



Moscow, 1 November 2006

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**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF
THE BSEC WORKING GROUP
ON HEALTH CARE AND PHARMACEUTICS**

Moscow, 1 November 2006

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Health Care and Pharmaceutics was held in Moscow, on 1 November 2006.
2. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Azerbaijan
Republic of Bulgaria
Georgia
Hellenic Republic
Romania
Russian Federation
Ukraine
3. Representatives of the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Poland participated at the Meeting as BSEC Observers.
4. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Eugeniya SLASTNYKH, Chief of Unit, Department of International Cooperation and Public Relations, Ministry of Health and Social Development of the Russian Federation.
5. Ms. Stefana GREAVU, Executive Manager of PERMIS, made an opening statement in which she welcomed the participants on behalf of the Secretariat and expressed her sincere gratitude to the organizers of the Meeting.

The List of Participants is attached as Annex I to the present Report.

6. The draft agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The agenda, as adopted, is attached as Annex II.

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT ACTION PLAN PROPOSED BY THE COUNTRY – COORDINATOR FOR THE ACTIVITY OF THE WORKING GROUP ON HEALTH CARE AND PHARMACEUTICS

7. The Working Group discussed on the Draft Action Plan for 2005-2007 submitted by the Russian Federation as the Country-Coordinator.

8. Following the discussion, the Draft Action Plan was agreed by the Working Group and recommended for implementation under the coordination of the Russian Federation. The Action Plan, as agreed by the Working Group, is attached as Annex III to the present Report. On the basis of the Action Plan the BSEC Member States may present further proposals.

DISCUSSION ON JOINT MEASURES TO BE ADOPTED BY THE BSEC MEMBER STATES FOR COMBATING INFECTIOUS DISEASES (EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION, PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING IN THE FIELD OF PREVENTION MEASURES AND OF MEASURES OF DIAGNOSTICS AND TREATMENT OF CONTAGIOUS DISEASES)

9. The Delegations exchanged information on national policies and programs implemented by their countries individually or in cooperation with other BSEC Member States and international institutions and organizations.

10. A special emphasis was given to avian influenza and pandemic influenza and to the measures taken by the Member States to address these issues.

11. They agreed that the exchange of information among the respective national health authorities dealing with the said problems should be organized on a regular basis with an aim of elaborating a common approach and of enhancing cooperation in the above-mentioned fields.

12. The Working Group welcomed the proposal made by the Greek delegation regarding the organization in the nearest future of a common table exercise on the prevention of avian influenza and other infectious diseases under the coordination of the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation (the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group). The date and other technical details will be communicated through BSEC PERMIS in due course.

13. Furthermore the participants took note of the Russian proposal regarding the establishment of a Ad-Hoc Group of Scientific Experts with a task to develop methodologies of diagnosing infectious diseases and the emergence of diseases. They agreed to communicate their opinions and views to PERMIS in due time, so that the issue could be considered at the next Working Group Meeting.

14. The Working Group expressed its support to the initiative of establishment in Novosibirsk, Russian Federation, of a WHO-collaborating Center on Influenza on the basis of the State Science Virology and Biotechnology Center “Vector”.

15. The Working Group welcomed the outcome of the Seminar of Experts on Prevention of Infectious Diseases, including HIV/AIDS and in Trans-Border Conflicts and Terrorist Attacks, for the Protection of the Population, held on 31 October 2006 in Moscow. The Participants considered this event as being a success and a useful initiative undertaken by the Russian Chairmanship-in-Office and invited other Member States to examine the possibilities of organizing similar events in the nearest future.

16. The Working Group took also note of the Recommendation 90/2006: “Cooperation in combating the bird flu in the Black Sea region” adopted by the PABSEC General Assembly at its Meeting held on 7 June 2006 in Yerevan.

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION IN THE BSEC MEMBER STATES IN VIEW OF ELABORATION OF A JOINT STRATEGY OF THE SYSTEM OF EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE WITHIN BSEC

17. The delegations presented information on the epidemiological situation and on national policies and programs implemented by their countries in the field of preventing and combating epidemiological diseases, especially HIV/AIDS and avian/pandemic influenza.

