

**ORGANIZATION
OF THE BLACK SEA
ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

**INTERNATIONAL
CENTER FOR
BLACK SEA STUDIES**

**FRIEDRICH
EBERT
FOUNDATION**

**WORKSHOP
GETTING THE ACT TOGETHER:
STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS' CAPACITIES IN THE BSEC COUNTRIES**

Baky, 22-23 September 2003

Workshop No. 2

Summary Proceedings

1. The Workshop titled "Getting the Act Together: Strengthening International Relations' Capacities in the BSEC Countries" was held in Baky, Republic of Azerbaijan, on 22-23 September 2003. It was organized by the Permanent International Secretariat of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC PERMIS) and the International Center for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS), in cooperation with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation.
2. Welcoming statements were delivered by H.E. Mr. Farhad ALIYEV, Minister for Economic Development, H.E. Mr. Valeri CHECHELASHVILI, Ambassador, Secretary General of the Permanent International Secretariat of the BSEC; Mr. Yiannis PAPANICOLAOU, Director General of the International Center for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS); and Mr. Guenther FICHTNER, Director, Coordination Office Caucasus and Central Asia, Friedrich Ebert Foundation.
3. The Workshop was co-chaired in rotation by Messrs. H.E. Valeri CHECHELASHVILI, Yiannis PAPANICOLAOU, Guenther FICHTNER. The closing statement for the Workshop has been delivered by Mr. Samir VELIYEV, Executive Director, Ministry for Economic Development.
4. The Workshop was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:
 - Republic of Albania
 - Republic of Azerbaijan
 - Bulgaria
 - Georgia
 - Hellenic Republic
 - Republic of Moldova
 - Romania
 - Russian Federation
 - Republic of Turkey
 - Ukraine
5. Lead speakers included:

- Mr. Bob BONWITT, Director of the SIGMA Programme, Directorate for Public Governance and Territorial Development, OECD;
- Mr. Altay EFENDIYEV, Head of Department of Economic Cooperation and Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. David SWALLEY, Economic and Environmental Officer, OSCE;
- Ms. Katerina ILIADOU, Head of Department of Decision-making of the Hellenic Regulatory Energy Authority;
- Mr. Eric EMBLETON, Expert, Formerly Deputy Secretary, Irish Department of Finance
- Mr. Victor LOBANOV, Deputy Director, State University of Management, Institute of Public Administration, Moscow;
- Mr. Scott JACOBS, Expert, Formerly Senior Official, OECD
- Ms. Jivka STANEVA, Head of Unit "European Integration", Council of Ministers, Bulgarian Government;
- Mr. Nikos VARELIDIS, Director, PRISMA Consultants, Advisor, ICBSS.

6. The list of participants is attached as Annex I and the Program of the Workshop is attached as Annex II.

7. The Workshop came to the following conclusions:

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7.1. The 2nd workshop was an important step forward towards the objectives set for the BSEC initiative for good governance. It has moved well beyond the introductory and awareness raising and networking character of the first workshop. Presentations focused in depth on key aspects of institutional renewal and good governance as well as policy sectors relevant to the BSEC countries where the strengthening of international relations capacities is a crucial issue; they gave the opportunity to participants to discuss those aspects in depth and relate them to the conditions of their own countries. More specifically presentations included:

a. A focused overview of the OECD/SIGMA experience from its work institutional renewal with the accession countries of central and eastern Europe and the candidate countries of the Balkans. The overview focused on the lessons learned and their relevance for BSEC countries and provided a framework of concepts and issues for approaching institutional renewal in a systematic and practical way.

b. A comprehensive overview of the experience of the institutional reform in Ireland focusing on its organizational aspects (players, structures and systems); together with an overview of the strategy and methods of institutional reform in Russia.

c. A detailed analysis of the international experience, current developments and practical methods and tools for introducing and managing regulatory reform; together with an overview of the Bulgarian experience in regulatory reform.

d. Detailed examinations of two policy areas that are of particular interest to BSEC countries. The first was energy, where the issues regarding liberalization, regulation and regional cooperation were discussed together with a presentation of the experience of the ongoing project for a regional energy market in South East Europe. The second was environment, where an the issues of dealing with environmental problems accumulated over

a long period of time and those related to current practices have been identified and discussed.

7.2. The composition and level of participation confirmed the interest of BSEC countries in pursuing the objectives of this series of three workshops. It was decided that the next (and last) workshop should move one more step forward by focusing at a more practical level on specific issues and problems directly relevant to the participating countries. Two actions were agreed that for this purpose:

a. First, that country delegations will propose two project ideas that they would like covered in the 3rd workshop and would like to include in a follow-up programme to this series of three workshops. They would have to be doable, reflect country priorities, be located close to their own position in government, have scope for regional cooperation, and, in principle at least, have the support of the government at a high level. ICBSS will prepare a format for preparing the proposals in a succinct way (2-3 pages), organize the 3rd workshop so as to cover the majority of project ideas proposed, and use the proposals for preparing the ground for the follow-up programme of work.

b. Second, that country reviews on the profile of good governance are made available for all BSEC countries. Country reviews are already available or being updated from OECD-SIGMA for Greece, Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania and Albania. It is desirable that country reviews are prepared for the rest of BSEC countries using the standard OECD-SIGMA format and methodology. ICBSS will undertake to discuss with OECD-SIGMA the possibility that the reviews are undertaken by its services. If that is not possible country delegations will undertake to compile these reviews with guidance by ICBSS.

These two action should be completed before January or February 2004 so that they will be used for the organization of the of the 3rd workshop that is scheduled for May 2004, and the preparatory work for the follow-up programme.

8. The participants expressed their sincere appreciation and thanks to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ministry of Economic Development of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the BSEC PERMIS and ICBSS for their help and contribution in organizing the Workshop.