



BS/ST/WG/R(95)1

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

Bucharest, 30-31 May 1995

1. The Meeting of the Working Group (WG) on Cooperation in Science and Technology was held in Bucharest, Romania on 30-31 May 1995.

It was preceded by the Meeting of Experts on Promotion of Technology Transfer which took place on 29 May 1995 (BS/TT/ME/R(95)1).

2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Florin Teodor Tanasescu, Secretary of State, Ministry of Research and Technology of Romania, who conveyed warm greetings to the delegations on behalf of the Romanian scientists and scholars.

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

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

4. The representatives of Egypt, Italy and the BSEC Council attended the Meeting as Observers.

5. The Meeting was also attended by the representative of the World Intellectual Property Organization as a guest.

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

6. H.E. Doru Dumitru Palade, Minister of Research and Technology of Romania, and Mr. Virgilius N. Constantinescu, President of the Romanian Academy, made inaugural statements. The text of the statement made by H.E. Doru Dumitru Palade is attached as Annex II.

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

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY UNDER MARKET ECONOMY CONDITIONS

8. The participants received with interest the lecture delivered by Mr. Jenö Bobrovsky, the representative of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and appreciated this initiative taken by the BSEC Secretariat. The WG underlined the importance of further cooperation between the BSEC and WIPO on various subjects of common interest.

9. The WG requested the Secretariat to circulate the text of the above lecture to the BSEC Participating States.

10. The delegations agreed on the proposal to make use of the data banks existing in the Participating States with a view to exchanging relevant information on the issue of the protection of intellectual property.

11. The WG recommended that the Sixth Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs (MMFA) may wish to consider a resolution calling upon the BSEC Participating States to undertake, through their appropriate national authorities, relevant measures for strengthening the protection of intellectual property, particularly in the countries in transition to a market economy.

DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATION AMONG THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITIES OF THE BSEC PARTICIPATING STATES

12. With the aim to further strengthen the multilateral format of cooperation among interested scientists and scholars of the BSEC Participating States, the delegations had under this item an exchange of views regarding the possible areas of contribution of academic circles to the BSEC process. Attention was paid to the problem of identifying more efficient mechanisms for improving the links between science and technology and innovation.

13. The WG requested the Secretariat to further follow the developments with regard to this new component of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation in accordance with the Resolutions of the Fifth MMFA held in Athens on 14 April 1995.

14. The WG emphasized the importance of expanding cooperation between specialized governmental structures, academies and other research institutions as well as business communities in the BSEC region with the aim to utilize the existing scientific and technological potential in the process of elaboration and implementation of concrete joint projects in the agreed fields of mutual interest.

15. The WG stressed the importance of encouraging contacts among universities, public and private research and development institutes and other scientific institutions in the Participating States.

a) Convening a BSEC Conference of representatives of the academic communities

16. The delegations considered the concept of the Conference to help integrate the scientists' efforts in research of common interests as a starting point in promoting the new academic dimension of the BSEC.

17. The WG welcomed the proposal of Greece to host before the end of 1995 the Preparatory group with an aim of starting and carrying out all the preparations for the BSEC Conference of representatives of the academic communities and, in accordance with the Fifth MMFA's resolution, reminded that the MMFA called upon the BSEC Participating States to provide their organizational and material support for the preparation and holding of this Forum.

18. The Secretariat was invited to assist, in close cooperation with the Participating States and the Preparatory group, the arrangements ensuring working contacts with relevant academic institutions and personalities in the Participating States as well as seeking possible assistance from some specialized international institutions.

b) Establishment of the International Center for Black Sea studies

19. The WG took note with interest of the ideas contained in the background paper on this subject presented by the Hellenic Republic. In this context, the need for identifying appropriate financial support from the European Union, other international organizations and business communities was emphasized.

20. The WG, after a fruitful exchange of opinions, welcomed the decision of the Fifth MMFA regarding the establishment of the International Center for Black Sea studies. Several delegations in the Meeting expressed the proposal that the said Center could have affiliates in those national academic and scientific institutions in the Participating States which display a profound interest in the BSEC process and its activities.

21. Several delegations mentioned as possible areas for the activities of the Center the following: elaborating the scientific background, developing coordination and expertise for concrete BSEC projects in various spheres of economic cooperation, conceptualizing

general parameters of cooperation in the Black Sea region, assessing the place and role of the BSEC in the new architecture of Europe as well as the relationship between the said region and other areas of the world, etc.

