



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

Sakıp Sabancı Cad., Müşir Fuad Paşa Yalısı, Eski Tersane, 34467 İstinye – Istanbul/Turkey

Tel: ++90 212 2296330-35 Fax: ++90 212 2296336

E-mail: info@bsec-organization.org

www.bsec-organization.org

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REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

BSEC Headquarters, 20 October 2016

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Information and Communication Technologies was held at the BSEC Headquarters, on 20 October 2016.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Vladan LAZOVIC, Special Representative of the Serbian Chairmanship-in-Office of the Organization of BSEC, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Hellenic Republic
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Serbia
Republic of Turkey
4. The List of Participants of the Meeting is attached as **Annex I**.
5. The draft Agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The Agenda, as adopted, is attached as **Annex II**.

AGENDA ITEM 2: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE DECLARATIONS ADOPTED BY THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

6. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on the Resolution of the 15th BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (Moscow, 1 November 2006) and on the Decision, relevant to the activities of the Working Group on ICT, adopted by the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs at its 33rd Meeting in Bucharest on 11 December 2015.

AGENDA ITEM 3: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE “BSEC ECONOMIC AGENDA TOWARDS AN ENHANCED BSEC PARTNERSHIP”. PROPOSALS FOR NEW PRIORITIES OF COOPERATION IN THE FIELD WITHIN THE 2nd ACTION PLAN OF THE BSEC 2012 ECONOMIC AGENDA (2016-2018)

7. The Working Group reconfirmed the priorities selected for the second medium-term (2016-2018) of implementation of the Goal 12 of the “BSEC Economic Agenda 2012” as follows:

- Supporting efforts by the BSEC Member States to establish and develop relevant Information and Communication Technologies infrastructure with a view to addressing regional connectivity challenges and promoting viable projects in this sector having regional impact.

- Encouraging establishment of companies in the BSEC Member States with the view to creating high added value and providing complex engineering solutions and services, local IT products competitive in international markets.

- Encouraging cooperation among the BSEC Member States and with the relevant international organizations with regard to developing communication technologies in the postal service and introducing advanced postal processing, modernization and automation of procedures.

8. The Working Group suggested selecting two more priority areas in addition to the reconfirmed priorities as follows:

- Taking joint measures to provide a safer cyber-space in the BSEC Region and exchanging experiences and best practices on combating cyber-crime.

- Encouraging the private sector in developing the use of Information and Communications Technologies in the BSEC Member States by promoting investments in new technologies and networking, where possible.

9. The Working Group agreed to take into account these priorities on the course of the consideration and evaluation of the potential project proposals in the field of ICT submitted to the Project Development Fund (PDF) or any other funds or facilities established in the BSEC for the purpose of financing regional projects in the Black Sea area.

10. The delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan proposed to take into account an additional priority “*Supporting the process of harmonization of digital markets between BSEC Member States*” for the consideration of the project proposals and also suggested to develop relations with the potential donors and organizations for financing project proposals under the mentioned priorities.

AGENDA ITEM 4: APPOINTMENT OF THE COUNTRY-COORDINATOR OF THE WORKING GROUP

11. The delegation of the Republic of Armenia reconfirmed their application to continue the duty of the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group for the next period of two years.

12. The delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan reconfirmed their willingness to assume the duty of the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group for the next period of two years.

13. The Working Group exchanged views on this Agenda item and could not reach the conclusion on the coordinatorship of the Working Group on ICT.

14. The Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS underlined the urgency in reaching a mutually acceptable solution for the appointment of the Country-Coordinator in order to streamline the activities of this subsidiary organ of the BSEC, and the participants of the Working Group agreed with his statement.

AGENDA ITEM 5: ICT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

15. The delegations of the Member States discussed the prospects of cooperation among the BSEC Member States in the field of ICT and made presentations on the latest developments related to ICT in their countries.

16. The delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan made a presentation on “*ICT Development in the Republic of Azerbaijan*”, with a special emphasis on e-government, internet broadband, cyber-security and innovation in the field of ICT. The presentation is attached as **Annex III**.

17. The delegation of the Hellenic Republic made a presentation on “*The Main Issues of the Development of the ICT Sector in Greece*”, given special attention to the broadband development and progress during the last year. The increased broadband performance, the internet usage indicators accompanied with e-commerce and e-government indicators, as well as some infrastructure projects which are under implementation, in responsibility of the Ministry of Infrastructure Transport and Networks, were the main points of the presentation. The presentation is attached as **Annex IV**.

AGENDA ITEM 6: COOPERATION BETWEEN BSEC AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS/INSTITUTIONS IN THE FIELD OF ICT

18. The participants took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on interaction of BSEC PERMIS and the Permanent Secretariat of the Black Sea Broadcasting Regulatory Authorities Forum (BRAAF), including the information on the 7th Annual Meeting of the Forum of the Black Sea Broadcasting Regulatory Authorities (BRAAF) held in Chisinau on 8-9 September 2016 and hosted by the Audiovisual Coordinating Council of Moldova (CCA).

19. The Member States were invited to inform the BSEC PERMIS of any proposal for establishing working contacts with relevant specialized international and regional organizations/institutions, inter alia, by inviting their representatives to participate at the meetings of the Working Group on ICT.

20. The delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan proposed to establish coordination between Techno Parks in the BSEC Member States as well as among Computer Emergency Responsible Teams (CERT) of the BSEC Member States.

AGENDA ITEM 7: EXPERT DIALOGUE ON E-COMMERCE IN THE BSEC REGION

21. The participants exchanged views on the issue of establishing an Expert Dialogue on e-commerce on the basis of the initiative of the Russian Federation.

22. The representative of the Russian Federation informed the Working Group on the activities related to the issue of development of cooperation among the BSEC Member States in the sphere of electronic commerce based on the relevant proposals of the Russian Federation carried out during the Russian Chairmanship-in-Office in the BSEC.

23. The Working Group supported the activities on e-commerce of the Working Group on Trade and Economic Development and encouraged the national experts to continue considering this important issue. The Working Group expressed its readiness to cooperate with the Working Group on Trade and Economic Development on the issue of e-commerce.

AGENDA ITEM 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

24. No issue was raised under this Agenda item.

AGENDA ITEM 9: DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

25. The date and the venue of the next Meeting will be communicated in due time through the BSEC PERMIS, after consultations with the Chairmanship-in-Office.

AGENDA ITEM 10: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

26. The participants adopted the present Report for its submission to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials.