



BS/ST/WG/R(2000)1

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

Kyiv, Ukraine, 14-15 December 2000

1. The Sixth Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology was held in Kyiv, Ukraine, on 14-15 December 2000.

2. The following BSEC Member States participated in the Meeting:

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

3. The representatives of Israel attended the Meeting in the capacity of Observer.

4. The Meeting was also attended by the representatives of the BSEC Business Council and the International Center for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) as the BSEC Related Bodies.

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

5. In his opening statement Mr. Yaroslav YATSKIV, First Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine welcomed the participants and wished them a fruitful and constructive work.

6. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Viktor SVIZHENKO, Head of Department of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine.

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

8. During the discussion on items 2 and 3 of the agenda, the participants noted that there was an interdependence between them, and therefore approved the proposal of creating an ad hoc group composed of representatives of Romania, Turkey, Greece, Ukraine and any other country that wishes to contribute to its work, in order to elaborate the common position concerning the ways of

action on cooperation on science and technology to be presented to the BSEC PERMIS prior to the next meeting of the WG on Cooperation in Science and Technology, following the guidance given by the approved “BSEC Economic Agenda 2000”.

REPORT ON THE BSEC CONFERENCE “DISASTERS, PREVENTION AND LIQUIDATION OF THE CONSEQUENCES” (KHARKIV, UKRAINE, 23-25 MAY 2000)

9. Being informed on the outcome of the Conference, the Working Group expressed its appreciation to the organizers and agreed that the increase of natural and anthropogenic accidents and catastrophes as well as the growth of seismic activity in the region represent danger to many BSEC countries. The participants stressed the need to develop methods and means of forecasting and preventing the negative impact of emergency situations on the people of the region, as well as to identify projects of mutual interest for the BSEC countries in this field.

10. The development of uniform training on emergency situations issues was considered as a target for future.

11. It was a common understanding that the joint efforts of scientific and academic circles of the Member States are essential for the development of the framework of protection from emergency situations.

INFORMATION ON THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER ON TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

12. Following the conclusion of the Third Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States that welcomed the setting-up of the International Technology Transfer Center and invited the interested States to cooperate with it, the Ukrainian delegation informed the participants on the priorities of the Center that will start its operation in a pilot project phase. The efficient operation of this center will be achieved in coordination of its activities with other BSEC structures involved in this issue.

ELABORATION OF A STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPING INTERACTION WITH EU AND OTHER RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

13. The representative of the ICBSS, gave a detailed information on the actual situation of cooperation with EU in science and technology, confessing that there are certain obstacles existing in this field. The most important one is considered to be the absence of an institutional basis for such cooperation, which would be the basis for financing by the EU of the BSEC projects. The discussions on this matter are still on the way.

14. Possibilities of cooperation with other institutions were also mentioned.

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS OF MEMBER STATES ON ELABORATION OF REGIONAL PROJECTS IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

15. Having considered the implementation of regional scientific and technological projects, the Working Group noted with appreciation that the projects are being carried out on a highly professional level and recommended to the relevant bodies of the countries of their realization to give all support including financial to the following works:

- The project of development and creation of “Pegas” Complex, elaborated by the Institute of Mathematical Machines and Systems of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, in order to solve the problem of diagnostics and monitoring of leakages of sea gas and oil pipelines and provide preventive and repair undersea works connected with elimination of accident consequences of sea pipelines.
- The project of establishment of the International Synchronous Network of Optical Telescopes, elaborated by Main Astronomical Observatory of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine
- The project of development of regional ozone & UV monitoring system, elaborated by the Ukrainian Ecological Association “Belka”.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SEISMIC PROTECTION OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES AND THE BALKAN REGION

16. The Meeting of the WG was informed on the results of the International Workshop on Seismology, held in Krasnodar, Russia on 17-18 May 2000, which focused on consideration of the seismic situation in our region.

