



**JOINT DECLARATION OF THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF INTERIOR/PUBLIC  
ORDER OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF  
THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION (BSEC)  
ON STRENGTHENING COOPERATION  
IN THE FIELD OF FIGHT AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL CRIMES,  
IN PARTICULAR SMUGGLING, TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN-BEINGS,  
TRAFFICKING OF LIGHT WEAPONS, ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL CRIMES AND  
TERRORISM**

**ISTANBUL/TURKEY- 23 NOVEMBER 2012**

*We, the Ministers in Charge of Interior/Public Order of the Member States of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), having gathered in Istanbul on 23 November 2012 with a view of setting basis for strengthening common actions for further concrete cooperation in the field of fight against transnational crimes, in particular, smuggling, trafficking in human-beings, trafficking of light weapons, economic and financial crimes and terrorism and also promoting the peace, stability and security in the BSEC Region,*

**STRESSING** our intention towards improvement of mutual co-operation and understanding to assist each other in preventing transnational criminal activities by all means to the greatest extent possible and for identifying/prosecuting the perpetrators of the relevant crimes,

**AIMING** to promote the rule of law and the respect of human rights by fighting against transnational crimes,

**RECOGNIZING** the potential destructive effects and public threat of economic and financial crimes,

**RECALLING** that development and implementation of concrete cooperation projects in the above-mentioned fields is an immediate priority for the BSEC Member States in order to maintain and sustain peace, harmony, stability, security and prosperity in the BSEC Region,

**CONVINCED** that the continuity of existing global framework against transnational crimes rests on consolidated regional action in the institutional and operational spheres,

**WELCOMING** the outcomes of Istanbul Decennial Summit Declaration of 25 June 2002; Istanbul Declaration on the Occasion of the Fifteenth Anniversary Summit of BSEC of 25 June 2007; Istanbul Summit Declaration on the Occasion of the Twentieth Anniversary of BSEC of 26 June 2012, including the BSEC Economic Agenda: Towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership,

**TAKING NOTE OF** the Agreement among the Governments of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in Particular in Its Organized Forms, signed in Kerkyra, on 2 October 1998; 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 Kiev, on 15 March 2002; the Additional Protocol on Combating Terrorism 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 Athens, on 3 December 2004,

**HAVING IN MIND** the Joint Declaration of the Ministers of Interior / Public Order of the Member States of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) on Combating Trafficking in Human Being adopted in Athens on 3 December 2004; the Joint Declaration of the Ministers of Interior/Public Order of the BSEC Member States adopted in Bucharest, on 24 March 2006; the Joint Declaration of the Ministers of Interior of Member States of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) on Regional Efforts on Preventing and Combating Corruption adopted in Bucharest on 14 April 2011.

#### **HEREBY DECLARE OUR WILLINGNESS AND DETERMINATION**

- To strengthen the cooperation among the national authorities of the BSEC Member States involved in preventing and fighting against transnational crimes including trafficking in human beings, smuggling of migrants and trafficking of light weapons and to put in practice the provisions of the frameworks that have been initiated in bilateral and/or multilateral basis,
- To make efforts to enhance regional strategies, policies and mechanisms that are in conformity with the global initiatives and frameworks on the fight against organized crime and terrorism,
- To take effective measures in order to prevent and combat financial activities of organized criminal groups taking place in any form, particularly in the form of financial investments and real estate acquisitions with criminal proceeds,
- To enable and support information exchange among experts by organizing meetings, if necessary, on the activities of the criminal groups involved in trafficking of light weapons and ammunition, trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants in the BSEC Region,
- To enhance cooperation among the BSEC Member States through the improvement of the existing mechanism of information exchange within the framework of the Network of Liaison Officers on Combating Crime,
- To hold joint training activities and workshops on regional cooperation in the abovementioned fields,

- To elaborate on the possible ways and means to promote cooperation in preventing trafficking of drugs and its precursors through the sea routes,
- To enhance cooperation with international and regional specialized organizations to promote, *inter alia*, the exchange of expertise and best practices, to develop joint projects and programs in the field of preventing and combating transnational crime.

We, the Ministers in Charge of Interior/Public Order are convinced that the concrete outcomes of this meeting will contribute to the effectiveness and efficiency of common actions in preventing and fighting transnational crimes in all their forms and manifestations.

We, the Ministers in Charge of Interior/Public Order, express our sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Interior and the people of the Republic of Turkey for their warm hospitality and excellent organization of this meeting.

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