



Annex II to BS/ICT/M/R(2009)1

**DECLARATION
OF THE MINISTERS OF
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES
OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES**

Baku, Azerbaijan November 4, 2009

The Ministers of Information and Communication Technologies of the Member States of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) met in Baku on 4 November 2009.

The Ministers:

ACKNOWLEDGING that efficient communications (telecommunications, broadcasting, cable television and information networks-Internet) are essential for economies and societies of the BSEC Member States and their integration into the global economy,

REITERATING their adherence to the provisions of the Joint Declaration of the Ministers in Charge of Information Technologies and Communications (Moscow, 2006),

RECOGNIZING the important role of the BSEC Related Bodies (PABSEC, BSEC Business Council, BSTDB, and ICBSS) in the identification, study and promotion of ICT projects,

WELCOMING the establishment by the BSEC countries of a Forum of the Black Sea Broadcasting Regulatory Authorities¹ as an important mechanism on exchange of experience and information on broadcasting and its regulatory aspects, promotion of multicultural dialogue, elaboration of standards for independent, objective, responsible and accountable broadcasting in the BSEC countries, directed, in particular, to the protection of human rights and dignity, individual privacy, protection of children, freedom of expression, respect of intellectual property,

HIGHLY APPRECIATING the work done by previous Country-Coordinators of the BSEC Working Group on Information and Communication Technologies – Republic of Turkey (2002-2004), Russian Federation (2004-2006), Ukraine (2006-2008) for the development of ICT cooperation in the BSEC,

¹ The Inaugural Meeting on Establishment of the Forum of the Black Sea Broadcasting Regulatory Authorities was held at the BSEC Headquarters on 30 June 2008;

WELCOMING the appointment of the Republic of Azerbaijan as a Country-Coordinator of the ICT Working Group for the period of 2009-2011,

NOTING the importance of cooperation with other international organizations in the field of ICT including International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Universal Postal Union (UPU) and Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications (CIS RCC),

AGREED on the following:

- To cooperate in development of information and communication technologies (ICT) based on internationally interoperable technical standards, technical normative documents, and technological innovation, as well as systems in exchanging knowledge at regional or sub-regional levels.
- To develop joint projects for the introduction of new ICT applications in different areas including e-government, e-business, e-learning, e-health services etc. For these purposes to use the opportunities provided by the BSEC Project Development Fund.
- To promote, support and consider the best ways of realization of the joint international and regional ICT and telecommunications backbone network projects, inter alia, the initiative of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Trans-Eurasian Information Super Highway and the Black Sea Interconnection Project, coordinated by the Republic of Turkey and under implementation, for the efficient use and further development of existing infrastructure.
- To support and seek the ways for possible BSEC involvement into the next phase of the Black Sea Interconnection project
- To coordinate positions of the BSEC Member States in laying the plan for digital broadcasting on the basis of internationally recognized standards.
- To cooperate in the field of frequency coordination between Member States and cross border interference in the UHF-FM frequency band and television broadcasting.
- To organize exchange of experts in order to utilize the experience of BSEC Member States in ICT management.
- To consider the issue of developing cooperation in the field of satellite technologies.
- To seek ways for more active involvement of the regions of the BSEC Member States in cooperation in the field of ICT, including through extending invitations to the regional authorities to take part in the ICT events in the BSEC Member States. And in this regard, to participate in conferences, exhibitions and workshops in the field of ICT in accordance with the Working Program of the WG for 2009-2011.

- To promote contacts among ICT administrations, regulatory authorities, operators and the private sector in BSEC Member States.
- To exchange information on legislative, regulatory and standard framework in the field of ICT, including issues related to information security.
- To inform the BSEC Member States about the administrative changes and reforms undertaken at the national level that leads to the change of state policy in the field of ICT.
- To promote development and implementation of programs for disposal and recycling of discarded ICT hardware and parts with the aim of the environmental protection.
- To exchange information on the use of the ICT standards in developing information systems for government authorities, state and business organizations.
- To coordinate and develop cooperation in the framework of international organizations.
- To request the BSEC Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies to take necessary steps for the implementation of this Declaration.

The Ministers expressed their gratitude to the Government and the Ministry of Communication and Information Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the excellent organization of the Meeting and hospitality extended.