



**BS/WG/TED/R(2010)1**

**REPORT OF THE  
MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP  
ON TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**Istanbul, 20-21 April 2010**

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Trade and Economic Development was held in Istanbul, at the BSEC Headquarters, on 20-21 April 2010.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Ambassador Ivan PETKOV, the Special Envoy and Representative of the Bulgarian BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office.
3. The following BSEC Member States participated in the Meeting:
  - Republic of Armenia
  - Republic of Bulgaria
  - Hellenic Republic
  - Romania
  - Russian Federation
  - Republic of Serbia
  - Republic of Turkey
  - Ukraine
4. The representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of the BSEC (PABSEC) and the BSEC Business Council participated in the Meeting as BSEC Related Bodies.
5. The representatives of the Arab Republic of Egypt and Czech Republic also participated in the Meeting as BSEC Observers.
6. The representative of the Republic of Hungary attended the Meeting as BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partner.
7. The representative of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) participated in the Meeting as Official Guest.
8. The List of Participants of the Meeting is attached as Annex I.

## **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

9. The Draft Agenda of the Meeting was discussed, amended and adopted. The Agenda, as adopted, is attached as Annex II.

## **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 RESPONSIBLE FOR TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

10. The participants agreed that the way forward toward more consistency in implementing the provisions of the mentioned BSEC Council instructions could be secured providing the Member States reach a common understanding on how best to accommodate different practice and legal procedures in trade relations and attain greater sustainability in cooperation.

11. The participants agreed that the Evaluation Report on the activities of the Working Group 2008-2009 prepared by the former Country-Coordinator (Turkey) is comprehensive and provides a detailed insight on the Working Group engagement in the mentioned period; the Evaluation Report is attached as Annex III.

12. Taking into consideration the importance of this area of cooperation and the relevant Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the BSEC Council, the Working Group proposed the BSEC PERMIS to act temporarily as Coordinator of the Group with the assistance of the BSEC Business Council.

## **FORMULATING WORKING PRIORITIES AND IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK**

13. The participants took note of the presentation of the Republic of Turkey on the priority issues to be discussed at the Working Group Meeting, which is attached as Annex IV.

14. The delegation of the Republic of Armenia made a statement on the issue, attached as Annex V.

15. The Secretary General of the BSEC Business Council also addressed the Meeting. The texts of the “BSEC BC proposals on the activation of the Working Group on Trade and Economic Development” and of the “Proposals of the BSEC BC for strengthening the cooperation with PABSEC” are attached as Annex VI.

16. The information of the BSEC PERMIS Executive Manager on the issue is attached as Annex VII.

17. The participants discussed the issue of priorities for the Working Group future activities and considered its importance for the BSEC. The Working Group is of the opinion that the International Center for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) may prepare such a study and asks the Committee of Senior Officials to consider this issue.

18. The participants invited the Member States to communicate to BSEC PERMIS their contributions on priority issues not later than 20 July 2010.

19. The participants decided to finalize the text of the study at the next Meeting of the Working Group.

### **EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON MODALITIES FOR REDUCTION OR ELIMINATION OF NON-TARIFF BARRIERS ON TRADE**

20. The participants asked the BSEC Member States, who have not submitted yet the template on statistical indicators on foreign trade of the BSEC Member States with regard to non-tariff barriers, to send to the BSEC PERMIS by the next Meeting of the Working Group.

### **RECONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE**

21. The participants took note of the draft Terms of Reference of the Working Group, suggested by the Republic of Turkey, and decided to defer the issue to the next Meeting of the Group. The draft Terms of Reference are attached as Annex VIII.

### **INFORMATION ON THE REGIONAL PROGRAM FOR IMPROVING BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT CLIMATE IN THE BSEC**

22. The participants took note of the presentation by the UNDP Representative on the joint BSEC-UNDP project “Black Sea Trade and Investment Promotion” (BSTIP), and encouraged the Member States to actively participate in the second phase of the realization; the presentation is attached as Annex IX.

23. The participants decided to defer discussions on the issue of joint BSEC – OECD project “BSECAO Regional Initiative” to the next Working Group Meeting.

### **BSEC PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND**

24. The participants took note of the presentation by BSEC PERMIS Project Coordinator on new Project Development Fund (PDF) Manual of Operations.

25. The participants agreed to propose the Group’s priority areas for PDF funding at the next Working Group Meeting.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

26. There was no discussion under this Agenda Item.

### **DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

27. The date and venue of the next Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Trade and Economic Development will be communicated through the BSEC PERMIS in due course.

## **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

28. The Working Group adopted the present Report for submission to the next Meeting of the Committee of the Senior Officials of the BSEC Member States to be held in Sofia on 26-27 May 2010.

---

---