



# ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

## Permanent International Secretariat

Sakıp Sabancı Cad., Müşir Fuad Paşa Yalısı, Eski Tersane, 34467 Emirgan – Istanbul/Turkey

Tel: ++90 212 2296330-35 Fax: ++90 212 2296336

E-mail: [info@bsec-organization.org](mailto:info@bsec-organization.org)

[www.bsec-organization.org](http://www.bsec-organization.org)

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### REPORT OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUPS ON TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ON CUSTOMS MATTERS, AND ON AGRICULTURE AND AGRO-INDUSTRY

(BSEC Headquarters, 27 March 2014)

1. The Joint Meeting of the BSEC Working Groups (WGs) on Trade and Economic Development, on Customs Matters and on Agriculture and Agro-Industry was held at the BSEC Headquarters, on 27 March 2014.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Branimir RADEV, Minister Plenipotentiary, Coordinator of the Bulgarian Chairmanship of the Organization of BSEC, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria.
3. The following Member States of BSEC attended the Meeting:  
  
Republic of Armenia  
Republic of Azerbaijan  
Republic of Bulgaria  
Hellenic Republic  
Republic of Moldova  
Romania  
Russian Federation  
Republic of Turkey  
Ukraine
4. The following BSEC Related Body participated in the Meeting:  
  
BSEC Business Council (BSEC BC)
5. The following BSEC Observer also participated in the Meeting:  
  
Arab Republic of Egypt

6. The following Guests attended the Meeting:

International Road Transport Union (IRU)  
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

The List of Participants is attached as **Annex I**.

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

### **TRADE REGIMES**

8. Presentations were made by the representatives of Ukraine and the Republic of Turkey on the current trade regimes in their respective States. The presentations are attached as **Annex III**.

9. The participants exchanged views on the issue of elaborating the procedure of a comparative analysis of BSEC Member-States trade regimes with the view of studying the potential for harmonization. They agreed on the need to draft a questionnaire, taking into consideration relevant instruments contained in documents of other international organizations, such as WTO TPRM Reports, in order to get comparative data and information from the Member States regarding their respective trade regimes.

10. Ukraine, as the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group on Trade and Economic Development, is invited to elaborate the mentioned Draft Questionnaire. In this regard the Member States are invited to make their contributions and send their proposals to the Country-Coordinator by the end of May 2014.

### **CUSTOMS COOPERATION**

11. Presentations were made by the representatives of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Republic of Turkey, the Republic of Azerbaijan and Ukraine, on the export and import related procedures in their respective countries, followed by exchange of views among the participants. The presentations are attached as **Annex IV**.

12. Furthermore, the representative of the Republic of Turkey informed about the following ongoing customs cooperation projects:

- Joint Control of Borders between Turkey and Georgia;
- Preliminary exchange of information between the customs administrations of Turkey and Azerbaijan, and of Turkey and Ukraine;
- Baku-Tbilisi-Kars Railway for facilitating transportation of passengers and goods.

13. The representative of the Russian Federation informed about the positive experience of the implementation of the Project "Simplified Customs Corridor" between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Turkey with the application of the preliminary declaration of goods.

14. The Joint Meeting took note of the initiative of Ukraine to organize a meeting of experts on elaboration of measures to implement the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation in the Black Sea Region (Istanbul, May-June 2014), as it is foreseen by the Plan of Action of the WG on Trade and Economic Development.

15. The participants also exchanged views on Trade Facilitation issues in the BSEC Region. The Republic of Turkey invited other Member States to submit their views on Turkey's proposal of Concept Paper on Trade Facilitation.

16. The representative of the UNECE made a presentation on “Inter-organizational Trade Information Exchange Systems in the Black Sea Region”. The presentation is attached as **Annex V**.

17. The Joint Meeting took note of proposal of the UNECE to hold a Joint BSEC-UNECE Seminar on Trade Facilitation and Single Window Matters in the Black Sea Region. The UNECE and other international organizations can provide methodological support to the BSEC trade facilitation initiative.

### **EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION**

18. The representative of Ukraine presented the basis for an information exchange mechanism and underlined the importance of the creation of an information and analytical center under the auspices of BSEC in order to facilitate the information sharing process among the Member States.

19. The representative of the Republic of Turkey recalled the Questionnaire elaborated by the BSEC Coordination Center for the Exchange of Statistical Data and Economic Information regarding the type of statistical data that might be exchanged through this Center which was conveyed to the Member States, through the BSEC PERMIS.

20. The Joint Meeting invited the Member States that have not done so, to send their answers to the Questionnaire to the BSEC PERMIS until the end of April 2014.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF THE DISCUSSIONS AND POSSIBLE FURTHER ACTIVITIES**

21. Further formulation and concretization of conclusions and proposals as reflected in the present Report took place.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

22. No issue was raised under this agenda item.

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

23. The Joint Meeting adopted the present Report for its submission to the Committee of Senior Officials and the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs for their consideration.

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