



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

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CONCLUSIONS OF THE INFORMAL MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Rostov-on-Don, 16-17 May 2016

1. An Informal Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology (WGCS&T) was held in Rostov-on-Don, the Russian Federation, on 16-17 May 2016, in the Southern Federal University.
2. The Informal Meeting was chaired by Mr. Dmitry KOROTKOV, Head of Division, Department for Science and Technology, Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation.
3. Prof. Dr. Marina BOROVSKAYA, Rector of the Southern Federal University, delivered a welcome address to the participants.
4. The representatives of the following BSEC Member States participated in the Informal Meeting:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Serbia
5. The representatives of the following BSEC Related Bodies participated in the Informal Meeting:

PABSEC

The list of participants of the Informal Meeting is attached as **Annex I**.

AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. The Draft Agenda of the Informal Meeting was discussed, amended 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 SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

7. The participants took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on the implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the Council and the follow up of the Declarations and the Statements of the Ministers in charge of Science and Technology since the last Meeting of the Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology (BSEC Headquarters, 10 November 2015).

8. The participants considered and approved the Evaluation Report on the activities of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology (1 July 2014 - 30 June 2016), elaborated by the Country-Coordinator (the Republic of Azerbaijan), for the submission to the Committee of Senior Officials. The said Report is attached as **Annex III**.

9. The participants expressed their appreciation for the work done by the Republic of Azerbaijan in its capacity as the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group for the past two years.

10. The participants welcomed the intention of the Russian Federation to become the next Country-Coordinator of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology, which should be officially confirmed at a later stage.

AGENDA ITEM 3: ACTIONS TAKEN OR TO BE TAKEN WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE THIRD BSEC ACTION PLAN ON COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (2014-2018)

11. The participants took note of the information on the steps taken to implement the Third BSEC Action Plan on Cooperation in Science and Technology (2014-2018), provided by the BSEC PERMIS.

12. The BSEC PERMIS delivered to the participants the information on the activities of the “Black Sea Horizon” project consortium and on the outcome of the 8th International Black Sea Symposium on “Science and Technology and Innovation in the Black Sea: Moving Forward”, held in Athens, on 19-20 November 2015, prepared by the ICBSS.

13. The Russian Federation proposed to share the information about unique research infrastructure among the BSEC Member States.

14. The delegation of the Russian Federation proposed to make Open research laboratories registry consisting of information about scientific groups inviting young scientists from the BSEC Member States to provide complementary information for national scientific mobility programmes.

AGENDA ITEM 4: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE “BSEC ECONOMIC AGENDA 2012”. PRIORITIES FOR THE SECOND MEDIUM-TERM (2016-2018)

15. The participants took note of the information on the developments with regard to the implementation of the “BSEC Economic Agenda 2012” and the priorities for the second medium-term (2016-2018), provided by the BSEC PERMIS.

16. The relevant authorities of the Member States were invited to respond to the Questionnaire on the national innovation related structures of the BSEC Member States.

17. The representative of Romania informed that the response to the Questionnaire has already been sent to the relevant authorities in order to be forwarded to the BSEC PERMIS.

18. The delegation of the Russian Federation informed the participants on the activities of the Southern Federal University in science and technology, in particular on the project on the prospects for development of Azov-Black Sea basin.

19. The delegation of the Russian Federation also informed about the recent development in national innovation system and policy, including the Russian Science and Technology Development Strategy.

AGENDA ITEM 5: YOUTH AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

20. The participants took note of the information presented by the BSEC PERMIS on the consideration of Youth and Sports issues within BSEC and encouraged the Member States to propose projects reflecting the interconnection between Science and Technology and Youth.

21. The delegation of the Russian Federation informed on the activities of the Russian Federal Agency for Youth Affairs and proposed to consider the possibility of creation of Coordination Bureau on Youth Cooperation in Black Sea region and Black Sea Youth Parliament in coordination with the Parliamentary Assembly of BSEC. The same delegation delivered a video presentation on the XIX World Festival of Youth and Students, to be held in Russia in 2017.

22. The delegation of the Russian Federation proposed to organize a BSEC framework for scientific lecture series to attract young people to the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Education.

AGENDA ITEM 6: PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND (PDF) AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT (PMU) PROJECTS

23. The participants took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on the state of affairs with regard to the Project Development Fund (PDF) and on the Guidelines for the BSEC Project Management Unit (PMU).

AGENDA ITEM 7: MEMORANDUM OF INTENT ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY BSEC-USA

24. The participants took note of the information on the state of affairs with regard to the implementation of the Memorandum of Intent on Science and Technology, concluded between BSEC and USA, provided by the BSEC PERMIS. It was recalled that the Working Group proposed to the United States to consider the possibility of organizing a joint workshop/training on Science and Technology, as an initial step in the implementation of the Memorandum of Intent and that the response from the United States is pending.

25. The representative of the Republic of Serbia suggested to use the Fulbright Alumni as a possible bridge to develop the cooperation between the BSEC and the USA in the context of the Memorandum.

AGENDA ITEM 8: COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

26. The participants took note of the information presented by BSEC PERMIS on the collaboration with other international and regional organizations, in particular with the UNESCO and the European Commission.

27. The delegation of the Russian Federation informed on the cooperation with international organizations and institutions in the field of Science and Technology.

AGENDA ITEM 9: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

28. The delegation of the Russian Federation proposed to make a survey of successful S&T projects amongst BSEC Member States' regions, to be circulated to the Member States before the next meeting of the Working Group.

29. The BSEC PERMIS suggested to the Member States to consider the possibility of organizing in autumn 2016 a mid-term meeting of Ministers in charge of Science and Technology to review progress in the implementation of the Third BSEC Action Plan on Cooperation in Science and Technology.

30. The participants expressed their gratitude to the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation and the Southern Federal University for the organization of the Meeting and the hospitality extended to them in Rostov-on-Don.

AGENDA ITEM 10: ADOPTION OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE INFORMAL MEETING

31. The participants adopted the present Conclusions for the submission to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials of the BSEC Member States.