



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

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REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON CULTURE

Istanbul, BSEC Headquarters, 29 September 2010

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Culture was held in Istanbul, at the BSEC Headquarters, on 29 September 2010.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Sarantis MOSCHOVIS, First Counsellor for Economic and Commercial Affairs, B2 Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Hellenic Republic
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine
4. The representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of the BSEC (PABSEC) and the BSEC Business Council attended the Meeting as the BSEC Related Bodies.
5. The List of Participants is attached as **Annex I** to the present Report.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. The Draft Agenda of the Meeting was discussed 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 RESPONSIBLE FOR CULTURE: DISCUSSION AND ASSESSMENT

7. The representative of the PERMIS informed on ways and dynamics of the implementation of the Resolution of the 15th BSEC Council (Moscow, 1 November 2006) with reference to the activities of the Working Group on Culture.

8. The participants acknowledged information on the issue provided by the PERMIS and expressed 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 Statement of the Ministers responsible for Culture (2007).

9. The participants invited the Country-Coordinator to prepare the Final Evaluation Report on the activities of the Working Group and submit it to the Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials to be held in Thessaloniki, on 24-25 November 2010.

10. The delegation of the Hellenic Republic drew attention on the necessity of prioritizing the following lines of action, decided at the BSEC Ministerial Meeting on Culture (Sounion, 7 July 2007):

- a) Strengthening cooperation in the field of prohibiting and preventing the illicit import, export and transfer of cultural property;
- b) Building networks of cooperation and developing joint projects in the field of contemporary culture, such as literature, theatre, dance, music and visual arts.

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

11. The representative of the Republic of Armenia made a presentation on the XIII Century merchant sailing ship “Cilicia” and proposed to be envisaged as a Project Proposal.

12. The representative of the Republic of Armenia proposed either to build together a common ship using traditions of the BSEC Member States or to create regatta with replicas of XII-XIV Centuries ships and make a cultural trip around the Black Sea, while at the same time organizing cultural events.

13. The delegation of the Republic of Armenia invited the BSEC Member States to inform through PERMIS at their earliest convenience on their positions with regard to the said project.

14. The participants, as a follow-up of the Round Table in Yerevan on 4-5 March 2009, decided to continue discussions on the topics have been raised at the afore mentioned meeting, namely:

- a) Preservation and Restoration of the Historical-Cultural Monuments in the Black Sea Region;
- b) Creation of “Cultural News of the Black Sea” – in electronic version;
- c) Enhancing Cooperation in the field of Culture.

15. The Working Group agreed on the importance of the preservation of cultural assets and in this respect decided to continue discussions at the next meeting.

16. In order to prepare the first Meeting on the “Silk Road” project in Trabzon in the near future, the Republic of Turkey expressed its readiness to collect information on a Silk Road national mapping from its partners through PERMIS.

17. The Working Group welcomed and supported the proposal of the delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan to create an electronic version of the newspaper on the Black Sea cultural news.

18. The Working Group instructed PERMIS to elaborate, by the next meeting of the Group, ways and possibilities to place the above mentioned electronic version either at the PERMIS web-site or at one of the web-sites of the BSEC Related Bodies.

19. The Working Group also instructed PERMIS to provide the Member States, by the next meeting of the Group, with the detailed information regarding the expenses on a web-site creation (work of the domain name creation, web-designer, hosting, annual web-site support, etc.)

20. The delegation of the Russian Federation proposed the idea of scientists and experts exchange so as to stimulate cooperation in the field of preservation of cultural heritage.

CULTURAL TOURISM: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

21. There were no proposals with regard to this Agenda Item.

COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS (COUNCIL OF EUROPE, UNESCO, EUROPEAN COMMISSION, COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF CULTURE OF SOUTH EAST EUROPE, ADRIATIC IONIAN INITIATIVE, ETC.)

22. The representative of the Hellenic Republic informed on the 1st meeting of the network of professionals in the field of translation in the framework of the Council of Ministers of Culture of South East Europe, the Adriatic Ionian Initiative, and the BSEC.

23. The representative of the Hellenic Republic also stressed that the contact persons to the network of the professionals have been already appointed and request the BSEC Member States, who have not yet done so, to nominate their contact person.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND: MANUEL OF OPERATION, APPLICATION AND PROJECT PRIORITY AREAS

24. The participants took note of the information provided by the PERMIS representative on the New PDF Manual of Operation – Project Priorities and on the BSEC-Hellenic Development Fund. Information on the New PDF Manual of Operation and on the BSEC-Hellenic Development Fund is available at the BSEC web-page: www.bsec-organization.org.

25. The Working Group agreed to define priority project areas and time frames for PDF funding at the next meeting of the Group upon adoption of the Action Plan for 2011-2012.

26. The Working Group invited the PDF Project Manager to attend the next Meeting of the Group in order to provide additional information.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

27. No issue was raised under this Agenda Item.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

28. The Working Group adopted the present Report and submitted it for consideration to the Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials of the BSEC Member States to be held in Istanbul, on 20-21 October 2010.
