



BS/ST/WG/R(97)1

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

Krasnodar, 16-17 December 1997

1. The Meeting of the Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology was held in Krasnodar, Russia on 16-17 December 1997.

2. The Meeting was attended by the following BSEC Participating States:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Bulgaria
Georgia
Hellenic Republic
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine

3. The representatives of Poland and the BSEC Business Council attended the Meeting as Observers.

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

4. The Meeting was chaired by Academician Vladimir A. Babeshko, Rector of the Kuban State University, who conveyed warm greetings to the delegations on behalf of the Russian scientists and scholars. The statement is attached as Annex III.

5. The texts of the welcoming address from the Minister of Science and Technology of the Russian Federation Mr. E. Fortov is attached herewith as Annex IV.

The welcoming statements were made by Deputy Head of the Administration of the Krasnodar region Mr. Nikolai G. Denissov, Vice Chairman of the Regional Legislative Council Mr. Peter M. Kurdiuk and the Mayor of Krasnodar Mr. Valery A. Samoilenko.

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

7. On behalf of the BSEC PERMIS Mr. E. Borissenko, Deputy Secretary General, addressed the meeting. The text of the statement is attached herewith as Annex V.

EXCHANGE OF VIEWS OF THE BSEC PARTICIPATING STATES FOR IMPROVING SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION IN THE REGION

8. The delegations held an exchange of views regarding the possible areas of contribution of scientific circles to the BSEC process and identified the priority areas and actions for joint research activities.

Attention was particularly paid to the economic and environmental problems of sustainable development in the BSEC region with a special emphasis on applying the achievements of science and technology to concrete fields of cooperation.

The participants emphasized a need for creating a legal basis for cooperation in the field of science and technology and recommended to the Foreign Ministers of the BSEC countries to take necessary measures in this direction, including the conclusion of relevant agreements.

It was underlined that a sustainable development model should provide for harmonization of development priorities and environmental issues.

9. The delegations put forward some proposals on new fields for discussion, inter alia, an application of an imitative mathematical model. The participants assessed the contribution made by the Russian delegation to the establishment of mechanisms and modes of cooperation, using mathematic models of economic development of the BSEC countries. They decided to consider, in this field, the Kuban State University as a focal point of the Working Group on Cooperation Science and Technology. It was recommended to study further this issue, taking into account the present situation in various sub-regional structures in the Baltic, Barents and Mediterranean areas. In the majority viewpoint, it would be helpful to know not only objectives and programs of the said structures, but also to learn their difficulties and problems in this field.

The participants supported the idea to ask the Government of Russia and the Directorate of the Federal Program on “Integration” to support the efforts of the Kuban University regarding the involvement of other research institutes into the process of the BSEC countries and to increase financial support to that end.

10. The delegations unanimously supported the idea of employing the scientific and technological potential of their countries for a comprehensive economic development of the BSEC region. The delegations also supported the idea of identification of the industrial mariculture in the Black Sea region, taking into account the specific economic and social aspects and their interaction for the improvement of the links between the science and technology and innovation in this field. In this respect, active participation of scientific and academic institutions with their great

experience and accumulated information could indeed be very helpful in promoting the scientific and technological cooperation in the BSEC region.

11. It was mentioned that a substantial financial support from the BSEC Governments is needed for further development of scientific and technological cooperation in the region. A recommendation was made that the BSTDB be approached to study the subject of possible financing of most important multilateral projects.

COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF TRANSFER AND DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGY

12. Concrete proposals were put forward by delegations and common targets were formulated regarding cooperation among the BSEC Participating States in the field of transfer and development of technology as potential tool for a dynamic and multilateral development in the Black Sea region. The participants examined the present situation in the BSEC region for creating a conducive framework for the transfer and development of technology and looked into a possibility of joining forces with the view to creating a pool of advanced technologies.

13. Some delegations suggested that specific schemes of transfer and development of technology be formulated by the WG in order to submit them to the next MMFA in Yerevan. At the same time, the participants proposed to establish a mechanism / bank where all the information on research, science and technology could be accumulated.

They also mentioned that facilitation of science-industry collaboration is one of the major aspects leading to new products that would permit to enhance competitiveness of the BSEC countries in the world markets.

The WG emphasized the need of removing the existing barriers in the way of transferring scientific and technological achievements among the BSEC countries.

A) CREATION OF AN INVESTMENT FUND FOR TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

14. Under this sub-item various views were expressed and considered regarding creation of the investment fund for technological development. The delegates emphasized that financial support for the creation of such an investment fund should be solicited from the international donors. Some participants suggested that TACIS program as well as the potential of the BSTDB could also be employed for this purpose. Bearing in mind the past experience of the BSEC in creating such a fund, the WG called upon the BSEC Participating States to submit to the PERMIS their concrete proposals on the modalities of the establishment of the investment fund.

