



Istanbul, 29 September 2005

BS/HP/WG/R(2005)1

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

Istanbul, BSEC Headquarters, 28-29 September 2005

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Health Care and Pharmaceutics was held in Istanbul, at the BSEC Headquarters, on 28-29 September 2005.

2. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Bulgaria
Hellenic Republic
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Ukraine

The list of participants is attached as Annex I.

3. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Ștefan GHEIRGHITĂ, Prime – Deputy Director, Scientific and Practical National Center of the Preventive Medicine of the Republic of Moldova.

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

**EXCHANGE OF PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD OF PREVENTION
MEASURES OF HIV/AIDS AND OTHER EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DISEASES IN THE
BLACK SEA REGION, INCLUDING THAT IN THE FIELD OF TRAINING OF
SPECIALISTS IN PROPHYLAXIS OF THESE DISEASES**

5. The delegations presented information on national policies and programs implemented by their countries in the field of preventing and combating HIV/AIDS and other epidemiological diseases.

6. The necessity to enhance cooperation among BSEC Member States, as well as of coordinating efforts, including the establishment of mechanisms for exchange of information and practical experience, was emphasized.

7. The Working Group renewed its interest to organize a Joint Seminar or Workshop on HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases with the assistance of UNAIDS and other international organizations and institutions. The suggested topics should focus on epidemiological surveillance and control, education programs for different groups of population, including migrants in the Black Sea Region.

8. The Working Group instructed the BSEC PERMIS and the Country-Coordinator to carry out the necessary work required for the organization of the above-mentioned Seminar jointly with the UNAIDS.

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON THE SUBJECT OF JOINT MEASURES RELATED TO:

- **prevention of bioterrorism;**

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

10. The participants took note of the presentation made by the delegation of the Hellenic Republic titled "Preparedness Planning for Biological and Chemical Incident". They welcomed the proposal made by the Hellenic Republic to share with the BSEC Member States the experience developed and acquired during the Olympic Games in the field of preventing and combating bioterrorism through the organization of seminars or training of specialists, and agreed that such an event should be organized in consultation with the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group, in the nearest future.

- **protection of the territories from penetration and spreading of extremely dangerous and quarantine diseases;**
- **development of new technologies of diagnostics and treatment of new infectious diseases (bird flu, severe acute respiratory syndrome);**
- **study of drug resistance formation mechanisms of pathogens of the most pressing infectious diseases, including tuberculosis and HIV;**
- **strengthening the cooperation with the Working Group on Environmental Protection for solving problems related to the prevention of spread of epidemic and endemic diseases, chemical and radiological security.**

11. 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.

12. A special emphasis was given to vaccine preventable diseases and avian influenza (bird flu) and measures taken by the Member States to address these issues.

13. They agreed that the exchange of information and the establishment of direct contacts 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.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Project Proposal by the delegation of Romania titled “Web Services Integration for Chronic Complications Prevention and Health Promotion in Diabetes” (Open BlackSeaDiab)

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

Following presentation has been made:

“Web Services Integration for Chronic Complications Prevention and Health Promotion in Diabetes” (Open BlackSeaDiab) submitted by the Institute of Diabetes Nutrition and Metabolic Diseases of Romania. The presented project is attached as Annex III.

15. The Working Group took note of the project proposal and agreed to consider the said project during the next meeting of the Working Group, after consultation with the national institutions. Furthermore, the participants recommended to the applicant country to submit a formal application according to the BSEC Project Development Fund (PDF) procedure.

b) Discussion on the activity and the prospects of the Working Group on Health Care and Pharmaceutics

16. The participants considered the activity carried out by the Working Group on Health Care and Pharmaceutics so far. They stressed the importance of the continuation of the cooperation among the BSEC Member States in these spheres and the necessity to make best use of the BSEC framework in order to reenergize the activity of the said Working Group and to give a new impetus to the regional cooperation in issues of utmost importance for the life standards and social development of the countries from the region.

17. They invited the Member States which did not attend the Meeting to join the efforts aiming at enhancing regional cooperation in the above-mentioned fields.

18. The proposal of the organization of meetings of the Working Group on regular basis has been strongly supported by the participants.

19. The Russian Federation, in its capacity of the Country – Coordinator of the Working Group on Health Care and Pharmaceutics proposed to focus in the future the cooperation on the following priority fields:

- Joint measures for combating infectious diseases through exchange of information, practical experience and training in the field of prevention measures and of measures of diagnostics and treatment of contagious diseases;
- Elaboration of a Joint strategy of the System of Epidemiological Surveillance based on information exchange on epidemiological situation in the Member States;
- Scientific research and education (exchange of information, seminars, joint training programs);
- Improvement of the legal framework of the cooperation through the elaboration of a draft Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Sanitary Protection of the Territories of the BSEC Member States;
- Healthcare of child and teenagers;

- Protection of reproduction health of women of different age groups;
- Prevention and combating bioterrorism.

20. The Working Group took note of the proposals made by the Russian Federation and invited the Member States to communicate their possible suggestions or amendments by the end of November 2005, so that the next Country-Coordinator would be in a position to prepare the Draft Action Plan for the activity of the Working Group, to be discussed and adopted during the next Meeting of the Working Group.

21. The participants expressed their appreciations for the work done by the Russian Federation as the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group on Health Care and Pharmaceuticals. The Working Group took note of the intention of the Russian Federation to apply for the appointment as Country-Coordinator of the Working Group on Health Care and Pharmaceuticals, for the period November 2005 – October 2007 and recommended to the Committee of Senior Officials to consider the matter in a positive manner, providing the Russian Federation will submit the formal application in due course.

22. The Working Group recommended to the Council to call upon future BSEC Chairmanships to regularly convene the Meetings for the Working Group on Health Care and Pharmaceuticals.

23. The Working Group was informed in a preliminary way about the activities that the Russian Federation intends to carry out in the field of Health Care and Pharmaceuticals in its capacity as Chairmanship-in-Office of BSEC (May – October 2006), including the organization of the next meeting of the Working Group on Health Care and Pharmaceuticals.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

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

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

25. The Working Group adopted the present Report and agreed to submit it for consideration to the Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States to be held in Chisinau on 28 October 2005.