



Kyiv, 14 February 2008

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**REPORT OF THE
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE
BSEC MEMBER STATES**

Kyiv, 14 February 2008

1. The Special Meeting of the Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States was held in Kyiv, Ukraine, on 14 February 2008. It was preceded by the Special Meeting of the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials on 13 February 2008.
2. The following Member States of BSEC attended the Meeting:
 - Republic of Albania
 - Republic of Armenia
 - Republic of Azerbaijan
 - Republic of Bulgaria
 - Georgia
 - Hellenic Republic
 - Republic of Moldova
 - Romania
 - Russian Federation
 - Republic of Serbia
 - Republic of Turkey
 - Ukraine
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the current EU Presidency, the next EU Presidency and of the European Commission as Guests.
4. The representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of BSEC (PABSEC), the BSEC Business Council, the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank (BSTDB) and the International Center for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) also participated in the Meeting as Related Bodies.

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

5. The draft agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The agenda, as adopted by the Ministers, is attached as Annex II.

6. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Volodymyr OGRYZKO, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.

7. The Participants exchanged views on the prospects of the BSEC-EU cooperation.

DECLARATION OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BSEC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON A BSEC-EU ENHANCED RELATIONSHIP

8. The BSEC Council adopted the “Declaration of the Special Meeting of the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs on a BSEC-EU enhanced relationship”. The text of the Declaration is attached as Annex III.

SIGNING CEREMONY

9. Furthermore, H.E. Vartan OSKANIAN, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, signed the Memorandum of Understanding on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea at the BSEC region on behalf of the Republic of Armenia.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

10. The Ministers expressed their sincere thanks to the Government of Ukraine and personally to His Excellency Volodymyr OGRYZKO, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, for their contribution to the further promotion of the BSEC-EU interaction goals. They also expressed their gratitude for the hospitality extended to the delegations and the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting in Kyiv.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

11. The present Report was adopted by the Special Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States.

**DECLARATION
OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION ON A BSEC-EU
ENHANCED RELATIONSHIP**

**(Special Meeting of the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs,
Kyiv, 14 February 2008)**

We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) – the Republic of Albania, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Bulgaria, Georgia, the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Serbia, the Republic of Turkey and Ukraine – met in Kyiv, on 14 February 2008. We discussed the perspectives for the development of a mutually beneficial cooperation between BSEC and the EU, respecting the interests of both sides.

Taking guidance from the political assessments and executive dispositions of the Declaration adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the BSEC Member States on the occasion of the BSEC Fifteenth Anniversary Summit held in Istanbul, on 25 June 2007, we reaffirm our commitment to the Organization and its Charter as an indispensable foundation for peace, stability, security and prosperity in the wider Black Sea area.

We consider BSEC-EU interaction as an integral part of overall European economic, scientific and environmental cooperation. Our aim is to achieve proper synergies by coordinating the efforts with various integration and cooperation formats, international organizations and institutions, in particular financial ones, acting in the BSEC area.

BSEC is an inclusive, treaty-based, full-fledged, project oriented regional economic organization, possessing mature institutional structures, well established operational rules and procedures. We all share the conviction that our multilateral economic cooperation contributes to enhancing peace, stability, security and prosperity to the benefit of our region. The Organization has also contributed to developing a sense of regional ownership and identity among our peoples. We are committed to further consolidate its role as an active and reliable partner in international and regional affairs.

We believe that the earliest peaceful settlement of the existing protracted conflicts in the BSEC region, on the basis of the norms and principles of international law will contribute to the enhancement of regional cooperation.

The BSEC-EU interaction is a forward-looking and promising framework, which can contribute to shaping the foundations of an enhanced regional relationship.

BSEC continues to be committed to develop new legal instruments and mechanisms for multilateral economic cooperation in a regional format, which can effectively benefit the citizens of the area.

We believe that interaction between BSEC and the EU should further be institutionalized and result-oriented, through the identification of common tools and the development of synergies. It is necessary to undertake joint efforts to support development and cooperation in the wider Black Sea area, through various cooperation programmes and partnerships.

We also believe that the joint BSEC-EU action in the wider Black Sea area should be comprehensive and inclusive, so that its benefits encompass all BSEC Member States.

BSEC is looking for closer cooperation and coordination with the EU in the areas of mutual interest, ensuring complementarity, synergies and avoiding duplication of work.

We also express the wish to establish a BSEC-EU enhanced relationship, within which Ministerial Meetings in different formats could be held.

We invite the EU to join the efforts of BSEC in particular in the priority areas of the development and interconnection of transport infrastructure in the region (Black Sea Ring Highway and development of the Motorways of the Sea of the BSEC region), in enhancing energy security and environmental sustainability in the region, in combating all forms of organized crime, terrorism, in preventing and managing natural and man-made disasters, in upgrading communication and information technologies in the region and in facilitating the movement of peoples, including representatives of the business communities and lorry drivers, between the EU and BSEC countries. BSEC is interested in using the EU experience in promoting regional cooperation *inter alia* through the creation of clusters with the view to unite efforts of industry, universities and research centers. With this aim, BSEC suggests to develop together with the EU a respective “road map” for cooperation and establish special ad hoc joint working groups for practical implementation. BSEC is also interested in starting talks at an expert level, to identify means and ways of cooperation in the areas of common interest.

We express our gratitude to the Government, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the people of Ukraine for the warm hospitality and the excellent organization of this important Meeting, held back-to-back with the Ministerial Meeting for launching the Black Sea Synergy process.