



**BS/TED/WG/R(2003)1**

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

**Istanbul, BSEC Headquarters, 16-17 June 2003**

1. The Meeting of the Working Group on Trade and Economic Development was held in Istanbul on 16-17 June 2003.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Elnur ALIYEV, Expert of the BSEC issues, Department for Economic Cooperation and Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
3. The Meeting was attended by the following Member States :
  - Republic of Albania
  - Republic of Armenia
  - Republic of Azerbaijan
  - Republic of Bulgaria
  - Russian Federation
  - Republic of Turkey
  - Ukraine
4. The Meeting was also attended by the representatives of Israel and Italy as Observers.
5. The representative of BSEC Business Council (BSEC BC) participated in the Meeting.

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

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

**EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON THE NON-TARIFF MEASURES WHICH ARE APPLIED IN THE MEMBER STATES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF “AN EXEMPLARY LIST OF NON-TARIFF MEASURES ON TRADE” AND CONSIDERATION OF THE WAYS FOR ESTABLISHING OF AN APPROPRIATE MECHANISM FOR ELIMINATION OF NON-TARIFF BARRIERS ON TRADE IN BSEC REGION**

7. The participants of the Meeting exchanged information on the non-tariff measures which are applied in the Member States in the framework of “An exemplary list of non-tariff measures on trade”.
8. During the discussion it was stressed that non-tariff barriers such as border-crossing procedures, customs regulations, passage fees, lack of transparency, the process of visa issuance, especially for the transporters consist main restrictive factors for trade in the BSEC Region.
9. While appreciating the submission of the relevant information by delegations, the Working Group noted that the Member States that have not provided the BSEC PERMIS with the filled form of “An Exemplary list of non-tariff measures on trade”, should do so by 30 September 2003.
10. The delegations agreed that the BSEC PERMIS upon receiving the said filled forms along with disseminating them among Member States shall summarize them with the objective to identify the most wide spread non-tariff barriers on trade in the BSEC region. At the same time the Working Group invited the Member States to present the relevant written replies to the points raised in the Lists at its next Meeting.
11. The delegations agreed to discuss at the next Meeting of the Working Group proposals on undertaking joint steps aimed at reduction and possible elimination of non-tariff barriers on trade in the BSEC region.
12. The BSEC Business Council expressed its support to activities of the Working Group towards trade facilitation in the region.

**CONSIDERATION OF JOINT ACTIONS TOWARDS HARMONIZING CROSS-BORDER AND CUSTOMS REGULATIONS WITH THE AIM OF FACILITATING THE MOVEMENT OF GOODS AND SERVICES WITHIN THE BSEC REGION. EXAMINATION THE POSSIBILITIES OF SIMPLIFICATION OF PROCEDURE IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE BY UNIFICATION AND STANDARDIZATION OF DOCUMENTS IN FOREIGN TRADE BASED ON THE UNITED NATIONS LAYOUT KEY FOR TRADE DOCUMENTS**

13. The participants exchanged information on their national legislation regarding cross-border and customs regulations as well as the policies of their countries for harmonizing the relevant regulations in line with the international standards and good practices.
14. The delegations discussed the possibilities with the aim to harmonize the said regulations in order to facilitate the trade within the BSEC region. They examined the issue of simplification of procedures in international trade by unification and standardization of documents in foreign trade based on the UN Layout Key for Trade Documents.
15. The participants agreed that further consideration of that issue should be continued at the next Meeting. For the said purpose they invited the Member States who had not submitted yet to

the BSEC PERMIS a short list and sample of documents on foreign trade applied in the BSEC countries, to do so by 30 September 2003. The BSEC PERMIS upon receiving shall circulate it to the Member States and shall identify issues related to changes in legislation or of technical nature.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

16. Taking into account the fact that the appointment of Country-Coordinator to the Working Group on Trade and Economic Development is still pending, the participants called upon the Member States to express their interest on that issue.

17. The BSEC BC informed the participants about the re-launching of the Business Council's Web site as a regional business information resource for businesses world-wide. The delegations expressed their support to this activity and agreed to invite their relevant national institutions and business organizations to submit to the BSEC BC the necessary information and data base to be included in the new Web site.

18. The delegations took note of the proposal of the representative of the Republic of Armenia to discuss the possibilities of organizing during the next year an Industrial exhibition of the BSEC countries.

19. Turkish delegation presented information on Trabzon World Trade Center established on May 29, 2003 with the aim to develop international trade in the Black Sea region especially by organizing fairs, exhibitions and conferences.

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

20. The venue and the exact date of the next Working Group Meeting will be communicated to the Member States in due course through the PERMIS.

### **EXPRESSION OF THANKS**

21. The delegations expressed thanks to the PERMIS for hospitality and excellent preparation and to the Chairman for his able and constructive chairing of the Meeting.

### **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

22. The Working Group adopted the present report for the submission to the Ninth Meeting of Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to be held in Baky, October 2003.