18. They welcomed the proposal made by the Country – Coordinator of the Working Group regarding the elaboration of a joint strategy of epidemiological surveillance within BSEC based on the experience used within CIS. The concept of the said strategy (including the List of exchangeable information, frequency and institutions in charge) will be transmitted by the Country-Coordinator through PERMIS by 1 March 2007. The participants agreed to transmit to PERMIS their proposals and contributions for the said strategy by 1 May 2007, as well as to continue deliberations on the issue at the next Working Group Meeting.

DISCUSSION ON THE ELABORATION OF A DRAFT AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF SANITARY PROTECTION OF THE TERRITORIES OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

19. The Working Group took note of the Draft Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Sanitary Protection of the BSEC Member States Territories proposed by the Russian Federation, as well as of the proposal regarding the establishment of a Council of Cooperation on Sanitary Protection among BSEC Member States based on the said Draft Agreement. The said Draft is attached as Annex IV to the Report in English and Russian languages.

20. The participants agreed to communicate their assessment, opinions and proposals to PERMIS by 1 February 2007 and to continue deliberations on the issue under the coordination of the Russian Federation at the next Meeting of the Working Group.

PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND

21. The Working Group took note of the presentation of the Project Development Fund made by PERMIS.

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS AND PDF PROJECT APPLICATIONS FOR COOPERATION AMONG BSEC MEMBER STATES IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH CARE AND PHARMACEUTICS

22. In accordance with the established practice, the delegations presented for discussion their proposals on elaboration of multilateral projects in the BSEC framework.

23. The Working Group considered the PDF application: “Study of the Capacities and Requirements of Operational Client-Server Health Information System for Diabetes (Tele-Diab)” submitted by institutions of Romania, Greece and Turkey and recommended to the Committee of Senior Officials to endorse the said Project. Furthermore, it took note in a positive manner of the wish of the Russian delegation to participate in the realization of the above mentioned project.

24. The Working Group took note of the presentation of a project idea “Integrating Mentally Disabled Children into Civil Society: development of new methodologies of social behavior as a model for BSEC Member States” submitted by Non-Commercial Partnership Charity Center “Rafail”, Russian Federation, and agreed to consider the said project idea during the next Meeting of the Working Group after consultation with national institutions and the submission of a detailed project by the applicant. The participants recommended to the applicant country to submit a formal application according to BSEC Project Development Fund (PDF) procedure.

25. Furthermore, the Working Group took note of the following presentations made by representatives of Russian institutions and welcomed their availability to share experience with other BSEC Member States:

- a) Ways to improve quality and availability of medicinal and medical care during healthcare service modernization;
- b) Protection of Russian pharmaceutical market from infringing goods;
- c) Issues regarding medication standardization – perspectives of Russian Pharmacopoeia harmonization;
- d) Role of professional community in the sphere of medical goods circulation;
- e) Healthcare of women and children is very important item of the state policy regarding healthcare in Russian Federation;
- f) Development of joint telemedicine systems ZAO “National Telemedicine Agency”;
- g) Telemedicine support for foreign tourists.

26. The Working Group invited the Member States to communicate to PERMIS their intention to participate in the implementation of the “Telemedicine Support for Foreign Tourists” Project in the BSEC framework.

27. The Working Group agreed to intensify cooperation in the fight against counterfeit medicines in the BSEC framework and called upon the Member States to exchange information with respect to methods for preventing counterfeiting.

28. Furthermore, the Working Group took note of the interim report of the implementation of the PDF project “ System for combating epidemiological diseases (AIDS/HIV, tuberculosis and malaria) with the use of information-communications technologies” and expressed its support for the continuation of the project.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

29. The exact date and venue of the next meeting of the Working Group on Health Care and Pharmaceutics will be communicated to the Member States through BSEC PERMIS in due course.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

30. The Working Group expressed its sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Health and Social Development of the Russian Federation for the hospitality and excellent organization of the Meeting.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

31. The Working Group adopted the present Report and agreed to submit it for consideration to the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States to be held in Belgrade in April 2007.
