 2000.

### **GENERAL ASSESSMENT**

19. During the discussions, the Ministers and Heads of Delegations made some proposals and took note of the following:

- The Minister of Public Order of the Republic of Albania assessed the Meeting as a very important event, since Albania because of its geographically strategic position, used as a transit country for different forms of crime, for example, illegal trafficking of drugs, weapons and other criminal acts related to migration, etc. In this context, the Albanian Police has strengthened cooperation with the other BSEC Member States, especially together with its neighboring countries in exchanging information or in undertaking joint activities and operations. The Albanian Minister of Interior also expressed the readiness of Albania in collaborating with all the BSEC Member States.
- The Head of Delegation of the Republic of Armenia informed the participants that at present the process of legal reform is going on in Armenia, an element of which is to draft new laws on combating crime in the above-mentioned directions, laws which represent the legal basis of international cooperation among other BSEC Member States. Currently, an active effort is being carried out in Armenia to draft a law project and national program for combating terrorism. Within the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Armenian

Ministry of Interior has bilateral and multilateral cooperation with their counterparts in Georgia, Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

An active cooperation is being undertaken with the Ministry of Public Order of the Hellenic Republic. He noted that guided by the principles of the “Legal Assistance on Civil and Criminal Matters”, the Republic of Armenia has developed close interstate cooperation with Romania.

- The Head of Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan informed the delegations that at present Azerbaijan is carrying out a series of concrete steps for combating organized crime. Thus, special forces have been created to combat banditism and terrorism. To this effect closer bilateral ties have been established with Georgia, Russia and Turkey. The Delegation of Azerbaijan pointed out that for a more efficient approach to combating organized crime, it would be necessary to work together at regional level, an idea which has been clearly underlined by the Agreement signed by the BSEC Ministers of Interior in Kerkyra on 2 October 1998.

- The Minister of Interior of the Republic of Bulgaria noted that participation of Bulgaria in the Black Sea Economic Cooperation since its very beginning has been directed towards turning the Black Sea region into a zone of peace, stability and prosperity. Bulgaria has been actively committed to all initiatives of BSEC to enhance cooperation aimed at strengthening the security of the region. But it also believes that regional cooperation can be effective only as part of the overall European integration process and in coordination with other related organizations such as EU, CEI, SECI, OSCE, the Southeast European Process for Stability, Security and Cooperation. On national scale since the high level meeting held in the Hellenic Republic in 1998, Bulgaria has achieved considerable results in key areas such as illegal migration, border control and drug trafficking. We are aware that with the globalization, the economical, political, social and moral crime areas are taking global dimensions as well. However, the Bulgarian Ministry of Interior hopes that now it is more prepared to face that challenge and to combat international crime in all its forms.

- The Head of the Delegation of Georgia underlined that Georgia pays great attention to cooperation in combating crime within the BSEC region. At the same time Georgia has close bilateral relations with the neighboring BSEC countries such as Armenia, Azerbaijan, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine. Since the transnational criminal groups are becoming more and more dangerous and organized crime has become the problem of the whole international community, the cooperation within the BSEC framework should be strengthened.

- The Head of the Delegation of the Hellenic Republic noted that the Agreement signed in Kerkyra during the Third Meeting of the Ministers of Interior of the BSEC countries laid the foundation of the cooperation among the BSEC States, aiming to consolidate security, stability and peace in the BSEC region. Taking this into account, the efforts of BSEC countries should continue with a view to

achieving the common objective, that is a more effective and fruitful cooperation aiming to combating organized crime. He states that strong efforts of the Hellenic Republic in combating various forms of criminal acts give good results. At the same time through international cooperation and collaboration among the BSEC Member States, the Hellenic Republic is trying to control organized crime.

- The Minister of Interior of the Republic of Moldova brought to the attention of the delegations that illicit trafficking in fire arms and ammunition and their distribution throughout the territory of Moldova and of the BSEC Member States represent a growing concern. He also mentioned that the police authorities have identified individuals from Moldova who are in contact with criminals from Georgia and Turkey, deceitfully organized the exit of Moldovan nationals from the country. The Minister underlined that the provisions of the SECI Agreement for Cooperation in Combating Transborder Crime, to which most of the BSEC countries are parties, should be put into practice.

