



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

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**BS/WG/TED/R(2012)1**

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

**Istanbul, BSEC Headquarters, 27-28 March 2012**

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Trade and Economic Development (WGTED) was held in Istanbul, at the BSEC Headquarters, on 27-28 March 2012.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Nikola RATKOVIC, Head of Department for Multilateral Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia.
3. The following BSEC Member States participated in the Meeting:  
  
Republic of Armenia  
Hellenic Republic  
Romania  
Russian Federation  
Republic of Serbia  
Republic of Turkey  
Ukraine
4. The representatives of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic also participated in the Meeting as BSEC Observers.
5. The List of Participants of the Meeting is attached as Annex I.

**AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

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

**AGENDA ITEM 2: 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 IN CHARGE OF TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

7. The BSEC PERMIS representative informed on the ways and dynamics of the implementation of the Resolution of the 15<sup>th</sup> BSEC Council (Moscow, 1 November 2006), with reference to the activities of the Working Group on Trade and Economic Development relative to the implementation of the BSEC Council Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations, since the last Meeting of the Working Group (24-25 November 2011).

8. The participants acknowledged the information on the issue provided by the BSEC PERMIS and expressed willingness to proceed more actively in order to secure the necessary dynamics of the implementation of the Council Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations.

**AGENDA ITEM 3: DISCUSSION AND ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT PLAN OF ACTION OF THE WORKING GROUP FOR 2012-2013**

9. The BSEC PERMIS representative introduced the draft Plan of Action of the Working Group for 2012-2013. He explained that the Working Group has no Country-Coordinator since 2009, and pending an eventual appointment to this function, the BSEC PERMIS as a temporary Coordinator, prepared a draft Plan of Action of the Working Group for 2012-2013, in order to facilitate the future activities. The draft Plan of Action is based upon the Priorities agreed by the Working Group at its previous Meeting (Istanbul, 24-25 November 2011).

10. The Working Group discussed and adopted the Plan of Action of the Working Group of Trade and Economic Development for 2012-2013, which is attached as Annex III.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE PRIORITY ISSUES OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

11. The Working Group took note of the explanations by the BSEC PERMIS representative regarding the “Priorities for the future activities of the BSEC Working Group on Trade and Economic Development”, adopted at its last Meeting.

12. The Working Group agreed on the “Working Paper on the priorities for the future activities of the BSEC Working Group on Trade and Economic Development”, which is attached as Annex IV.

13. The Working Group decided to continue substantive consideration of the Priorities contained in the Working Paper at its next Meeting.

14. The representative of the Republic of Turkey proposed to draft an agreement on trade facilitation among the BSEC Member States.

15. The representatives of the Hellenic Republic and Romania stressed the necessity to take into account competencies of the EU in the context of trade facilitation.

## **AGENDA ITEM 5: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS OF ECONOMIC AND TRADE RELATIONS AMONG BSEC MEMBER STATES**

16. The BSEC PERMIS representative recalled that at one of the previous Working Group meetings the participants decided to have a regular exchange on foreign trade data among the BSEC Member States. He has also recalled, that the Working Group at its last Meeting, while emphasizing the need for setting up an efficient BSEC mechanism for the exchange of information and data relevant for the development of intra-regional trade and intra-regional investment, invited the BSEC Member States to submit to the BSEC PERMIS their comments and proposals on the issue by 20 February 2012, with a view to its consideration at the next Meeting of the Working Group.

17. The representative of the Republic of Turkey reiterated the position of Turkey with regard to the current situation of the BSEC Coordination Center for the Exchange of the Statistical Data and Economic Development and its readiness to reactivate the Center in case the Member States were committed to supply information.

18. The participants concluded that the issue of setting up an efficient BSEC mechanism for the exchange of information and data should be discussed within the Priorities at one of the next Meetings of the Working Group.

## **AGENDA ITEM 6: BSEC PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND (PDF)**

### **a. Defining priority areas for PDF funding**

19. The BSEC PERMIS representative recalled that the Working Group, at its last Meeting, started the discussion on the priorities for PDF funding in the light of the “Priorities for the future activities of the BSEC WGTED”, adopted by the Working Group.

20. The participants discussed and adopted the following priorities for PDF funding in the area of Trade and Economic Development:

- 1) Mechanism building for the development of intra-regional trade and improvement of intra-regional investment climate among the BSEC Member States;
- 2) Capacity building of human resources and infrastructure aiming to facilitate trade and investment cooperation among the BSEC Member States;
- 3) Regional effects of the economic crisis and regional responses.

### **b. Project applications in the field of trade and economic development**

21. The Working Group took note of information presented by the BSEC PERMIS representative and invited the Member States to make their voluntary contributions to the BSEC Project Development Fund.

## **AGENDA ITEM 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

22. The BSEC PERMIS representative, while recalling that no Country-Coordinator for the WGTED was appointed up to now, invited the Member States to consider this issue and put forward their respective candidature for this important function.

## **AGENDA ITEM 8: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING**

29. The Working Group adopted the present Report for the submission to the Meeting of the Committee of the Senior Officials of the BSEC Member States to be held in Istanbul on 19-20 April 2012.

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