



# ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

## Permanent International Secretariat

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BS/ST/WG/R(2012)1

### REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Istanbul, BSEC Headquarters, 28 May 2012

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology (WGCST) was held in Istanbul, at the BSEC Headquarters, on 28 May 2012.
2. The Meeting was co-chaired by Dr. Miroslav PROCOVIC, Consul General and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Serbia to the BSEC PERMIS in Istanbul and Dr. Vassiliki PLE TSA, Official, General Secretariat for Research & Technology, International S&T Cooperation Directorate-European Union Division, Ministry of Education, Life Long Learning & Religious Affairs of the Hellenic Republic.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:  
  
Republic of Armenia  
Republic of Azerbaijan  
Hellenic Republic  
Republic of Moldova  
Romania  
Russian Federation  
Republic of Serbia  
Republic of Turkey  
Ukraine
4. The representatives of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the United States of America and the European Commission attended the Meeting as BSEC Observers.
5. The representative of the Energy Policy and Development Centre (KEPA), the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, attended the Meeting as a Guest.

The list of participants of the Meeting is attached as Annex I.

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

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BSEC COUNCIL AND THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE DECLARATIONS AND JOINT STATEMENTS ADOPTED BY THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

7. The BSEC PERMIS representative informed on the ways and dynamics of the implementation of the Resolution of the 15th BSEC Council (Moscow, 1 November 2006) with reference to the activities of the Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology relative to the implementation of the BSEC Council Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations, since the last Meeting of the Working Group (Moscow, 28-29 November 2011).

8. The participants acknowledged the information on the issue provided by the BSEC PERMIS and expressed the willingness to proceed more actively in order to secure the necessary dynamics of the implementation of the Council Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations.

## **REPORTING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR 2010-2012.**

9. The representative of the Hellenic Republic in her capacity as the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group, presented the Final “Report on the Implementation of the Plan of Action of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology 2010-2012”, attached as **Annex III**. The Report covered the main areas envisaged by the Plan of Action: human resources, capacity building, research infrastructure, innovation, historical relations and cultural ties, synergies and support for multilateral horizontal projects, including the time schedule for specific actions. In this regard, emphasis on synergies with EU programs/initiatives and means for a more structured and systematic cooperation among the BSEC Member States and with EU, should be intensively explored.

10. The Working Group considered and approved the Final Report for submission to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials of the BSEC Member States.

11. The representative of the Republic of Turkey informed that the new draft Plan of Action is being elaborated and noted that all the good practices and projects envisaged in the current Plan of Action will be continued during the term of office of the next Country-Coordinator (Republic of Turkey).

## **PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND (PDF)**

12. The representative of the BSEC PERMIS informed on the current financial situation of the PDF. He also recalled that the Project Proposal “Develop and Prepare an Experimental Sample of Data Logger Radon Measuring Device Set with Data Collection Central Controller”, submitted by institutions of the Republic of Armenia (Lead Partner), Georgia and the Russian Federation, was approved and it is ready for its implementation.

13. The Working Group took note of the above mentioned information by the BSEC PERMIS representative, and the Member States are invited to present their project proposals for funding by the BSEC Project Development Fund.

### **SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL PARKS OF BSEC**

14. Upon the request of the representative of the Hellenic Republic, the Working Group decided to remove this issue from the agenda of the Working Group.

### **MEMORANDUM OF INTENT ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY BSEC-USA**

15. The participants took note of the information on the latest developments following the signing of the MoI, presented by the BSEC PERMIS representative. Within this framework a course on marine spatial planning was proposed by the United States of America.

16. The Working Group agreed to identify the possible thematic fields for the BSEC-USA cooperation under the MoI.

17. The representative of the United States of America expressed the readiness of his country to receive suggestions and proposals by the BSEC Member States on the implementation of the MoI.

18. The representative of the Republic of Armenia informed that a proposal on the establishment of the Association of the BSEC ICT Incubators, under the framework of the above mentioned MoI, is being elaborated and will be introduced in due course.

### **COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (OVERALL EVALUATION, CONCRETE PROJECT PROPOSALS)**

19. The participants took note of the information on the issue presented by the BSEC PERMIS representative and reiterated the importance of the previous decision of the Working Group to have the issue of the “Cooperation between BSEC-EU” as a permanent agenda item.

20. The representative of the Republic of Turkey informed on the current developments with regard to the Black Sea Research Programme (BSRP) being developed under the Black Sea ERA.NET, the “ERA.NET – RUS” projects, and their importance for the BSEC Member States.

21. The representatives of the Hellenic Republic and the Republic of Turkey underlined the importance of the active involvement of the BSEC Member States in the BSRP in view of its benefits and the need of support for its sustainability.

22. The representative of the Republic of Turkey also provided information on the SEAS-ERA Project and the Black Sea Strategic Agenda Document that put forward the priorities for the Black Sea in marine research.

23. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the representative of the European Commission on the state of affairs of the EU Framework Program (FP7) and its new call for proposals that will be launched in July 2012.

24. The Working Group also took note of the information provided by the representative of the European Commission on the proposal of the Commission on the Horizon 2020.

25. The representative of the Energy Policy and Development Centre (KEPA) delivered a presentation on “S&T Cooperation in BSEC (The case of PROMITHEASnet)”, attached as **Annex IV**. He also informed of the meeting of the Deans of the Schools of Philosophy to be held in Athens on 30-31 August 2012, and invited the representatives of the respective institutions of the BSEC Member States to take part in it.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

26. In conformity with the Declaration of the Ministers Responsible for Science and Technology of the BSEC Member States (Sofia, 9 April 2010), the Working Group considered the possibility of holding a mid-term Ministerial Meeting during the incoming Chairmanship in Office (Republic of Turkey) in the fall of 2012, to review progress in cooperation in the field of science and technology, including the implementation of the Second BSEC Action Plan for 2010-2014 and to chart the way forward.

27. The representative of the Republic of Turkey informed that the date and venue of the Meeting will be communicated to the BSEC Member States in due time, following the preparation of the Calendar of Events.

#### **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

28. The Working Group adopted the present Report for the submission to the Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials of the BSEC Member States (Belgrade, 9-10 June 2012).

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