17. Following the relevant decision of the Third Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs that welcomed the establishment of the Association of Seismic Protection of the BSEC Member States and the Balkan region by the International Workshop on Seismology of the BSEC Countries, in cooperation with the ICBSS, the Working Group called upon the Governments for approval of its Statute that will enable the Association to start its activities, the Greek Side informed the Meeting that the inaugural Meeting of the Association would be held in May 2001. During this Meeting the statute of the Association is expected to be approved alongside with other main documents.

PROGRESS REPORT OF THE ICBSS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BSEC INNOVATION CENTER

18. The representative of the ICBSS gave a detailed information concerning the creation of the BSEC Innovation Center. The Center is expected to work in close cooperation with the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology. The Center will be controlled and supervised by the ICBSS, and the budgetary allocation for the financing of the feasibility study for the establishment of the Innovation Center has been made in the Budget of the ICBSS for the year 2001. The ICBSS hopes that the preparatory work will be finalized by the end of the next year. It was decided by the Board of Directors of the ICBSS that the Headquarters of the Center will be

located in Greece and local units will be functioning in the BSEC countries. The main task of the Center will be the building of bridges between scientists and business communities. The participants stressed the need for an appropriate information exchange. Publication of magazine should be another activity of the Center. It was mentioned that the Center should avoid duplication of activities of already existing BSEC structures, but should work to create their synergy. Additional information including the exact name of the Center and its statute will be forwarded to the Member States in due time.

19. Given the problematic situation with respect to the state of intellectual property rights in the region, the participants pointed out that special emphasis should be given to this issue.

20. The participants supported the idea of creation of the BSEC Innovation Center and expressed the common view that in the age of rapid technological progress the creation of such an institution is crucial for the countries of our region, that will give us the opportunity to keep in pace with the outside world.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A BUSINESS SCHOOL

21. The representative of the ICBSS informed the Working Group on the joint initiative of the ICBSS, University of Thessaly of Greece and the Kuban University of Russia on the setting up of a Business Management School. The main aim of the school will be the preparation of young specialists and scientists alongside with retraining of specialists who need a more profound and up-to-date training. The profile of such training will be interdisciplinary and not only connected with the Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology.

22. This project proposal was submitted to the European Commission for financial support, the decision on it is still pending.

23. The participants expressed the view that a more detailed information with regard to the project is needed in order that due support of the countries could be given to the project, mentioning at the same time that a special profile in training scientists with managerial skills could be created within the school.

CREATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER ON WATER PROBLEMS

24. Following the relevant recommendation of the Third Meeting of the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs a meeting of the Group of Experts on water problems was held parallel to the Meeting of the Working Group. The experts discussed the issue of creation of the “BSEC International Center on Water Problems”, the main aim of which is to solve the problems of clean water by carrying out the specific tasks related to the analysis of water resources in the Black Sea, conducting researches and working out the approaches for polluted water cleaning, creating of related modern equipment and materials and promoting the rational use of water resources in the Black Sea region.

25. The Chairman of the Group of Experts presented the report of the work of the group, which was very productive and resulted in a finalized text of great clarity apart from the title (name) of the

Center for which three different proposals exist in brackets. The text of the draft Statute is attached as Annex III.

26. The Working Group recommended to approve the statute of the said Center at the forthcoming Meetings of the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials and the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and invited the BSEC Member States to appoint their national representatives to the Board of Directors of the International Center on Water Problems.

27. Taking into account the role of the ICBSS in the creation of the International Center on Water Problems and its financial contribution to it, the Working Group recommended to the Committee of Senior Officials that they consider to recommend to the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs that a representative of the ICBSS Board of Directors be appointed to the Board of Directors of the said Center.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

28. No specific issues were raised under this agenda item.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

29. The participants expressed their sincere thanks to the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine for hosting the Meeting and for the warm hospitality extended to them during their stay in Kyiv.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

30. The exact date and venue of the next Meeting of the Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology will be communicated to the Member States through the PERMIS.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

31. The WG adopted the present report for submission to the Committee of the Senior Officials prior to the Fourth Meeting of the Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Organization of the BSEC, to be held in Moscow, Russian Federation in April 2001.