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

Sinaia, Romania, 26-27 April 2007

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology was held in Sinaia, Romania, on 26-27 April 2007.

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

Republic of Bulgaria

Romania

Russian Federation

Republic of Serbia

Republic of Turkey

Ukraine

Republic of Moldova: Participation was expected, but at the last moment its representative was unable to attend the Meeting due to health reasons. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Moldova, after getting acquainted with the Report of the Working Group, informed that the Moldovan Side has no objections to the adopted text and its dissemination by PERMIS in accordance with the regular procedure.

3. The representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of BSEC (PABSEC) and the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) participated in the Meeting as BSEC Related Bodies.

4. The Meeting was also attended by the representatives of the Black Sea Universities Network (BSUN) and the National Institute for Earth Physics (NIEP) of Romania as Guests.

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

5. Ambassador Andrey URNOV, Deputy Secretary General of the Permanent International Secretariat of the Organization of BSEC addressed the Meeting.

6. The Meeting was chaired by Mrs. Iulia MIHAIL, Director, Department of European Integration and International Cooperation, Ministry of Education, Research and Youth; National Authority for Scientific Research.

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

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL AND THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE DECLARATIONS AND JOINT STATEMENTS ADOPTED BY THE MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- a) **The BSEC Action Plan on Cooperation in Science and Technology and the Work Program approved by the 14th BSEC Council (Chisinau, 28 October 2005)**
- b) **Declaration of the Ministers responsible for Science and Technology of the BSEC Member States (Athens, 28 September 2005)**

8. The participants informed of their efforts aimed at the implementation of the BSEC Action Plan on Cooperation in Science and Technology and the follow up of the Athens Ministerial Declaration. While progress was acknowledged in various areas, the Group noted that a number of issues have not yet been properly addressed. It took for guidance the instruction of the 16th BSEC Council Meeting (Belgrade, 19 April 2007) to concentrate its activities on the fulfillment of the Plan with due consideration of the provisions of the Workprogramme and its attachments.

PREPARATION OF THE MID-TERM MINISTERIAL MEETING (AUTUMN 2007)

9. The Working Group welcomed the support expressed by the 16th BSEC Council Meeting to the organization of the Midterm Meeting of the Ministers responsible for Science and Technology to review the progress in implementation of the BSEC 4-year Action Plan on Cooperation in Science and Technology (September 2005) and emphasized the importance of the said Meeting for further development of BSEC cooperation in this field.

10. The participants agreed to forward to PERMIS and the Country-Coordinator by 22 June 2007 and, in accordance with the agreed upon Questionnaire, their contributions to the evaluation report which is to be prepared by the Country-Coordinator and submitted to the Midterm Ministerial Meeting by the Working Group. The Questionnaire is attached as Annex III.

11. Furthermore, they invited the ICBSS and the former Country-Coordinator Ukraine to render assistance to Romania in preparing the evaluation report and the draft declaration (statement) of the forthcoming Ministerial Meeting.

12. The participants also agreed to nominate their contact points in the Working Group to ensure steady interaction within the Group in the process of the preparation of the Midterm Ministerial Meeting.

13. The Country-Coordinator and PERMIS were requested to finalize the date and venue of the Meetings of Ministers and of the Working Group with the Turkish Chairman-in-Office.

STATE OF AFFAIRS WITH RESPECT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR 2006-2008

14. The discussion focused on the realization of the projects: Completion of building the telecommunications network for science and education for the BSEC Member States (“Black Sea Interconnection Initiative”); Organization of scientific and educational centers of sharing unique programs and equipment on the basis of scientific and educational centers of the BSEC Member States.

15. The Russian Delegation informed about the state of affairs with the establishment of seismological center of sharing resources on the basis of the Kuban State University.

16. The Member States were invited to forward at their earliest convenience their proposals concerning the establishment of centers of sharing resources on the basis of their national centers.

17. The participants requested the Country-Coordinator to explore the ways and means of trilateral cooperation in the realization of the said projects with the Country-Coordinators of the BSEC Working Groups on Information and Communication Technologies (Ukraine) and Education (Greece).

