

**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**

Tbilisi, 7-8 October 2004

Workshop No. 3

Summary Proceedings

1. The Workshop titled "Getting the Act Together: Strengthening International Relations' Capacities in the BSEC Countries" was held in Tbilisi, Georgia, on 7-8 October 2004. It was organized, as a concluding event in a series of three workshops, 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. Michael UKLEBA, Deputy Foreign Minister of Georgia; H.E. Amb. Altai EFENDIEV, Deputy Secretary General of the Permanent International Secretariat of the BSEC; Dr. Yiannis PAPANICOLAOU, Director General of the International Center for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS); and Mr. Guenter FICHTNER, Coordinator for South Caucasus, Friedrich Ebert Foundation.
3. The Workshop was co-chaired in rotation by Mr. David KERESLIDZE, Dr. Yiannis PAPANICOLAOU, Amb. Sergiu CELAC, Mr. Guenter FICHTNER, Mr. Derry ORMOMD.
4. The Workshop was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:
 - Republic of Albania
 - Republic of Armenia
 - Republic of Azerbaijan
 - Bulgaria
 - Georgia
 - Hellenic Republic
 - Romania
 - Russian Federation
 - Republic of Turkey
 - Ukraine

5. Lead speakers included:
 - Mr. Derry ORMOND, Consultant, former Director of Public Management Programmes, OECD;
 - Mr. Rutger WISSELS, Director, Wider Europe Task Force, European Commission;
 - Mr. Bob BONWITT, Director of the SIGMA Programme, Directorate for Public Governance and Territorial Development, OECD;
 - Mr. Klaudijus MANIOKAS, former Deputy Chief Negotiator for EU Entry, Director, Institute of EU Policy and Management, ESTEP, Law University of Lithuania;
 - Mr. Nikos VARELIDIS, Adviser to the ICBSS;
 - Mr. Panayotis NTAIS, Head of the Budget Department, Ministry of Interior and Public Administration, Hellenic Republic;
 - Mr. Kartlos KUPIANI, Secretary of the Public Service Council, Head of the Public Service Bureau, Tbilisi.

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

7. The presentations delivered at the Workshop and the debates emphasized the following main points:
 - The 3rd workshop successfully concluded the current programme of three workshops on the subject of good governance and institutional renewal with a special focus on strengthening international relations capacities in BSEC countries. It achieved the objectives set by the BSEC and set the stage for the continuation of this initiative in future. The workshop focused on the key theme of policy management and coordination, discussed the subject of relations between BSEC countries and the European Union, debated a draft document presenting the conclusions and lessons learned from the first two workshops, and agreed on the priorities on a road map for future action in this field.
 - Two keynote presentations stimulated extensive discussion among participants. Mr. Derry Ormond offered an in-depth overview of the issues regarding the institutional and governance prerequisites for effective policy making and policy management. Mr. Rutger Wissels, Director of the Task Force Wider Europe, European Commission, made a comprehensive and informative presentation of the European Neighborhood Policy and its political, legal and financial implications; analysed the implications of this policy for the BSEC countries and their future relations with the European Union; indicated the opportunities it offered to the BSEC countries covered by the policy; and outlined the steps being planned for its implementation.
 - The experiences of two countries about the way they dealt with managing international relations in the context of European integration and their membership of the European Union were presented and discussed. They included the experience of Lithuania, presented by Dr. Klaudijus Maniokas, former Deputy Chief Negotiator for EU accession; and that of Greece, presented by Mr. Panayiotis Ntais, Head of Budget, Ministry of Interior and Public Administration. In addition, Mr. Kartlos Kypiani, Secretary of the Public Service Council of Georgia, presented the current policies of Georgia for institutional renewal and governance improvement.
 - The rapporteur of the three workshops programme, Mr. Nikos Varelidis, presented a draft report on the work carried out in the first two workshops. The report summarised the

lessons learned so far and the implications for intervention strategies in the field of institutional renewal and governance improvement. Mr. Bob Bonwitt, Director of the SIGMA Programme, OECD, provided detailed comments on the paper as part of his presentation of a critical review of the issues involved in institutional renewal. Following, extensive discussions, the workshop participants agreed that the report reflected the content of the first two workshops. Suggestions and comments were offered regarding the substance, content and style, of the final report on the programme to be published by BSEC.

- The workshop was concluded with a round table session where participants made an overall assessment of the three workshops and discussed future steps in the field of institutional renewal and governance improvement. There was agreement among participants that the three workshops have been successful in introducing systematically and in an informed way the subject of institutional renewal and good governance in the field of international relations in the policy agenda of BSEC and its member states. The participants agreed that collaborative work on this subject among BSEC countries should continue and be expanded to cover governance activities beyond the field of international relations. Future work could combine a variety of different activities such as workshops, training and collaborative action projects. It was suggested that the next steps in this direction should include the drafting of a plan of action at a preparatory meeting of BSEC country representatives during the Hellenic Chairmanship (November 2004 – April 2005), together with the consolidation of this subject at the level of BSEC, possibly through the formation of a permanent working group on institutional renewal and governance improvement.

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