

**JOINT DECLARATION  
OF THE MINISTERS OF INTERIOR OF THE MEMBER STATES OF  
THE ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION (BSEC) ON  
REGIONAL EFFORTS ON PREVENTING AND COMBATING CORRUPTION**

*Bucharest, 14 April 2011*

I. The Ministers of Interior and Heads of Delegations of the Member States of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation: Republic of Albania, Republic of Armenia, Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Bulgaria, Georgia, Hellenic Republic, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Republic of Serbia, Republic of Turkey and Ukraine met in Bucharest with the aim to deepen dialogue on prevention and combating corruption, which is a serious threat, linked to other issues in the fight against organized crime,

**Conscious** of the risks generated by corruption to the economic and social development, justice, democracy and the rule of law,

**Recalling** the international conventions, the instruments and mechanisms on preventing and fighting against corruption, especially the United Nation Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), opened for signature from 9 to 11 December 2003, in Merida, the Council of Europe Criminal Law Convention against Corruption, done in Strasbourg on 27 January 1999, and Civil Law Convention against Corruption, done in Strasbourg on 4 November 1999,

**Taking into account** the Agreement among the Governments of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in Particular in Its Organized Forms, signed in Kerkyra, on 2 October 1998, the Additional Protocol to the Agreement among the Governments of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in Particular in Its Organized Forms, done in Kiev, on 15 March 2002, the Joint Declaration of the Ministers of Interior/Public Order of the BSEC Member States adopted in Bucharest, on 24 March 2006,

**Promoting** the rule of law and the respect of human rights in all anti-corruption activities,

**On the basis** of mutual respect, equality and benefit and within the scope of their mandate,

**Agreed to:**

- promote a transparent and accountable governance, uncompromising with any manifestation of corruption,
- promote cooperation among the national authorities of the BSEC Member States involved in preventing and fighting corruption, on bilateral or multilateral basis and support joint regional initiatives in this respect,

- contribute to developing policies, tools and implement measures for combating corruption and building integrity,
- take effective measures to prevent corruption and to include public awareness and promoting ethical behavior,
- encourage the exchange of best practices in the region, while using the expertise of other responsible bodies and international organizations such as: UN, OSCE, Council of Europe, European Union, etc., and of the networks of the law enforcement agencies involved in combating corruption and of the other relevant providers of expertise in the field,
- conduct studies and carry out scientific research on the development and characteristics of the corruption phenomenon in the region,
- have a permanent concern in improving the training of personnel involved in preventing and combating corruption, including the organization of regional meetings devoted to topics of common interest,
- use the possibilities of the BSEC Related Bodies for enhancing the cooperation of the Member States in the field of preventing and combating corruption;
- strengthen cooperation with civil society structures, to reduce tolerance and to enhance the rejection attitudes towards the corruption phenomenon.

II. The Ministers and Heads of Delegations, on the basis of what was agreed upon, instruct the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in Particular in Its Organized Forms, to elaborate a *BSEC Action Plan* on regional efforts to prevent and combat corruption with the aim to establish a network for sharing information and best practices among relevant agencies of the Member States and between them and civil society structures in order to prevent and combat corruption.

III. The Ministers and Heads of Delegations are confident that the results of the *8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Ministers of Interior of the Member States of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) – “Regional Efforts on Preventing and Combating Corruption – Moving Forward”* will contribute to increase visibility of concrete actions on preventing and fighting corruption, with the aim to strengthen stability in the region and increase the prosperity of citizens of the BSEC Member States.

IV. The Ministers and Heads of Delegations express their gratitude to the Ministry of Administration and Interior of Romania for the hospitality and the excellent organization of the Meeting.

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