18. The participants invited the Turkish Academy of Sciences and Academician B. E. PATON, President of the Council of Presidents of the National Academies of Sciences of the BSEC Member States to explore the possibility of organizing the 3rd Conference of the Academies of Sciences of the BSEC Member States, originally planned for April 2007, in the course of the term of the Turkish Chairmanship.

PRESENTATION ON BSEC-EU COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITHIN THE 7TH FRAMEWORK PROGRAM (TO BE DELIVERED BY MR. DANIEL DESCOUTURES, DG RESEARCH OF THE EU)

19. Mr. Daniel DESCOUTURES addressed his message on the subject to the Working Group, since he could not attend the Meeting due to *force majeure* circumstances. The participants took note of the message read out by the Chairperson of the Meeting and reconfirmed their interest in the development of cooperation with the EU in the field of Science and Technology, in particular under the 7th Framework Program. The message of Mr. DESCOUTURES is attached as Annex IV.

20. The Working Group welcomed the productive results of the series of thematic Workshops held at the end of 2006 as a follow up to ResPot project and coordinated by the ICBSS and appreciated the usefulness of such meetings for the generation of projects eligible for funding under FP7.

PRESENTATIONS AND PROJECTS BY MEMBER STATES AND ICBSS IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

21. The Romanian Delegation made a presentation on the project proposal “Networking on Science and Technology in the Black Sea Region (BS-ERA.NET)”, planned for the years 2008-2011 under FP7. The presentation is attached as Annex V.

22. The representative of PABSEC informed about the discussion on “Cooperation among the BSEC Member States in the field of high technologies” which took place at the 28th Meeting of the PABSEC Economical, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee, held in Athens, on 14 March 2007. The draft report and recommendation were approved by the members of the Committee and the final text of the report and recommendation will be submitted for adoption by the PABSEC General Assembly to be held in Varna, on 12-14 June 2007.

23. The representative of the ICBSS noted the recent significant progress in BSEC-EU interaction as marked in the European Commission Communications on Neighbourhood Policy (December 2006) and Black Sea Synergy (April 2007). Both documents highlighted scientific research and technological development as realistic and promising fields for BSEC-EU cooperation.

24. Furthermore, he informed that the INCO-Net project, presented at the Working Group Meeting in Kabardinka (22-23 November 2006), has since been finalized and will be submitted to the European Commission in the following few days.

25. The representative of the ICBSS also stated that the ICBSS is in the process of finalizing the procedures for undertaking a study on the economic condition, development requirements and investment opportunities in the 8 BSEC countries that are eligible for development assistance. The study is to be commissioned by the Hellenic Ministry of Economy and Finance and will involve contributions for relevant agencies and research institutes of all BSEC Member States.

COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF SEISMOLOGY – FOLLOW-UP OF THE “WORKSHOP ON SEISMOLOGY OF BSEC MEMBER STATES” (KRASNODAR, NOVEMBER 2006)

26. The participants positively assessed the Report of the Workshop and in pursuance of the decision of the 16th BSEC Council Meeting re-confirmed their intention to further develop scientific cooperation in the field of Seismology and the necessity of activation of the BSEC Association for Seismic Protection and its Secretariat.

27. The participants appreciated the presentations by Mr. Gheorghe MARMUREANU, General Director of the National Institute for Earth Physics (NIEP) of Romania on “Specific actions developed by Romania for seismic risk reduction” and “Development of methodology in Romania for on-line processing and analysis of distribute measurements of geophysical data”.

INFORMAL PRESENTATION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE BLACK SEA UNIVERSITIES NETWORK (TO BE DELIVERED BY PROF. DR. EDEN MAMUT, DIRECTOR OF BSUN SECRETARIAT)

28. The participants took note of the presentation by Mr. M. SAIOC on the activities of the Black Sea Universities Network, which now includes 100 universities from 11 BSEC Member States. BSUN is implementing such programs as Sustainable Development, Networking on Innovation and Knowledge Transferring, Renewable Energy Sources, Advanced and Multifunctional Materials, E-Health and Telemedicine etc.

29. The 6th Conference of Rectors from the Black Sea region was held in Varna, Bulgaria, on 20-23 September 2006. The official visit of the BSUN Presidential Troika to Romania took place on 19-20 February 2007.

