



**BS/C/WG/R(2009)1**

**REPORT OF THE MEETING  
OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON CULTURE**

**Istanbul, BSEC Headquarters, 6 April 2009**

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Culture was held in Istanbul, at the BSEC Headquarters, on 6 April 2009.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Ms. Ketevan KANDELAKI, Deputy Director of the Department of International Economic, Cultural and Humanitarian Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:
  - Republic of Azerbaijan
  - Republic of Bulgaria
  - Georgia
  - Hellenic Republic
  - Romania
  - Russian Federation
  - Republic of Serbia
  - Republic of Turkey
  - Ukraine
4. The representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) and the BSEC Business Council also participated in the Meeting.
5. The representatives of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and European Center for Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Monuments (EKBMM) also participated in the Meeting.
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**.

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL AND THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE DECLARATIONS AND JOINT STATEMENTS ADOPTED BY THE MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR CULTURE**

8. The representative of BSEC PERMIS informed on the implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the BSEC Council and on the follow-up of Joint Statement of the Ministers Responsible for Culture of BSEC (Sounion, 4 July 2009) relative to the Working Group on Culture activities which were in conformity with the mentioned documents.

9. The Country-Coordinator (Georgia) presented the Evaluation Report on the activities of the Working Group during its Country-Coordination, which is attached as **Annex III**.

10. The participants exchanged views on the issue and endorsed the Evaluation Report.

11. Following the Committee of Senior Official request (CSO Meeting, Istanbul, 19-20 January 2009), the representative of the Republic of Bulgaria made clarifications on their proposal for the Working Group request of the Observer Status with the Council of Europe Steering Committee for Culture. While stressing out that the proposal was an initiative which was not discussed or approved by the Working Group, the representative of Bulgaria expressed its support to establish cooperation with the Council of Europe in conformity with the existing BSEC Rules and Procedures.

12. The representative of BSEC PERMIS while mentioning that other Working Groups have already proposed to establish cooperation with the Council of Europe, pointed out that if the Working Group on Culture supports establishing cooperation with the Council of Europe, then the Working Group may request the BSEC PERMIS to explore the possibilities and modalities for cooperation with the Council of Europe in conformity with BSEC Rules of Procedure.

13. The participants expressed views that upon the clarifications made by the Working Group, the Committee of Senior Officials may wish to endorse the Report of the Meeting of the Working Group on Culture held in Istanbul, on 10-11 November 2008.

**REVIEW OF THE STATE OF AFFAIRS WITH RESPECT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CULTURE 2006-2008**

14. The participants took note of the explanation provided by BSEC PERMIS on the projects presented at the previous meetings of the Working Group for consideration among Member States and eventual joining in within the areas of “Networks of co-operation in the field of contemporary culture”, “Cultural Itineraries” and “Intercultural Dialogue”. The participants decided to reconsider their participation at projects that were proposed at earlier stage and discussed at last two meetings of the Working Group in 2008.

## **ADOPTION OF THE NEW ACTION PLAN (1 NOVEMBER 2008 – 30 OCTOBER 2010)**

15. The participants discussed and adopted the new Action Plan 2008-2010, presented by Georgia in its capacity of the Country-Coordinator of the BSEC Working Group on Culture, which is attached as **Annex IV**.

## **EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON CONCRETE FORMS AND WAYS OF COOPERATION AS DERIVING FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE ACTION PLAN 2008-2010**

16. The representative of Georgia proposed to start with activities as deriving from the Action Plan 2008-2010 and elaborated on the following events for the Member States to join in: “Wine Festival”, “Movie about the Cultural Heritage”, “International Folklore Festival” and “100 Faces project”.

17. The representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan made a presentation on the project proposal “Myths of the Two Seas” (Black Sea and Caspian Sea), and requested the Member States interested to join in to communicate through PERMIS of their willingness. The presentation is attached as **Annex V**.

## **CULTURAL HERITAGE: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS**

18. The participants, as a follow-up of discussions at the Round Table in Yerevan on 4-5 March 2009, decided to continue discussions on the topics that were raised at the Yerevan meeting, namely:

- a) Preservation and Restoration of the Historical-Cultural Monuments in the Black Sea Region;
- b) Creation of “Cultural News of the Black Sea” Newspaper;
- c) Enhancing Cooperation in the field of Culture.

19. The representative of the Republic of Bulgaria made a presentation on creation of Newspaper, namely “Cultural News of the Black Sea Region”.

20. The representative of BSEC PERMIS informed the participants on the issue of “Preservation and Restoration of the Historical-Cultural Monuments in the Black Sea region.

21. The participants decided to continue discussions on the above mentioned issue at the next meeting of the Working Group.

22. The representative of the European Centre for Byzantine and Post Byzantine Monuments made a presentation on “Medieval Castles – Settlements of the Black Sea”, which will be communicated to the BSEC Member States through the PERMIS.

23. The participants decided to consider the project and inform about their positions in due course, not later than at the next Meeting of the Working Group.

## **CULTURAL TOURISM: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS**

24. The participants discussed the invitation of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism for a joint meeting to discuss issues related to “Cultural Tourism Cooperation” and decided to accept the offer.

25. The participants decided to request the forthcoming Chairman-in-Office (the Republic of Azerbaijan) to include the event in the Calendar of Events for the period May – October 2009, within the proposal that would be jointly presented by the Country-Coordinators of the two Working Groups.

### **CULTURAL EVENTS IN BSEC COUNTRIES: EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION**

26. The participants exchanged views on cultural events in their respective countries for 2009.

27. The representative of the Hellenic Republic informed the participants that the Hellenic Presidency of the Council of Ministers of Culture of South East Europe intends to organize a meeting of professionals in the field of translation with the participation of the countries of the above mentioned Council, the Adriatic Ionian Initiative and the BSEC. The representative further informed that the said meeting, the main purpose of which will be the creation of a network of professionals in the field of translation in the regions of South East Europe and the Black Sea, will be held in Thessaloniki on 30 May 2009 within the framework of the International Book Fair. The representative reiterated the invitation extended to the BSEC Member States to participate in the aforementioned meeting.

### **COOPERATION WITH OTHER RELEVANT REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS**

28. With regard to this Agenda item, the participants expressed their positions which are reflected in the relevant provisions of the Action Plan 2008-2010.

29. The representative of UNDP made a presentation on “Alliances for Culture Tourism in Eastern Anatolia”, which is attached as **Annex VI**.

30. The participants decided to consider the presentation and formulate their decision by the next Working Group meeting.

### **ASSESSMENT OF PDF STANDARD APPLICATIONS IN CULTURE**

31. The participants took note of the information provided by the PERMIS representative on New PDF Manual of Operation – Project Priorities and on the BSEC-Hellenic Development Fund.

32. The New PDF and the BSEC-Hellenic Development Fund Manuals of Operation are available at the BSEC web-page: [www.bsec-organization.org](http://www.bsec-organization.org).

### **PREPARATIONS FOR CONVENING THE MID-TERM MINISTERIAL MEETING ON CULTURE**

33. This issue was deferred to the next Meeting of the Working Group.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

34. There was no discussion under this Agenda Item.

**ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING**

35. The Working Group adopted the present Report and submitted it for consideration to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials of BSEC Member States to be held in Yerevan on 14-15 April 2009.