



BS/WG/C/R(2018)1

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

BSEC Headquarters, 21 May 2018

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Culture was held at the BSEC Headquarters, on 21 May 2018.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Arsen AVAGYAN, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia to the BSEC Organization.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Georgia
Hellenic Republic
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Serbia
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine
4. The representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt attended the Meeting as a BSEC Observer.

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 BSEC COUNCIL, AND THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE DECLARATIONS AND JOINT STATEMENTS ADOPTED BY THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF CULTURE

6. The BSEC PERMIS informed on the implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the BSEC Council and the follow-up of Declarations adopted by the Ministers in charge of Culture, since the last Meeting of the Working Group on Culture (BSEC Headquarters, 21 November 2017).

7. The representative of the Republic of Serbia (the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group) informed on the intention of the Republic of Serbia to organize a Meeting of Ministers in charge of Culture of the BSEC Member States and a meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Culture, in Belgrade, in November 2018 (TBC), and invited the BSEC Member States to participate in the above mentioned meetings. The relevant preparatory documents will be circulated in due course.

AGENDA ITEM 3: CULTURAL HERITAGE

a) Proposal on the establishment of a network of experts of immovable cultural heritage

8. The Working Group took note of the readiness of the representative of the Republic of Serbia to explore with the Institute for Cultural Development in Belgrade the possibility of developing a framework for the establishment of *a network of experts on cultural heritage*, and requested it to report back on the issue by the end of June 2018.

b) Preparation of a representative list of intangible cultural heritage from the BSEC Member States that could be jointly nominated for inscription in the UNESCO list

9. The Working Group took note of information on the preparation of a UNESCO representative list of inscriptions of intangible cultural heritage from the BSEC Member States in order to explore the possibilities of multinational nominations, provided by the representative of the Republic of Serbia. As a first step, the Member States were invited to send to the BSEC PERMIS elements of intangible cultural heritage from their countries for a joint traveling exhibition to be coordinated and prepared by the Ethnographic Museum in Belgrade – Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage. The Member States were also invited to participate in the International Ethnographic Film Festival to be held in Belgrade in October 2018. Details for both activities will be forwarded through the BSEC PERMIS until the end of June 2018.

c) Discussion on the ways and means to implement the project proposal on the mapping of Byzantine routes in the BSEC Member States

10. The Working Group took note of the updated information on the mapping of future *Byzantine routes in BSEC Member States*, provided by the representative of the Republic of Serbia and the BSEC PERMIS. In order to finalize the project, the Member States were invited to send their respective materials to the BSEC PERMIS not later than 30 September 2018.

d) Report on the 19th International Festival of Archeological Film held in Belgrade on 22 - 29 March 2018

11. The Working Group took note of information, provided by the representative of the Republic of Serbia, on the *19th International Festival of Archeological Film*, held in Belgrade, on 22-29 March 2018, which contained a section with films from BSEC Member States. The relevant information is attached as **Annex III**.

AGENDA ITEM 4: CONTEMPORARY ARTS - CONSIDERATION OF CONCRETE PROPOSALS:

a) Publishing a collection of the XX century works of the classic literature writers

12. The Working Group took note of updated information with regard to the submissions of the XX century works of the classic literature writers of the BSEC Member States, provided by the BSEC PERMIS.

13. In view of the copyright obstacles some of the BSEC Member States are facing, it was decided to also collect earlier than the XX century literary works that are not covered by the copyright legislation.

14. The Member States that have not yet submitted to the BSEC PERMIS the works of their most representative writers/poets in the original and English languages were kindly invited to do so by 30 September 2018, according to the uniform technical details provided in the BSEC PERMIS Note No: BS/INFO.2017.0350 dated 6 July 2017 (attached as **Annex IV**).

b) Proposal on the establishment of a “Black Sea Youth Symphony Orchestra”

15. The Working Group took note of updated information on the proposal, provided by the representative of Georgia, and invited the proponent to communicate by 30 June 2018 to the BSEC PERMIS a revised proposal with the reduced budget, to be circulated to the BSEC Member States for their consideration and comments.

16. The BSEC PERMIS proposed to include the issue in the Agenda of the next Meeting of the Ministers in Charge of Culture.

AGENDA ITEM 5: NEW SILK ROAD – CULTURAL DIMENSION

17. The Working Group took note of information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on its cooperation with the UNWTO Silk Road Programme.

18. The BSEC PERMIS invited the relevant authorities of the BSEC Member States to come up with concrete proposals on the Maritime Silk Road Routes and the Western Silk Road Heritage Map within the UNWTO Silk Road Programme.

AGENDA ITEM 6: COOPERATION WITH THE CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE PABSEC, INTERNATIONAL

ORGANIZATIONS, ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS WITH A VIEW TO IMPLEMENTING THE RELEVANT RECOMMENDATIONS

19. The BSEC PERMIS informed on the state of affairs with regard to the Draft MoU between the BSEC and UNESCO.

AGENDA ITEM 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

20. The Working Group proposed to consider the possibility of organizing, in the first semester of 2019, a joint meeting of the Working Group on Culture and of the Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism, to consider issues of shared interest. The BSEC PERMIS was requested to undertake further consultation on the issue and report back at the next meeting of the Working Group.

21. The representative of the Republic of Serbia delivered information on the “25th European Film Festival Palić”, to be held by the Palić Lake in Serbia, on 14-20 July 2018, and invited the BSEC Member States to participate in the event by sending their films to the Festival. The invitation letter, which was circulated to the BSEC Member States by BSEC PERMIS Note No. BS/INFO.2018.0245 dated 17 May 2018, is attached as **Annex V**.

22. The BSEC PERMIS delivered to the participants the Concept Note on the “BSEC Month of Culture 2018”, to be organized by the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS), from 1 to 30 November 2018, which was circulated by BSEC PERMIS Note No. BS/INFO.2018.0246 dated 18 May 2018 (attached as **Annex VI**). Relevant authorities of the BSEC Member States were invited to disseminate information on the event as widely as possible.

23. The BSEC PERMIS noted that despite several reminders, including one at the last meeting of the Working Group, not all of the BSEC Member States have responded to the BSEC PERMIS request for contributing relevant photos and consequently, the BSEC PERMIS was unable to publish the BSEC Calendar for the year of 2018 with the theme of “Bridges”.

AGENDA ITEM 8: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

24. The Working Group on Culture adopted the present Report for its submission to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials of the BSEC Member States.