



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

**Permanent International Secretariat**

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**BS/C/WG/R(2012)2**

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

**Istanbul, BSEC Headquarters, 9-10 October 2012**

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Culture was held in Istanbul, at the BSEC Headquarters, on 9-10 October 2012.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Ambassador Bozkurt ARAN, National Coordinator of the Turkish Chairmanship-in Office; Director of Center for Multilateral Trade Studies, Economic Policy Research Foundation of the Republic of Turkey (TEPAV).
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:  
  
Republic of Armenia  
Republic of Azerbaijan  
Hellenic Republic  
Romania  
Republic of Serbia  
Russian Federation  
Republic of Turkey  
Ukraine
4. The representative of the Parliamentary Assembly of the BSEC (PABSEC) participated in the Meeting as the BSEC Related Body.
5. The representatives of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the United States of America attended the Meeting as the BSEC Observers.
6. The representative of the Republic of Slovenia attended the Meeting as the BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partner.
7. The representative of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) participated at the Meeting as Official Guest.

8. The List of Participants is attached as **Annex I** to the present Report.

### **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

9. The Draft Agenda of the Meeting was discussed, amended and adopted. The Agenda, as adopted, is attached as **Annex II**.

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL AND THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE DECLARATIONS AND JOINT STATEMENTS ADOPTED BY THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF CULTURE: DISCUSSION AND ASSESSMENT**

10. The BSEC PERMIS representative informed on the ways and dynamics of the implementation of the Resolution of the 15<sup>th</sup> BSEC Council (Moscow, 1 November 2006) since the last Meeting of the Working Group on Culture (BSEC Headquarters, 24-25 May 2012).

11. The participants acknowledged information on the issue provided by the BSEC PERMIS and expressed the willingness to proceed with necessary steps needed to secure the dynamics of the implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the Council and the Declarations and the Statements of the Ministers in charge of Culture.

12. Since the term in office of Romania as the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group will expire by the end of 2012, the representative of Romania informed that the Evaluation Report on the activities of the Working Group under their Coordinatorship will be submitted to the BSEC PERMIS by the end of 2012.

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE “BSEC ECONOMIC AGENDA: TOWARDS AN ENHANCED BSEC PARTNERSHIP”.**

13. The BSEC PERMIS representative informed on the “BSEC Economic Agenda: Towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership”, adopted by the BSEC Council in Belgrade, on 11 June 2012, as an important document for guiding the cooperation in the BSEC framework in the years to come. He made particular reference to Goal 8 of the Economic Agenda on Development of Tourism and Protection of Cultural Heritage, the “Working Groups’ Programme Implementation and Impact Survey” and the “Medium-Term (2013-2015) Orientation Survey”.

14. The delegation of Romania, in the capacity of the Country-Coordinator, made the following suggestions aimed at clarifying the goals of the Economic Agenda related to culture:

- the title of Goal 8 should be read as follows “Development of tourism and protection of the cultural diversity and cultural heritage”;
- an item should be added to invite the Member States to share information regarding the international cultural events they organize each year;
- paragraph 16 of the Goal 8 should be extended with the inclusion of the international online platform and newsletter (web-site) for the Working Group on Culture.

15. The BSEC PERMIS representative drew attention of the participants that the BSEC Economic Agenda was adopted by the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and endorsed by the BSEC Summit in June 2012.

16. Although, it was suggested that the issues should be taken into consideration when drafting the new Plan of Action of the Working Group, no final conclusion was reached.

17. The Working Group decided on the following:

- to call upon the relevant authorities of the Member States to expedite sending their replies on the Survey by 12 October 2012;

- to consider updating the existing Terms of Reference and to elaborate the new draft Plan of Action (2013-2014) to be discussed at the next Meeting of the Group, on the basis of the outcome of the Survey and the goals of the BSEC Economic Agenda;

- to request the PERMIS to communicate to the Member States the electronic version of models of the Terms of Reference and Action Plan of the Working Groups.

