



4 May 2018

BS/WG/SME/R(2018)1

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

BSEC Headquarters, 4 May 2018

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on SMEs was held at the BSEC Headquarters on 4 May 2018.
2. The Meeting was attended by the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Republic of Bulgaria
Hellenic Republic
Russian Federation
Republic of Serbia
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine
3. The following BSEC Related Body also participated in the Meeting:

Parliamentary Assembly of the BSEC (PABSEC)
4. The following BSEC Observer attended the Meeting:

Arab Republic of Egypt
5. The List of Participants in the Meeting is attached as **Annex I**.
6. The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Arsen AVAGYAN, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia to the Organization of BSEC, and Mr. Murat Şükrü SOYKAN, Director, International Relations Directorate, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organization (KOSGEB) of the Republic of Turkey.

AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

7. 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 RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO SMEs

8. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on the state of implementation of the relevant Resolutions, Decisions, Joint Declarations, High Level Declarations and Recommendations of the BSEC Forums related to the SMEs and the Working Group on SMEs.

9. The Member States were requested to check and update, by **1 July 2018**, via e-mail, the details of their representatives in the list of National Contact Points to the Working Group. The updated list is attached as **Annex III**.

10. The BSEC PERMIS invited the Member States to ensure the regular participation of their experts to the Working Group on a long-term basis, in order to contribute to the effectiveness and the efficiency of its work.

AGENDA ITEM 3: IDENTIFYING AVENUES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GOAL 9 OF THE BSEC ECONOMIC AGENDA 2012 AND THE UN AGENDA FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

11. As it was proposed at the last informal Meeting of the Working Group, the participants analysed the implementation of the Goal 9 of the Economic Agenda, related to the SMEs and the priorities identified by the Working Group for its activities during the second medium-term 2016-2018.

12. The Working Group noted that the BSEC PERMIS jointly with the Country-Coordinator has fulfilled the request of the Working Group to hold specialized workshops at least once a year, back-to-back with the Meeting of the Working Group on SMEs, in the priority areas identified by the Working Group.

13. The Working Group invited the incoming Country-Coordinator, in cooperation with the BSEC PERMIS, to identify and propose at the next Working Group Meeting, three new priorities for the third-term period 2019-2020.

AGENDA ITEM 4: OUTCOME OF THE WORKSHOP ON “SUPPORTING GREEN ECONOMY IN SMEs IN BSEC REGION” (BSEC HEADQUARTERS, 3 MAY 2018)

14. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the Country-Coordinator on the outcome of the Workshop on “Supporting Green Economy in SMEs in BSEC Region” held at the BSEC Headquarters, in the first half of 3 May 2018.

15. The Workshop was co-organized by the BSEC PERMIS and the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organization (KOSGEB) of the Republic of Turkey, the national institution of the Republic of Turkey that executes the role of the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group on SMEs, and focused on enhancing the cooperation among the BSEC Member States in order to contribute in giving higher priority to climate change in national and regional agendas by promoting investment in green economy which will bring positive changes in the socio-economic development.

16. The Working Group agreed to continue the collaboration in this area of cooperation. The Summary Proceedings of the above-mentioned Workshop will be distributed in due course.

AGENDA ITEM 5: OUTCOME OF THE WORKSHOP “THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BSEC QUALITY AWARD FOR SMEs” (BSEC HEADQUARTERS, 3 MAY 2018)

17. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the Country-Coordinator on the outcome of the Workshop on “The Establishment of BSEC Quality Awards for SMEs” held at the BSEC Headquarters, in the second half of 3 May 2018.

18. The Workshop was co-organized by the BSEC PERMIS and the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organization (KOSGEB) of the Republic of Turkey, as a follow-up to the Council Decisions regarding the establishing the BSEC Quality Award for SMEs from the BSEC Region, in order to promote the competition between SMEs in the BSEC Member States, by awarding SMEs enterprises and persons for their distinguished merits. The Summary Proceedings of the above-mentioned Workshop will be distributed in due course.

19. The Working Group agreed to continue the collaboration for this issue and took note of the idea of elaboration a project proposal concerning a concept and a pilot version of BSEC Quality Award System for the SMEs in the Member States.

AGENDA ITEM 6: COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES ON “SMEs AND E-COMMERCE”

20. The representatives of the Hellenic Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Turkey delivered country presentations on the theme of “SMEs and E-Commerce”. The presentations are attached as Annex IV.

21. The representative of Ukraine informed and shared information about the development of the SMEs sector in his country.

AGENDA ITEM 7: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON CURRENT ISSUES OF INTEREST BY THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

22. The Working Group exchanged views on issues of interest to the Member States corresponding to the needs of the SMEs in the BSEC Region, for their inclusion in the agendas of future Working Group meetings.

23. The participants reiterated their support to the organization of the meetings of the Working Group on SMEs with a specific theme, which facilitates the identification and preparation of the relevant experts from the BSEC Member States to attend the meetings.

AGENDA ITEM 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

24. The BSEC PERMIS noted that the UN General Assembly, recognizing the importance of these enterprises, decided to declare 27 June, the Micro-, Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises Day, with the purpose to raise public awareness of their contribution to sustainable development (UNGA Resolution 71/279, of 6 April 2017) and invited the Member States to consider it accordingly.

AGENDA ITEM 9: DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

25. The date and venue of the next meeting of the Working Group will be communicated to the Member States through the diplomatic channels upon consultations with the incoming Country-Coordinator of the Working Group on SMEs and the BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office.

AGENDA ITEM 10: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

26. The Working Group adopted the Report of the Meeting to be submitted to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials, scheduled to be held in Yerevan on 25-26 June 2018.
