

**REGULATIONS<sup>1</sup>**  
**on the Sectoral Dialogue Partnership Status**  
**with the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation**

The present Regulations on the Sectoral Dialogue Partnership Status with the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as the BSEC or the Organization) in accordance with Article 9 of the BSEC Charter of 5 June 1998 (hereinafter referred to as the Charter) and Article 11 of the Rules of Procedure shall determine the legal status of a sectoral dialogue partner (hereinafter referred to as the Partner) as well as the order and procedure for granting this status to an interested State or international organization and institutions (hereinafter referred to as the State or organization), as well as to a non-governmental organization (hereinafter referred to as the NGO).

**I. General provisions**

1.1. The sectoral dialogue partnership status (hereinafter referred to as the Status) shall be granted for a two-year term to the State or organization which maintains cooperation with the BSEC in specific areas as defined in the Charter.

1.2. The Partner should not use the Status for economic or financial purposes.

1.3. The goals pursued by the Partner shall be consistent with the goals of the BSEC and shall not fall outside the scope of the statutory documents of the Organization.

1.4. The Partner shall be responsible for all expenses arising from its participation in the BSEC activities.

1.5. The applicant NGO has to be independent from states and governments. It must not be a state run institution, nor composed by state administrations, nor being under state direction and not receiving guidelines from any government.

**II. Legal status of the Partner**

2.1. The procedure for granting the status.

2.1.1. Those States or organizations wishing to obtain the partnership status shall address their request for granting such a status to the Secretary General of the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat,

---

<sup>1</sup> *Approved by the Twenty Third Council (Thessaloniki, 26 November 2010).*

signed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the corresponding State or the executive head of the corresponding organization.

The above-mentioned request shall indicate the intended areas of cooperation between the corresponding State or organization and the BSEC.

2.1.2. The Secretary General of the BSEC Secretariat shall circulate the above-mentioned request among the BSEC Member States. This matter shall be considered at the earliest meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials of the BSEC Member States (hereinafter referred to as the CSO). If a consensus is reached with respect to the above-mentioned request, the CSO shall submit it for approval by the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States (hereinafter referred to as the CMFA).

2.1.3. The decision on granting the Status shall be taken at the earliest meeting of the CMFA by consensus.

2.1.4. If the request is approved, the CMFA authorizes the BSEC Secretary General to sign with the Partner a joint Statement at their earliest convenience, which would include the areas of cooperation between the Partner and BSEC, based on the submitted application.

2.1.5. The Status shall not be renewed automatically. The Partner shall address its request for renewing the above-mentioned status to the Secretary General of the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat, signed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the corresponding State or the executive head of the corresponding organization; the decision on this request shall be taken at the earliest meeting of the CSO by consensus.

2.2. The rights of the Partner.

2.2.1. The Partner shall have the right to participate in:

- open meetings of the working groups, the Committee of Senior Officials and other BSEC bodies only when agenda items involve areas of partnership;

- open meetings of heads of ministries and/or agencies of the BSEC Member States to maintain cooperation in areas of partnership;

- scientific and expert conferences (forums, conferences and workshops), exhibitions and other events related to areas of partnership.

2.2.2. During the events provided for in paragraph 2.2.1 of the present Regulation, the Partner shall have the right to make statements on matters of partnership, to receive documents and materials circulated among the participants (unless these documents and materials are of limited distribution) and to circulate its own materials and documents with the consent of the BSEC Member States.

2.2.3. At the request of the Partner and with the consent of the BSEC Member States, the text of the statement by its official representative

or documents provided for in paragraph 2.2.2 of the present Regulation may be posted on the relevant BSEC websites along with other information about this event.

2.2.4. The Partner shall have the right to renounce its status. In this case it shall send a notification thereof to the Secretary General of the BSEC Secretariat. The Status shall be considered null and void from the date of sending the above-mentioned notification to the Secretary General.

2.3. The procedures for interacting with the Partner.

2.3.1. By mutual agreement, the BSEC Member States and their Partner(s) may hold meetings in the "BSEC Member States plus (a) Partner(s)" format.

2.3.2. Copies of the documents of open events mentioned in paragraph 2.2.1 of the present Regulation shall be forwarded to the Partner through the BSEC Secretariat.

2.3.3. The Status shall not entitle the Partner to participate in the drafting and signing of documents of the Organization. The Partner shall not participate in the formulation of decisions adopted by BSEC bodies and shall bear no responsibility for such decisions.

2.3.4. The Partner may maintain regular contacts with the BSEC Secretariat by means of official correspondence.

### **III. Termination of the partnership status**

3.1. The Sectoral Dialogue Partner status of a State or international organization may be suspended or terminated by the Council.

3.2. Any BSEC Member State shall have the right to start the decision-making process leading to the suspension or the termination of the Status.

3.3. The Status shall be suspended or terminated by a Resolution of the CMFA.

3.4. The Secretary General of the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat shall advise the relevant State or organization of the decision taken.

### **IV. Final provisions**

4.1. The present Regulation may be amended and/or supplemented by a Resolution of the CMFA.

4.2. The present Regulation shall enter into force from the date of its approval by Resolution of the CMFA.