



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

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**REPORT
OF THE JOINT MEETING
OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUPS
ON CULTURE AND ON COOPERATION IN TOURISM**

Istanbul, BSEC Headquarters, 9 October 2012

1. The Joint Meeting of the BSEC Working Groups on Culture and on Cooperation in Tourism was held in Istanbul, at the BSEC Headquarters, on 9 October 2012.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Ambassador Bozkurt ARAN, National Coordinator of the Turkish Chairmanship-in Office; Director of Center for Multilateral Trade Studies, Economic Policy Research Foundation of the Republic of Turkey (TEPAV).
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Georgia
Hellenic Republic
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Serbia
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine
4. The representative of the Parliamentary Assembly of the BSEC (PABSEC) participated in the Meeting as the BSEC Related Body.
5. The representatives of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Republic of Poland attended the Meeting as the BSEC Observers.
6. The List of Participants is attached as **Annex I** to the present Report.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

CULTURAL ROUTES / CULTURAL TOURISM PROJECTS:

A) PROGRESS REPORT PREPARED BY THE BSEC PERMIS;

B) ACTION PLANS PRESENTATION BY PROJECTS PROPONENTS;

C) DISCUSSION ON WAYS AND MEANS TO IMPLEMENT ACTION PLANS

8. The BSEC PERMIS representative introduced the Progress Report on the Planning and Implementation of the Cultural Routes/Cultural Tourism, prepared by the PERMIS and attached as **Annex III**.

9. The BSEC PERMIS representative invited the Member States proponents of the projects, particularly those with the projects in an advanced stage to present a “road map” of their respective projects, containing the concrete steps to be taken and the time-frame for the implementation of the projects. He also invited the proponents of the projects to make their comments on the following questions: 1. What support is expected from other BSEC Member States? 2. What kind of assistance is needed from BSEC as a regional Organization? 3. What is expected from other States and International Organizations or Associations outside of the Region?

10. The representative of the Republic of Serbia delivered a presentation containing an updated information on the achievements and the activities on the project on “The Route of the Roman Emperors”, which is attached as **Annex IV**.

11. The representative of the Republic of Turkey informed that the preparations for the “The Silk Road” Workshop are underway with a view to organizing it in Izmir, in December 2012.

12. The representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan stated that information on the project “Wine Routes of Azerbaijan” will be submitted at a later stage.

13. Regarding the project “The Legend of Argonauts”, the representative of Georgia informed that several related infrastructural projects have been completed and the coordination process is ongoing.

14. The representative of the Republic of Armenia informed that the program of events within the framework of the project “Vine and Wine Routes of Armenia” has been circulated among the Member States.

15. The representative of the Republic of Armenia informed about intention of his Country that the project “XIII Century Sailing Ship “Cilicia” be considered within the framework of the proposal by the European Center of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Monuments (EKBMM) on “LIMEN. Cultural Ports from Aegean to the Black Sea”.

16. The representative of the Republic of Armenia informed that the Republic of Armenia joined the projects on “The Route of the Roman Emperors” and “The Routes of Coinage”.

17. The BSEC PERMIS representative informed that the Numismatic Museum of Athens sent an updated report on the project “The Routes of Coinage” with the explanation that the project will be redesigned and shortly communicated to the BSEC Member States.

18. During the consideration of the ways and means of implementation of the projects, the following ideas, comments and suggestions were made by the participants:

- further consideration of the cultural routes / cultural tourism projects is needed in the framework of Joint Meeting of the Working Groups on Culture and on Cooperation in Tourism, which may be convened periodically, depending on the progress achieved on the topics;

- the issue should be considered under the relevant agenda items in the Working Group on Culture and Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism respectively;

- institutional involvement of the Organization and financial assistance by the BSEC Project Development Fund and BSEC-Hellenic Development Fund are needed;

- combined efforts by the Member States are encouraged to further promote and implement the joint projects.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

19. The representative of the Russian Federation informed that following the recent changes in the Government, the Federal Agency for Tourism was transferred to the Ministry of Culture.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

20. Joint Working Groups adopted the present Report and submitted it for consideration to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials of BSEC Member States.
