



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

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

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

E-mail: info@bsec-organization.org

www.bsec-organization.org

BS/WG/S&T/R(2015)2

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

BSEC Headquarters, 10 November 2015

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology (WGCST) was held at the BSEC Headquarters, on 10 November 2015.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mrs. Brândușa PREDESCU, Special Representative of the Romanian Chairmanship-in-Office to BSEC, Minister Plenipotentiary, Consulate General of Romania in Istanbul.
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
Ukraine
4. The representatives of the United States and the European Commission attended as BSEC Observers.
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 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

6. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on the implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the Council and the follow up of the Declarations and the Statements of the Ministers in charge of Science and Technology since the last Meeting of the Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology (BSEC Headquarters, 18 May 2015).

AGENDA ITEM 3: ACTIONS TAKEN OR TO BE TAKEN WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE THIRD BSEC ACTION PLAN ON COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (2014-2018)

7. The Working Group took note of the information on the Third BSEC Action Plan on Cooperation in Science and Technology (2014-2018), provided by the BSEC PERMIS.

8. The delegation of the Republic of Turkey informed on the outcomes of the two meetings of the “Black Sea Horizon” project consortium and other interested bodies in the BSEC Region, held in Ankara and Kyiv in May and September 2015, respectively. The meetings, held within the framework of the “Horizon 2020” project titled “Black Sea Horizon” aimed at solidifying the foundation of a future multilateral joint funding scheme with respect to management of the call for proposals and the peer review system, respectively.

9. The representative of the European Commission informed on the scope of the “Black Sea Horizon” project and encouraged BSEC Member States to make best use of it.

10. The BSEC PERMIS delivered to the participants the ICBSS information and call for participation in the 8th International Black Sea Symposium on Science and Technology, to be held in Athens, on 19-20 November 2015, and invited representatives of the Member States and other interested stakeholders to attend the event. The preliminary programme and administrative arrangements of the event have been circulated through the BSEC PERMIS.

11. The BSEC PERMIS also delivered to the participants the information of the ICBSS on the “Black Sea Horizon” project (<http://blacksea-horizon.eu>).

AGENDA ITEM 4: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE “ECONOMIC AGENDA TOWARDS AN ENHANCED BSEC PARTNERSHIP”:

- a. **Discussion of the existing proposals**
- b. **Future developments:**
 - **Priorities for the second medium-term (2016-2018)**
 - **Envisaged deliverables/projects**
 - **First medium-term (2013-2015) achievements report**

12. The delegation of the Republic of Turkey submitted the draft response to the Questionnaire on national innovation related structures, attached as **Annex III**, as an example for possible use by other Member States when responding to the Questionnaire.

13. The Member States were invited to respond to the Questionnaire in order to create a data base of the national innovation related structures of the BSEC Member States.

14. The representative of Romania delivered a presentation on “Actions related to BSEC Economic Agenda, Goal 11, Priority 3”, to be circulated at a later stage.

15. The delegation of the Russian Federation delivered a presentation on “Black Sea Economic Cooperation: Science and Technology Prospectives”, to be circulated at a later stage.

16. The Working Group considered and agreed on the Medium-Term Achievements Report (2013-2015) on the implementation of the “BSEC Economic Agenda 2012”, prepared by BSEC PERMIS, and decided to submit it to the next meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials. The Achievements Report is attached as **Annex IV**.

17. The Working Group also considered the priorities of the “BSEC Economic Agenda 2012” on cooperation in Science and Technology and reconfirmed for the next medium-term (2016-2018) the already existing priorities:

- Human resources, capacity building, research infrastructure and innovation as areas of action;

- Developing a registry of national innovation related structures of the BSEC Member States and creating the conditions for their effective interaction;

- Facilitating closer cooperation in the fields of science and technology among the BSEC Member States, the BSEC Related Bodies and with other partners and international organizations in order to encourage co-funding schemes for formulating and implementing regional research projects.

AGENDA ITEM 5: YOUTH AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

18. The Working Group took note of the information presented by the BSEC PERMIS on the consideration of Youth and Sports issues within BSEC and encouraged the Member States to propose projects reflecting the interconnection between Science and Technology and Youth.

19. The representative of Romania suggested that every project in the BSEC Region should in the future include at least one young researcher from participating countries.

20. The representatives of the Russian Federation, Republic of Serbia, Republic of Turkey, Republic of Armenia and Romania informed on the national efforts in their respective countries to involve young scientists and researchers in projects on Science and Technology.

AGENDA ITEM 6: PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND (PDF) AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT (PMU) PROJECTS

21. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on the state of affairs with regard to the replenishment of the Project Development Fund (PDF) and on the Guidelines for the BSEC Project Management Unit (PMU).

22. The Working Group invited the Member States to submit project proposals within PDF and in compliance with the Guidelines for the PMU.

AGENDA ITEM 7: MEMORANDUM OF INTENT ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY BSEC-USA

23. The Working Group recalled that at its last meeting it was agreed to propose to the United States to consider the possibility of organizing a joint workshop/training on Science and Technology, as an initial step in the implementation of the Memorandum of Intent.

24. The Working Group reiterated its call to the Member States as well as to the United States to present concrete proposals regarding the implementation of the Memorandum of Intent for consideration at its next meeting.

25. The representative of the United States expressed his readiness to inform the relevant US authorities to consider the steps to be taken to implement the above mentioned Memorandum.

AGENDA ITEM 8: COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

26. The Working Group took note of the information presented by BSEC PERMIS on the collaboration with other international and regional organizations, and requested BSEC PERMIS to continue consultations with the UNESCO with a view to strengthening the cooperation between the two organizations.

27. The Working Group took note of the presentation on “EU Strategy for International Cooperation in Research and Innovation” (attached as **Annex V**) and of the invitation to BSEC Member States to participate in project calls, delivered by the representative of the European Commission.

28. The delegation of the Russian Federation informed on the cooperation with international organizations and institutions in the field of science and technology.

29. The representative of Romania suggested to the representative of the European Commission to establish a Group of Senior Officials (GSO) EU-BSEC, similar to GSO EU-MED, as a platform for policy dialogue on science and technology.

AGENDA ITEM 9: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

30. The delegation of the Russian Federation informed on the meetings on science and technology, to be held during the incoming Chairmanship-in-Office of the Russian Federation. The additional information will be provided in due course.

31. The representative of Ukraine made a statement, attached as **Annex VI**.

32. The delegation of the Russian Federation made a statement, attached as **Annex VII**.

33. The Working Group welcomed the active participation of the Observers in the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 10: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

34. The Working Group adopted the present Report for the submission to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials of the BSEC Member States.