- The Minister of Interior of Romania underlined that at international level, there are many important initiatives in combating organized crime managed by the EU Stability Pact, the United Nations, the Council of Europe, NATO, OSCE, ECI, SECI, etc. The Romanian authorities support any initiative leading to a decrease in crime- a phenomenon that brings prejudice to the economic and business environment. The setting up of the Regional Center for Combating Transborder Crime in Bucharest, in which ten South East European countries participate, six of which being members of the BSEC, is an illustrating proof in this respect.

- The Ministers of Interior of the Russian Federation stressed the importance of starting the implementation of the provisions of the Agreement signed in Kerkyra (Hellenic Republic) in 1998. For this purpose, he suggested the following priority forms of cooperation:

- i) planning and carrying out joint and coordinated operative activities and investigations;
- ii) setting up operative groups for combating concrete criminal syndicates;
- iii) working out of agreed procedures and mechanisms of joint operative measures, including control deliveries;
- iv) strengthening of communication between specialized law enforcement bodies of the BSEC countries dealing with concrete directions of the fight against organized crime and terrorism;
- v) joint scientific research in the field of combating crime on bilateral and multilateral basis.

The Minister further emphasized the necessity of involving all competent authorities of the BSEC Member States in the process of the anti-criminal cooperation.

- The Minister of Interior of the Republic of Turkey underlined the following points:

- i) the increasing pace of technology as well as the computerization of all our daily lives that have transformed the means and methods of terrorism and organized criminal activities, especially high-tech crime including “cyber-terrorism” in a more destructive manner;
- ii) the unity of consideration and application in the field of different definitions of the term “organized crime” depending on the penal laws of the respective BSEC Member States;
- iii) the necessity of establishment of “Black Sea Economic Cooperation Police Liaison Center” consisting of liaison officers to be assigned by the member countries to a place to be mutually agreed upon.

- The Head of the Delegation of Ukraine has noted constructive measures for implementing all the provisions of the ratified Agreement. He underlined that a practical basis of cooperation with the law-enforcement agencies of Bulgaria, Moldova, Russian Federation and the other BSEC Member States should be created. For this purpose, it is also necessary to achieve the coordination of efforts of all BSEC countries. The main directions of the activities should be directed to exchanging operative information on the activities of criminal groups, as well as tracking the criminals and stolen vehicles.

#### **SIGNING BY THE BSEC MINISTERS OF INTERIOR THE “JOINT STATEMENT”**

20. The Ministers of Interior and Heads of National Delegations unanimously endorsed the decision of signing the Joint Statement which was submitted to them by the Experts for approval. The text of the Joint Statement is attached as Annex IV.

21. The Ministers of Interior and Heads of Delegations decided to submit the full texts of the Joint Statement for consideration and final approval by the Third Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to be held in Bucharest in October 2000.

22. Following the Signing Ceremony, bilateral and multilateral negotiations took place among the interested delegations on the regional cooperation, taking into consideration the joint action for fulfillment of the Agreement, signed in Kerkyra (Hellenic Republic) on 2 October 1998.

### **DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

23. The Ministers and Heads of Delegations noted with deep appreciation the invitation extended by the Government of Ukraine to host the Fifth Meeting of the Ministers of Internal Affairs of the BSEC Member States in 2001. The exact date and venue of the said Meeting will be communicated to the Member States through the BSEC Secretariat.

### **EXPRESSION OF THANKS**

24. The Ministers of Interior and the Heads of Delegations expressed their sincere thanks and gratitude to the Government of Romania, and in particular to the Ministry of Interior for the warm hospitality and courtesies extended to them and for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

### **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

25. This report was adopted by the Ministers of Interior and Heads of the Delegations for the submission to the Third Meeting of Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to be held in Bucharest in October 2000.

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