B) PROGRESS IN ESTABLISHING THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR BLACK SEA STUDIES (ICBSS)

15. The participants took note of the background paper on the progress in establishing the ICBSS forwarded by the Hellenic Republic to the PERMIS. Some delegations expressed the view that the said center should be affiliated with national scientific and academic institutions of the BSEC States which are interested in participating directly in the multilateral process.

The ICBSS was invited to contribute to the process of reforms of the BSEC countries in transition in order to achieve the economic development based on market economy.

16. The WG requested the delegation of the Hellenic Republic to prepare structural, operational and staff regulation schemes of the ICBSS and to forward them to the PERMIS for circulation among the Participating States. The delegations confirmed the interest of their States in the practical establishment of the Center, so that the ICBSS could become fully operational in 1998.

The WG also requested to elaborate the BSEC concept; to estimate the economic potential of the Black Sea region; to work out scientific foundations for establishing a Free Trade zone and to create a common Black Sea information space.

POSSIBILITIES OF ESTABLISHING THE BSEC INFORMATION BANK ON SCIENTIFIC, ECONOMIC, TECHNOLOGICAL, INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS INFORMATION

17. The WG invited interested Participating States to cooperate through their relevant national authorities in initiating the establishment of the said data bases in order to use them for technology transfer in the BSEC countries. The experts recommended to each country to identify the national organizations responsible for the establishment of information data bases and information exchange systems.

18. The members of the WG proposed to use Internet channels. Large scale flows of information exchanged among servers of information system divided among various industries, science, etc. The indirect channeling to Internet will greatly impede the work. The participants mentioned that the translators from national language to English and vice versa for each country should be created.

19. The participants of the WG made proposals to organize a high level meeting of experts on the issues of information and communications in the region. In this respect, it was proposed that the Secretariat should request the Greek side to forward an official request for organizing this meeting in 1998.

20. The representatives of some countries made a proposal to develop an information exchange system in the BSEC on the basis of existing information resources and communication links.

The WG recommended to take note of the information provided by the RNC concerning the establishment on the basis of a Russian enterprise of a center for the development of a single telecommunication network within the framework of the BSEC.

21. Some experts proposed to examine the issue of launching a joint communications satellite for the BSEC region.

22. It was also decided that if other proposals will be submitted by the delegations to the PERMIS they will be circulated later.

WAYS AND MEANS OF COLLABORATION WITH SOME INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

23. The delegations examined ways and means of developing further cooperation between the BSEC and international and regional organizations, such as: UNESCO, WIPO, UN-ECE, UNIDO, CBSS in various fields of science and technology.

24. The PERMIS was advised to develop closer working contacts with international organizations. The main goal of the BSEC countries is to consolidate links among scientists and scholars at the international levels and with this in mind to participate in the regional and interregional conferences, symposiums and workshops, particularly on the problem of regional cooperation. In this respect the participants of the WG expressed their interest in developing bilateral and multilateral relations among academic circles of the BSEC Participating States which could result in elaborating mutually beneficial projects, organizing seminars, workshops with participation of regional and sub-regional organizations.

25. Taking into account the need to ensure financial support for concrete multilateral projects in science and technology, the WG recommended to approach the European Commission with a view to establishing a special regional program for the BSEC.

It was proposed by the BSEC Business Council to establish a sub-committee operating under the Working Group guidance as well as a mechanism for encouraging active participation and representation of business communities in the scientific and technological collaboration among the members states.

26. The delegations wished to have a closer look at the interaction between this Working Group, its findings and the conclusion of the first Academic Conference held in Athens in order to avoid duplication and overlapping.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

27. The participants exchanged views regarding the possibility of extracting hydrogen sulfide for energy purposes and supported the idea of sending this proposal

for the future investigation in the Black Sea Regional Energy Center, located in Sofia, Bulgaria.

EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS

28. The participants expressed their sincere thanks and gratitude to the Administration of the Krasnodar region and the Kuban University authorities for hosting the meeting and for the excellent arrangements as well as for the warm hospitality extended to them during their stay in Krasnodar.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

27. The adopted agenda of the Meeting gives both substance and continuity to the mission of the WG on Cooperation in Science and Technology. The Participating States accepted with gratitude the proposal of the Kuban State University to held the Fourth Meeting of the WG on Cooperation in Science and Technology in Krasnodar in October 1998

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

28. The WG adopted the present report for submission to the Eleventh MMFA in Yerevan, Armenia next April.