22. The WG requested the Hellenic Delegation to prepare an updated note on the structural and operational modalities and officially committed financial sources with the view to circulate it through the Secretariat to all the Participating States. The WG also agreed that the Secretariat would submit a progress report on the basis of the remarks and proposals received from the Participating States regarding the establishment of the Center to the Sixth MMFA in Chisinau.

CREATION OF THE SCIENTIFIC FUND OF THE BSEC PARTICIPATING STATES

23. The WG supported the proposals contained in the background paper presented by the Secretariat on this subject (BS/ST/WG(95)2) and invited it to elaborate on this basis concrete recommendations on the modalities of establishing the fund and its main purposes, to be submitted to the next MMFA.

24. Having considered the resolution adopted by the Fifth MMFA on the subject of creating the scientific fund of the BSEC Participating States, the WG invited the States to send to the Secretariat at their earliest convenience relevant information on some concrete steps undertaken by the appropriate national authorities as well as intentions on voluntary contributions in this direction. The Secretariat was requested to prepare a background paper on the subject and submit it to the next meeting of the WG.

25. The WG decided to recommend to the Sixth MMFA in Chisinau the endorsement of a resolution calling upon the Participating States to provide contributions on a voluntary basis for establishing the BSEC scientific fund.

COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF TECHNOLOGY

a) Promotion of technology transfer within the BSEC region

26. Under this item of the agenda, the delegations considered the background paper prepared by the Meeting of Experts on Promotion of Technology Transfer (Annex II to BS/TT/ME/R(95)1). Concrete proposals were formulated by some delegations regarding cooperation among the BSEC Participating States, such as the elaboration of efficient mechanisms for technology transfer, the training of decision-makers in this field and the development of appropriate standards and regulations.

b) Assistance to small and medium-sized businesses in need of technological development. Cooperation with the Balkan Center for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

27. The WG, having considered the question of supporting small and medium-sized businesses in the BSEC area which are in need of technological development, reiterated the necessity of encouraging loans and credits to such businesses. In this respect, it invited the interested Participating States to cooperate, through their relevant national authorities, with the Balkan Center for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, which has recently expanded its activities to the BSEC region.

28. The WG invited the Participating States to transmit to the Secretariat relevant information regarding small and medium-sized enterprises in the respective countries as well as concrete proposals for future cooperation in this field in order for them to be submitted to the next meeting of the WG.

CONCRETE PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION IN THE BSEC REGION

29. Under this agenda item, the WG took note of the ideas and proposals contained in the background paper presented by the Hellenic Delegation as well as of the contributions regarding the implementation of research projects made by several other delegations. The Participating States were invited to transmit to the Secretariat, at their earliest convenience, their proposals with a view to further elaborating the background paper.

a) Exchange of views on the proposals made by the Participating States

30. The WG considered the specific proposals regarding scientific and technological cooperation in the BSEC region presented by Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Hellenic Republic, Moldova, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine, to be circulated in due time by the Secretariat.

31. Other Participating States were invited to forward concrete proposals to the Secretariat at their earliest convenience, preferably by 1 September 1995. By the same date, the WG suggested that the Participating States send to the Secretariat relevant and updated information regarding the national research programs which could be connected with the BSEC priorities.

b) Creation of a data bank and an information network on scientific and technological research

32. The WG deemed it expedient to further explore the creation of an information network on scientific and technological research and invited the interested specialized national centers existing in the BSEC region to cooperate with the Secretariat on this project by sending to it relevant data to be circulated to all the Participating States.

c) Cooperation with international organizations

33. The delegations exchanged views on possible cooperation between the BSEC and some specialized international organizations and institutions on various subjects of common interest in the field of science and technology.

34. The Secretariat was advised in this context to develop close working contacts with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the European Union, the Council of Baltic Sea States, the Central European Initiative, etc. The Secretariat was also invited to prepare periodic progress reports on this subject.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

35. No specific issues were raised by the delegations under this item.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

36. The participants expressed their sincere thanks and gratitude to the Government of Romania for hosting the Meeting of the Working Group and the Meeting of Experts and for the excellent arrangements as well as the warm hospitality extended to them during their stay in Bucharest.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

37. The Participating States which may wish to host the next meeting of the WG on Cooperation in Science and Technology will accordingly notify the Secretariat.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

38. The WG adopted the present report for submission to the Sixth Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs.
