



BS/EP/WG/R(94)1

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

Tbilisi, 27 September 1994

1. The Meeting of the Working Group (WG) on Environmental Protection was held on 27 September 1994 in Tbilisi in conjunction with the BSEC Conference on Environment and Development.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Amiran Kavadze, Director, International Economic Relations Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Georgia.
3. The Meeting was attended by the following Participating States of the BSEC:
 - Republic of Albania
 - Republic of Armenia
 - Republic of Azerbaijan
 - Republic of Bulgaria
 - Republic of Georgia
 - Greece
 - Republic of Moldova
 - Romania
 - Russian Federation
 - Republic of Turkey
 - Ukraine
4. The representative of the BSEC Council attended the Meeting as an Observer.
5. The list of participants of the Meeting is attached as Annex I.
6. The draft agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The said agenda is attached as Annex II.

CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE BSEC CONFERENCE

7. The WG noted the “Report of the BSEC Conference on Environment and Development” as well as the Declaration of the said Conference held in Tbilisi on 25-27 September 1994, referred to it by the Conference, and welcomed this important initiative since the said meeting was launching a new phase in the BSEC process. The Declaration and Report of the said Conference are attached as Annex III and Annex IV, respectively.

8. In this respect, the WG decided that the actions to be realized within the framework of the Conference Declaration could be considered as guidelines for the activities of the WG on Environmental Protection.

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION REGARDING THE PROTECTION OF ECOSYSTEMS IN THE BSEC REGION

9. Under Agenda item 3, the WG noted that a thorough exchange of information on environmental protection and the presentations on the national legislation and measures undertaken or to be realized by the Participating States relating to environmental protection took place in the course of the aforementioned Conference.

10. The WG agreed on the need to establish goals and organizing principles for future BSEC environmental cooperation and plans for joint endeavors, and requested Greece in cooperation with the BSEC Secretariat to draft proposals for consideration by the BSEC WG on Environmental Protection.

FOLLOW-UP OF THE PROPOSALS OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

11. Under Agenda item 4 concerning its previous proposals, the WG came to the conclusion that the Participating States had faced some difficulties regarding implementation of the Proposals of the WG on Environmental Protection worked out during its meeting held in Varna on 4 November 1993, due to the lack of coordination among the Participating States. But at the same time it was pointed out with satisfaction that some of the proposals were being further developed within the framework of various ecological programs and others were reflected in the Conference Declaration.

The WG asked the Secretariat together with Greece and Georgia to elaborate the draft of the Working Plan of the WG on the basis of the recommendations of the WG Meeting in Varna (1993) and the Conference Declaration and to submit it to the next meeting in Greece.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIAL FUND FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS

12. Having considered Agenda item 5 in which the delegations pointed out the importance of setting up a special fund for the implementation of the projects aimed at stopping the destruction of the BSEC ecosystem, the WG requested the BSEC Secretariat to further study the subject on the basis of the proposals of the Program Coordination Unit of the Global Environmental Facilities Black Sea Environmental Program and comments of the Participating States in order to formulate concrete proposals and submit them to the next meeting of the WG for its consideration.

IMPLEMENTATION OF REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

13. Under Agenda item 6, the delegations exchanged views on the subject of the implementation of the regional environmental programs in air, water and soil protection and expressed the common view on the necessity of interconnection among various programs on regional levels with regard to ensuring their effectiveness. In this respect, the WG requested the Secretariat to collect necessary information from the Participating States and to submit its conclusion to the next meeting of the WG on Environmental Protection for its consideration.

POSSIBLE WAYS OF COLLABORATION WITH OTHER BSEC SUBSIDIARY BODIES

14. Under Agenda item 7 with regard to collaboration among the BSEC programs, the WG considered as an important action that the other BSEC Subsidiary Bodies be involved in the consideration and settlement of the ecological problems existing in the Black Sea region (Working Groups on Energy, on Transport, on Tourism, etc.).

15. The WG asked the Secretariat in cooperation with the EU and other international organizations to study the possibility of holding joint meetings among various BSEC Working Groups with regard to introducing procedures of the Environmental Impact Assessment in the activities of the said Working Groups.

16. Furthermore, the WG underlined the necessity of the involvement of the newly created WG on Cooperation in Science and Technology for resolving specific ecological problems by applying more effectively and extensively the achievements of the Participating States in science and technology.

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE BSEC AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

17. Having discussed Agenda item 8 concerning the coordination of the activities of various institutions and programs within the Black Sea region created with the aim of protecting the area from further degradation, the delegations stressed the need of concentrating such efforts with respect to the principles of the Summit Declaration on the Black Sea Economic Cooperation. In this regard the WG asked the BSEC Secretariat to establish close contacts with various specialized international institutions involved in environmental protection issues within the Black Sea region with a view to exchanging information in order to avoid overlapping and to profit from experiences gained.

18. The WG confirmed the need of close cooperation and information exchange between the BSEC and the Program Coordination Unit of the Global Environmental Facilities Black Sea Environmental Program and other regional programs and projects.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

19. The participants expressed their thanks to the Republic of Georgia for hosting the Meeting and for the excellent arrangements as well as the warm hospitality extended to them.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

20. The Working Group welcomed the proposal of the Hellenic Republic to host the next meeting of the WG on Environmental Protection in March 1995.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

21. The Working Group adopted the present report for submission to the Fifth Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs.