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BSEC PUBLIC COMMUNICATION STRATEGY**

18. The Working Group took note of information provided by the BSEC PERMIS representative regarding the newly adopted BSEC Public Communication Strategy.

19. The PERMIS informed the participants that the text of the BSEC Public Communication Strategy has been added to the new Manual prepared by the PERMIS for the Country-Coordinators of the Working Groups in order to ensure that it is taken into consideration in the planning and carrying out of the Working Group activities.

20. The Working Group decided that the process of developing key messages regarding its activities and achievements in accordance with Part VI of the Strategy should be based on the results of the “Medium-Term (2013-2015) Orientation Survey”.

### **CULTURAL HERITAGE: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON INVENTORY DATA, CONSERVATION AND OVERALL MONITORING OF THE CULTURAL ASSETS**

21. The Working Group took note of information provided by Romania on the revised proposal on the interactive online platform and newsletter (web-site) for the BSEC Working Group on Culture, which is attached as **Annex III**.

22. The representative of the Hellenic Republic reiterated their comments submitted earlier on the Romanian proposal.

23. The representative of the Republic of Armenia reiterated their support to the Romanian proposal.

24. The Working Group invited the Member States to send through the BSEC PERMIS their views and comments on the revised proposal of Romania by 31 December 2012.

25. The delegation of Romania delivered a presentation on the archaeological excavation and research made in “Histria” as a best practice of cultural heritage preservation, attached as **Annex IV**.

**STRENGTHENING AND BOLSTERING THE CULTURAL COOPERATION AND CONTACTS BETWEEN THE BSEC MEMBER STATES, ENCOURAGING CREATIVITY AND STIMULATING INNOVATION AND, CONSEQUENTLY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

26. The representative of Romania delivered a presentation on “Developing and supporting creativity in culture”, attached as **Annex V**.

27. The Working Group decided to continue consideration of this item at its next Meeting.

**COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS**

28. The BSEC PERMIS representative recalled that the Working Group at its last Meeting agreed on enhancing cooperation with international organizations in the field of culture and to invite the representatives of the Council of Ministers of Culture of South-East Europe and UNDP at its next Meeting.

29. The representative of the Republic of Slovenia, which is currently holding the Chairmanship-in-Office of the Council of Ministers of Culture of South-East Europe (April 2012 – April 2013) informed of the activities of the Council and the preparations for the next Ministerial Meeting to be held in Brdo/Slovenia, on 8-10 April 2013.

30. The representative of the United Nations Development Programme (Ankara Office) informed of the activities of the UNDP in support of development of the cultural tourism projects in the Republic of Turkey.

31. The Working Group invited the UNDP to communicate information on its activities in the field of culture in the Black Sea Region as a whole.

32. The BSEC PERMIS representative informed of the preparations to conclude a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the BSEC and the UN Alliance of Civilizations.

**PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND**

33. The representative of the Republic of Armenia informed of the implementation of the PDF project “Literary Ark: Ten Years Later” and of the events envisaged within the project.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

34. The representative of Romania informed that Modern Art Exhibition scheduled to take place in 2012 was postponed due to financial restrictions.

35. The representative of Romania also informed that the second edition of the International Documentary Film Festival may be organized in Bucharest in 2013. It was suggested that this film festival could be itinerated among the BSEC Member States.

36. The Working Group expressed its appreciation for the work done by Romania in its capacity as Country-Coordinator of the Working Group on Culture for the past two years.

37. The BSEC PERMIS representative informed that the Republic of Moldova was appointed as Country-Coordinator of the Working Group on Culture starting with January 2013 for a two-year period.

38. The participants stressed the importance to organize the Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Culture of the BSEC Member States in 2013 or 2014.

#### **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING**

39. The Working Group on Culture adopted the present Report and submitted it for consideration to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials of the BSEC Member States.

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