



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

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**REPORT
OF THE MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON COOPERATION
IN COMBATING CRIME, IN PARTICULAR IN ITS ORGANIZED FORMS**

Istanbul, 21-22 November 2012

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in Particular in Its Organized Forms, was held at the Baltalimanı Police Guest House in Istanbul on 21-22 November 2012.

2. The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Omer ERSOY, Superintendent, Turkish National Police/Anti-Smuggling and Organized Crime Department, The Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Turkey and by Ms. Vilhelmina LUCINESCU, Chief Police Commissioner, Directorate of European Affairs and International Relations, Ministry of Administration and Interior of Romania.

3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:

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

4. The representative of the United States of America participated in the Meeting as BSEC Observer.

The list of participants is attached as **Annex I**.

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

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE JOINT DECLARATIONS OF THE MINISTERS OF INTERIOR/PUBLIC ORDER OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

6. The BSEC PERMIS informed the participants on the Status of Implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the Council and follow-up to the Joint Declarations of the Ministers of Interior/Public Order of the BSEC Member States.

7. The Member States were requested to forward available updated information with respect to the existing List of Representatives - National Contact Points in the Working Group on Combating Crime in Particular in Its Organized Forms. The list is attached as **Annex III**.

8. The Working Group took note of the information on the BSEC Economic Agenda: Towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership, adopted by the BSEC Council (Belgrade, 11 June 2012), and the BSEC Public Communication Strategy, adopted by the BSEC Council (Belgrade, 11 June 2012).

9. The participants decided that the provisions of the mentioned documents pertaining to the issues of combating crime should be taken into consideration in the future activities of the Working Group.

CONSIDERATION OF A DRAFT JOINT DECLARATION ON STRENGTHENING THE COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF FIGHT AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL CRIMES, INTER ALIA SMUGGLING, TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS, ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRIMES TO BE SUBMITTED FOR ADOPTION AT THE MEETING OF THE BSEC MINISTERS OF INTERIOR/PUBLIC ORDER TO BE HELD IN ISTANBUL ON 23 NOVEMBER 2012

10. The Working Group discussed, amended and agreed on the draft Joint Declaration of the BSEC Ministers of Interior/Public Order to be adopted at the Meeting in Istanbul on 23 November 2012. The document as agreed is attached as **Annex IV**.

ACTIVITIES OF THE NETWORK OF THE LIAISON OFFICERS ON COMBATING CRIME

11. The Working Group took note of the outcome of the Meeting of the Liaison Officers on Combating Crime, held in Istanbul on 16 October 2012, and decided to continue organizing meetings of the Network in the same format and prior to the meetings of the Working Group.

12. The following draft decision of the BSEC Council was agreed by the Working Group for submission to the forthcoming Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials:

“The Council took note of the Report of the Meeting of the Network of Liaison Officers on Combating Crime held at the BSEC Headquarters on 16 October 2012 and encouraged the Member States to convene meetings of the Network regularly, at least once a year, as it is provisioned by the Additional Protocol to the Agreement Among the Governments of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in Particular in Its Organized Forms, done in Kyiv on 15 March 2002.”

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL ON COMBATING TERRORISM TO THE AGREEMENT AMONG THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE BSEC PARTICIPATING STATES ON COOPERATION IN COMBATING CRIME, IN PARTICULAR IN ITS ORGANIZED FORMS

13. The Working Group decided to defer the issue till the next meeting.

DELIBERATIONS ON A PREPARATION PROCEDURE AND STATISTICAL ISSUES REGARDING ELABORATION OF A DRAFT ANNUAL REVIEW WITH THE ASSESSMENT OF THE TRENDS OF TRANS-NATIONAL CRIME IN THE BSEC REGION FOR 2011

14. The Working Group took note that so far only five countries, namely Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey, have submitted their replies to the Questionnaire on the issue.

15. In order to proceed with the preparation of a draft Annual Review with the Assessment of the Trends of Trans-national Crime in the BSEC Region for 2011, Romania kindly asked the Member States that had not responded yet, to forward their replies to the questionnaire **by 15 December 2012**. The Questionnaire is attached as **Annex V**.

FOLLOW-UP TO THE BSEC REGIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR STRENGTHENING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE TO TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN THE BLACK SEA REGION

16. The Working Group decided to defer the issue till the next meeting.

PRESENTATION OF A DRAFT BSEC ACTION PLAN ON REGIONAL EFFORTS TO PREVENT AND COMBAT CORRUPTION ELABORATED BY THE COUNTRY-COORDINATOR (ROMANIA)

17. Romania, in its capacity as the Country Coordinator, requested the Member States to forward their comments and proposals to the draft BSEC Action Plan on Cooperation in the Field of Prevention and Combating Corruption **by 15 February 2013**. The draft document disseminated to the Member States by the BSEC PERMIS Note No: BS/INFO.2012.0678, dated 10 October 2012, is attached as **Annex VI**.

18. Romania proposed to convene the next meeting of the Working Group for consideration of the draft Action Plan in March 2013 with the view that the next Meeting of the Ministers of Interior/Public Order could be held in June 2013.

ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS IN THE FIELD OF COMBATING ORGANIZED CRIME

19. The Working Group took note of an overview of IOM's Counter-Trafficking in Persons Initiatives in the Black Sea Region and Recommendations for Joint Actions delivered by the representative of IOM. The Overview is attached as **Annex VII**.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

20. The participants discussed the issues of cooperation in combating transnational crimes in the region and agreed that they should enhance their endeavors in strengthening their interaction for these activities.

21. The representative of the Republic of Turkey emphasized the importance of efficient use of the existing information exchange channels, including the BSEC Network of Liaison Officers on Combating Crime, and of arranging thematic discussions with focus on sharing operational information within the Network's umbrella.

22. The Working Group expressed its sincere gratitude to the Turkish National Police for the excellent organization of the meeting and for warm hospitality extended.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

23. The date and venue of the next meeting will be communicated to the Member States in due course by BSEC PERMIS.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

24. The present Report was adopted for submission to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials (Istanbul, 13-14 December 2012) and the Twenty-Seventh Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs for their consideration.
