



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

**Permanent International Secretariat**

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**CONCLUSIONS  
OF THE INFORMAL MEETING  
OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP  
ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**BSEC Headquarters, 10 March 2017**

1. An Informal Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Environmental Protection was held at the BSEC Headquarters on 10 March 2017.
2. The Informal Meeting was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Ms. Serap ÖZCOŞKUN, Special Representative of the Turkish Chairmanship-in-Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey.
3. Deputy Secretary General Amb. Alexander PRISHCHEPOV delivered a welcome address to the participants on behalf of the Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS.
4. The following BSEC Member States participated in the Informal Meeting:  
  
Republic of Armenia  
Hellenic Republic  
Romania  
Russian Federation  
Republic of Turkey
5. The representatives of the PABSEC International Secretariat and the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution Permanent Secretariat attended as BSEC Related Body and Observer, respectively.
6. The List of Participants of the Informal Meeting is attached as **Annex I**.

**AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

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

**AGENDA ITEM 2: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTION, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL AND PROVISIONS OF THE JOINT DECLARATIONS ADOPTED AT THE MEETINGS OF THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES**

8. The BSEC PERMIS briefed the participants on the status of implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the Council and provisions of the Joint Declarations adopted at the Meetings of the Ministers in Charge of Environmental Protection of the BSEC Member States.

9. The issue of appointment of representatives to the Working Groups on a long term basis and the attendance of them at the meetings was raised by the BSEC PERMIS. The updated list of representatives – national contact points in the WG on Environmental Protection is attached as **Annex III**. The countries, which did not deliver updated information were invited to do so in due course.

10. The participants took note of the information on the developments with regard to the implementation of the “BSEC Economic Agenda 2012”, as well as to the follow-up of non-implemented Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the Council. The PERMIS was encouraged to make contacts and consultations with United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) in order to implement the Agreement on Cooperation, signed on 20 February 2002.

**AGENDA ITEM 3: MID-TERM ACTION PLAN FOR COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, ADOPTED AT THE LAST WORKING GROUP MEETING (Istanbul, 15-16 OCTOBER, 2015) AND ENDORCED BY THE COUNCIL (DECEMBER, 2015) – next steps**

11. The Participants exchanged views on possible ways of fulfillment of the Mid-Term Action Plan, attached as **Annex IV**.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: CONSIDERATION OF THE WORK PROGRAM OF THE WORKING GROUP (2016-2017), PREPARED BY THE COUNTRY-COORDINATOR**

12. The Country-Coordinator /Romania/ proposed a Work Program of the WG on Environmental Protection (2016-2017) till the end of its term /31 December 2017/, as follows:

- organizing of the WG meeting in the second semester of 2017;
- finalization/implementation/establishment of an Information Exchange Mechanism for Environmental Protection;
- finalization and adoption of the BSEC Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for the Black Sea Region;
- organizing of a regional seminar on public participation for environmental protection;
- promotion of projects to be jointly developed within the WG on Environmental Protection.

13. The participants reacted positively to the proposed Work Program.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS CONCERNING THE POSITION OF COUNTRY-COORDINATOR WHICH WILL BE VACANT FROM 1<sup>st</sup> OF JANUARY 2018**

14. The Participants exchanged views on the possibility to take over the coordination role of the Working Group for the next period of two years 2018-2019. Romania expressed its wish to continue its term of office.

## **AGENDA ITEM 6: HOW TO INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE WG. OBSERVATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS**

15. The Participants exchanged views on the possibilities to increase the efficiency of the activities of the WG.

## **AGENDA ITEM 7: MODALITIES OF ESTABLISHING AN INFORMATION EXCHANGE MECHANISM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

16. The BSEC PERMIS informed shortly about the history of the subject.

17. At its last meeting the Working Group /October 2015/ discussed the issue of financing the establishment of an information exchange mechanism for environment protection legislation of the Member States.

18. The Country-Coordinator proposed the PERMIS to consider the technical possibility of using the BSEC server towards this end.

## **AGENDA ITEM 8: CONSIDERATION OF A DRAFT BSEC CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION STRATEGY FOR THE BLACK SEA REGION**

19. The BSEC PERMIS presented a short history of the debate on the draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in the Black Sea region.

20. The participants finalized and agreed on the text of the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in the Black Sea region. The draft, as amended, is attached as **Annex V**.

21. Some of the participants expressed willingness that a silence procedure of the adoption of the text of the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in the Black Sea region to be started by the Turkish Chairmanship-in-Office.

## **AGENDA ITEM 9: PRESENTATION OF THE NEW DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION IN THE MEMBER STATES**

22. The representatives of Romania, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Turkey informed the participants about the recent developments in their national environmental legislations.

## **AGENDA ITEM 10: PROPOSALS FROM THE BSEC MEMBER STATES FOR THE PROJECTS TO BE JOINTLY DEVELOPED WITHIN THE WG ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

23. The Country-Coordinator presented an idea for transboundary waste management project to be jointly developed within the WG on Environmental Protection. More detailed information will be delivered at the next meeting of the WG.

## **AGENDA ITEM 11: ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

24. The BSEC PERMIS briefed on a project proposal from GAFEIAS “OCEANS 2050” (Integrated & Sustainable Ocean Plastic Waste Exploitation & Processing Technologies - Developing technical & economic business solutions. Clearing the oceans from plastic debris till

2050). The project and the supportive document from the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution are attached as **Annex VI and Annex VII**.

**AGENDA ITEM 12: ADOPTION OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE INFORMAL MEETING**

25. The participants agreed on the present Conclusions for the submission to the next Meeting of the Committee of the Senior Officials.