30. At present, BSUN is in the process of changing its status from an Ad hoc International Organization to a non-governmental Organization registered accordingly to the legislation of one of the member countries. It is interested in obtaining the status of BSEC Related Body.

31. The Working Group appreciated the activities of BSUN as a resultive contribution to the academic cooperation in the region. It underlined the necessity for BSUN to continue the legal procedures required by the BSEC Statutory Documents for granting the sought status.

ASSESSMENT OF PDF STANDARD APPLICATIONS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

32. The Working Group considered on the instruction of the Committee of Senior Officials the following projects:

- a) **Project Proposal “Spectroscopic investigation of IR transparent glasses for polluting gas detectors” submitted by institutions of the Republic of Bulgaria, Romania, the Republic of Turkey and Ukraine; forwarded by the Working Group on Science and Technology (Athens, 21-22 March 2006);**
- b) **Project Proposal “Creation of basic heterogeneous catalysts for processes of organic and petrochemical synthesis” submitted by institutions of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Russian Federation and Ukraine; forwarded by the Working Group on Science and Technology (Athens, 21-22 March 2006);**
- c) **Project Proposal “High-performance scientific computations: Development of a Parallel Computer Algebra System (ParCA)” submitted by institutions of the Republic of Armenia, the Hellenic Republic and the Russian Federation; forwarded by the Working Group on Science and Technology (Athens, 21-22 March 2006).**

33. The Working Group decided not to endorse the said projects taking into account that they do not possess a clear economic component able to contribute to the development of the Black Sea Region. The partners of these projects may re-submit their applications on the condition that they will be adequately revised.

34. The Working Group also considered the following projects for funding by the BSEC PDF, which were submitted for the assessment of the Working Group in April 2007:

- a) **Project proposal “A Study of Mud Volcanoes along the shelves of the Black Sea: Implication for safety of Navigation and underwater systems (BLACKMUD)”, submitted by institutions of Turkey (Lead Partner, Ukraine and Russia).**

35. The Working Group decided to postpone the assessment and eventual decision on this Standard Application. The Member States are invited to send to PERMIS their experts’ opinions regarding the said Application before the next Meeting.

- b) **Project proposal “New cardiovascular planning and diagnostic tool for coronary arteries in BSEC countries using computational simulation”, submitted by institutions of Serbia (Lead Partner), Greece and Romania.**

36. The Working Group decided to postpone the assessment and eventual decision regarding this Standard Application. The Member States are invited to send to PERMIS their experts’ opinions regarding the said Application before the next Meeting.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Workshop on Energy and Science and Technology – Perspectives for Regional Projects (BSEC Headquarters, Istanbul, 20 April 2007)

37. The participants were informed on the Workshop jointly organized by the Serbian Chairmanship and the EU through PROMITHEAS-2 programme. The PROMITHEAS network was originally developed by 6 institutions from respective BSEC Member States with the financial support of BSEC PDF. That support allowed it to participate in an FP6 call for proposals and secure EU funds for the programme EU-BSEC Energy and Climate Policy Network.

38. The PROMITHEAS now includes 10 members. It is open to participation and cooperation and invites the eventual partners to benefit, free of charge, from its activities (seminars, workshops, scientific journal etc.) and to join it and establish synergies in the context of FP7 proposals. The coordinator is the Energy Policy and Development Center (KEPA), National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

39. The participants welcomed the activities of the PROMITHEAS Network as a resultive contribution to the regional cooperation.

The Romanian Office for Science and Technology (ROST) in Brussels

40. The Working Group took note with appreciation the information of the Delegation of Romania on the availability of ROST to act as a bridge between BSEC and the European Commission in the field of Science and Technology. Meetings with interested parties can be organized at the ROST premises.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

41. The participants expressed their high appreciation to the Government and the Ministry of Education, Research and Youth of Romania – National Authority for Scientific Research for the warm hospitality extended to them in Sinaia and the excellent organization of the Meeting.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

42. The date and venue of the next Meeting of the Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology will be decided, after consultations, by the Country-Coordinator and PERMIS with the Chairman-in-Office and communicated to the BSEC Member States through BSEC PERMIS.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

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