



BS/WG/EP/R(2017)2

**REPORT
OF THE MEETING
OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP
ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

BSEC Headquarters, 26 October 2017

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Environmental Protection was held at the BSEC Headquarters on 26 October 2017.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Sergii KRAVCHENKO, Consul in Charge of the BSEC Issues, Consulate General of Ukraine in Istanbul.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following Member States:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Republic of Bulgaria
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Serbia
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine
4. The list of participants is attached as **Annex I**.
5. The representatives of the PABSEC International Secretariat and the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution Permanent Secretariat attended as BSEC Related Body and Observer, respectively.

AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

AGENDA ITEM 2: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTION, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL AND PROVISIONS OF THE JOINT DECLARATIONS ADOPTED AT THE MEETINGS OF THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

7. The BSEC PERMIS briefed the participants on the status of implementation of the resolutions, decisions and recommendations of the Council and provisions of the Joint Declarations adopted at the Meetings of the Ministers in Charge of Environmental Protection of the BSEC Member States.

8. The representative of Romania informed about its activities on implementation of the resolutions, decisions and recommendations of the Council and provisions of the Joint Declaration adopted at the Meetings of the Ministers in charge of Environmental Protection. According to the EU requirements and Belgrade Declaration, Romania has developed the National Strategy on Climate Changes and economic development on reduced emissions, which covers the period 2013–2020 and 2020–2050. The provisions of the Strategy and Action Plan are in the Governmental Decision 739/2016.

9. The issue of appointment of representatives to the Working Groups on a long term basis and the attendance of them at the meetings was raised by the BSEC PERMIS. The updated list of representatives – national contact points in the WG on Environmental Protection is attached as **Annex III**. The countries, which did not deliver updated information were invited to do so in due course.

10. The BSEC PERMIS informed about its contacts with the United Nations Environment Office in Geneva in order to implement the bilateral Agreement on Cooperation (signed on 20 February 2002). The Secretariat was encouraged to continue working on the possible steps to be taken for strengthening the cooperation with UN Environment.

AGENDA ITEM 3: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAM OF THE WORKING GROUP (2016–2017), PREPARED BY THE COUNTRY-COORDINATOR

11. The Country-Coordinator (Romania) informed about the implementation of the Work Program of the Group till 31 December 2017, as follows:

- organizing of the WG meeting in the second semester of 2017;
- finalization/implementation/establishment of an Information Exchange Mechanism for Environmental Protection;
- finalization of the BSEC Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for the Black Sea Region;
- promotion of projects to be jointly developed within the WG on Environmental Protection.

AGENDA ITEM 4: DISCUSSIONS ON IMPROVING THE ACTIVITY OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION INCLUDING IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE AREAS OF COOPERATION

12. The Country-Coordinator informed the Working Group about its intent to develop a project proposal for strengthening the competent authorities capacity and enhancing cooperation for the control of the transboundary waste transport in the BSEC Region. More detailed information will be provided to the PERMIS by Country-Coordinator till December 2017.

13. The Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution Permanent Secretariat expressed its readiness to assist in implementation of the above-mentioned project proposal.

AGENDA ITEM 5: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS CONCERNING THE POSITION OF COUNTRY-COORDINATOR WHICH WILL BE VACANT FROM 1st OF JANUARY 2018

14. The Republic of Bulgaria and Romania expressed their readiness to assume the duties of the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group on Environmental Protection for the next period of two years, starting from 1 January 2018. The official documents will come in due course.

15. Both applicants announced that they will inform the Member States in due course about their mutual understanding on this topic.

AGENDA ITEM 6: MODALITIES OF ESTABLISHING AN INFORMATION EXCHANGE MECHANISM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

16. The BSEC PERMIS informed the Working Group about the technical possibility of using the BSEC server towards establishment of an information exchange mechanism for environment protection legislation of the Member States.

17. The Working Group decided to add links on the BSEC website to the legislative documents available on the portals of the relevant National Authorities. For this purpose the Member States were invited to send the necessary information to the BSEC PERMIS.

AGENDA ITEM 7: CONSIDERATION OF A DRAFT BSEC CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION STRATEGY FOR THE BLACK SEA REGION

18. The Working Group discussed, amended and finalized the draft text of the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in the Black Sea Region to be submitted to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Official (7-8 November 2017, Istanbul). The document, as finalized, is attached as **Annex IV**.

AGENDA ITEM 8: PRESENTATION OF THE NEW DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION IN THE MEMBER STATES

19. The representatives of the Republic of Bulgaria and Romania made presentations on the recent developments in the national environmental legislation and informed about implemented projects in the Black Sea marine area.

AGENDA ITEM 9: PROPOSALS FROM THE BSEC MEMBER STATES FOR THE PROJECTS TO BE JOINTLY DEVELOPED WITHIN THE WG ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

20. No issue was raised under this agenda item.

AGENDA ITEM 10: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

21. The BSEC PERMIS informed the Working Group about its relevant activities in the Black Sea Region, such as:

- a) the Conference on Fisheries and Blue Growth (31 October – 1 November 2017, Istanbul);

- b) its participation in the Steering Committee of the “Facility for Blue Economy”, to be launched by the European Commission until the end of this year;
- c) its participation in the preparatory meetings of the European Maritime Day (31 May – 1 June 2018, Burgas) which will take place during the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU.

22. The BSEC PERMIS informed the Working Group of the recent publication of a Call for Proposals on “Sustainable Blue Economy”, by the European Commission. The BSEC PERMIS invited the Working Group to inform eligible entities about the readiness of the Secretariat to participate in the joint formulation of project proposals for submission.

AGENDA ITEM 11: DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP

23. The date and venue of the next meeting of the Working Group will be communicated in due course.

AGENDA ITEM 12: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

24. The Working Group adopted the present Report for submission to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials, to be held at the BSEC Headquarters on 7-8 November 2017.