



**BS/EP/WG/R(96)1**

**REPORT OF THE  
MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**Gelendzhik, Russia, 8-9 October 1996**

1. The Meeting of the Working Group (WG) on Environmental Protection was held on 8-9 October 1996 in Gelendzhik, Russia.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Dimitry ZIMIN, Deputy Head of Department of the Ministry for Environment Protection and Natural Resources of the Russian Federation.
3. The Meeting was attended by the following Participating States of the BSEC:
  - Republic of Albania
  - Georgia
  - Hellenic Republic
  - Romania
  - Russian Federation
  - Republic of Turkey
  - Ukraine
4. The Meeting was also attended by the representatives of the PCU Black Sea Environmental Program (BSEP) and the Russian Foreign Policy Foundation as guests.

The list of participants of the Meeting is attached as Annex I.

5. H.E. Mr. Aleksey PORYADIN, First Deputy Chairman of the State Committee for Environment Protection and Mr. Alexander PROZOROVSKI, Mayor of the City of Gelendzhik welcomed the participants of the Meeting.
6. The draft agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The agenda, as adopted by the WG, is attached as Annex II.

## **IMPROVING EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS BEING CARRIED ON WITHIN THE BSEC AREA**

7. Under this agenda item, an exchange of views took place and information was shared regarding the participation of the BSEC countries in international environmental programs and duly took into account the views which were presented by the participants in the International Assembly on Ecological Security of the Black Sea Region. The Group took note of the proposal of the Ukrainian delegation to strengthen geoecological research within the framework of the BSEP activities.

8. The WG also took note of the information presented by the PERMIS on the subject, on the basis of the data received from the BSEC Participating States and which reflects the picture of the cooperation in the field of environmental protection in the Black Sea area (attached as Annex III).

9. Having agreed that the Black Sea is the main concern of the region from environmental point of view, the WG came to the conclusion that the said document, as presented, reflects the current situation with regard to international activities and should be taken into account as subsequent programs and projects are being developed in the region.

10. The participants expressed the view that the success of the actions to be taken within the framework of the programs and the following practical actions depend on the commitments of the countries from the whole Black Sea region.

11. The WG agreed in this connection to request the Eighth MMFA to call upon the respective Governments from the said area to join their efforts as well as of the international organizations and institutions in protecting the Black Sea environment.

12. The participants further agreed that the practical contacts between the programs and the respective participants of the Black Sea, the Mediterranean and the Caspian Seas and of the Danube basin areas should be developed.

13. In order to attract additional financial sources for the environmental protection, the WG confirmed the interest of the countries with regard to establishing the Black Sea Environmental Protection Fund and asked the BSEC PERMIS and the BSEP to continue their work on this subject.

## **BLACK SEA ACTION PLAN**

14. The WG took note of the information presented by the BSEP Coordinator concerning the elaboration of the Draft Black Sea Action Plan.

15. Having expressed its satisfaction with regard to the current stage of this work, the WG agreed that the Plan, when adopted together with the Bucharest Convention and Odessa Declaration, shall constitute a mechanism for sustainable regional management.

16. The WG agreed to use the good auspices of the BSEC in order to inform and fully involve the Foreign Ministries of the Black Sea countries in the implementation of the Black Sea Strategic Action Plan. Such participation should be recommended to the forthcoming MMFA.

17. The Participating States agreed to coordinate their efforts within the WG framework while their respective national plans are implemented. To that end this item is to be included in the agendas of the BSEC meetings.

### **COOPERATION IN LIQUIDATION OF EFFECTS OF NATURAL DISASTERS AND INDUSTRIAL CALAMITIES IN THE REGION**

18. The Participating States expressed their support to the proposal put forward by the Russian Federation on strengthening cooperation among the countries in liquidation of the effects of natural disasters and industrial calamities.

The participants took note of the information presented by the Black Sea Environmental Program regarding its activities in the field.

19. The WG took note of the recommendations on this score of the BSEC WG on Health Care and Pharmaceutics and supported the idea of establishing a special BSEC coordinating body to deal with this matter.

20. The WG took into account the draft document “Recommendations for urgent measures for overcoming ecological crisis in the Black Sea region” proposed by the Republic of Bulgaria and decided to consider this paper at its next meeting.

### **SETTING UP A REGIONAL NETWORK FOR CLEANER PRODUCTION**

21. The WG with great interest took note of the information presented by UNIDO delegate on the project to be implemented within the BSEC-UNIDO cooperation, on setting up in the BSEC region of a network for cleaner production in the Mediterranean Sea with a coordination office to be established in Athens.

22. The delegations agreed that the most effective mechanism for promoting cleaner production would be to create a network among those countries which wish to participate, so that successful cleaner production activities from any country could be shared through the network for the benefit of the countries in the region.

23. The Participating States who are not parties to this project also agreed to inform the UNIDO and the BSEC respectively of their decision on this issue.

24. The participants requested the UNIDO together with the BSEC to organize a special seminar where the respective specialists from the countries could obtain more knowledge and information on the subject.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

25. The WG took note of the information of the BSEC PERMIS regarding work on studying the environmental legislation and respective policies of the Participating States which should be undertaken in the light of the recommendations of the WG meeting in Athens in 1995.

The delegations exchanged views regarding national activities in this field.

26. The WG requested those Participating States which have not provided yet the requested data to do it as soon as possible.

---

The WG also asked the BSEC Secretariat to undertake (with the consultant(s) assistance) a preliminary processing of the data obtained, so that this subject could be thoroughly discussed at the next meeting.

27. The participants noted the interest of the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Romania in establishing their respective national centers for the studies of the environment in the eastern and northern parts of the Black Sea and in the Danube basin and requested to inform the WG of the establishment of such centers and their activities.

### **DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

28. The Participating States which may wish to host the next Meeting of the WG on Environmental Protection if possible in May-June 1997 will accordingly notify the Secretariat.

### **EXPRESSION OF THANKS**

29. The participants expressed their thanks to the Government of the Russian Federation for hosting the Meeting and for the excellent arrangements as well as the warm hospitality extended to them by the authorities of the Krasnodar Region and the City of Gelendzhik.

**ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

30. The WG adopted the present report for submission to the Eighth Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_