



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

**Permanent International Secretariat**

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**REPORT OF THE MEETING  
OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON CULTURE**

**Istanbul, BSEC Headquarters, 19 March 2013**

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Culture was held in Istanbul, at the BSEC Headquarters, on 19 March 2013.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Andrei CHISTOL, Head of Division for European Integration, International Relations and Projects, Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Moldova.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:  
  
Republic of Armenia  
Republic of Bulgaria  
Republic of Moldova  
Romania  
Russian Federation  
Republic of Serbia  
Republic of Turkey  
Ukraine
4. The representative of the Republic of Slovenia attended the Meeting as the BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partner.
5. The List of Participants is attached as **Annex I** to the present Report.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

6. The Draft Agenda of the Meeting was discussed 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 IN CHARGE OF CULTURE: DISCUSSION AND ASSESSMENT**

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) since the last Meeting of the Working Group on Culture (BSEC Headquarters, 9-10 October 2012).

8. The participants acknowledged the information on the issue provided by the BSEC PERMIS and expressed the willingness to proceed with necessary steps needed to secure the dynamics of the implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the Council and the Declarations and the Statements of the Ministers in charge of Culture.

9. The Working Group considered and approved the Report on the activities of the Working Group on Culture (2011-2012) presented by the delegation of Romania in its capacity of the previous Country-Coordinator of the Working Group, and decided to submit it to the Committee of Senior Officials of BSEC. The Report is attached as **Annex III** to the Report.

**THE “WAY FORWARD FOR AN ACTION PLAN ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE “ECONOMIC AGENDA TOWARDS AN ENHANCED BSEC PARTNERSHIP”**

10. The BSEC PERMIS representative informed about ongoing discussions on the measures to implement Goal 8 of the Priority Areas of the “BSEC Economic Agenda” entitled “Development of Tourism and Protection of Cultural Heritage”.

11. The Working Group considered the following priorities: “Promoting the restoration of major architectural monuments which are symbols of national and regional culture and care projects of the architectural heritage on the territory of the BSEC Member States” and “Developing cooperation in combating illicit trafficking of cultural property belonging to the archaeological, historical, ethnographical heritage and the arts, inter alia through exchange of information to facilitate the return of lost or illegally exported cultural values within the existing legislation.”

12. The Participants expressed its readiness to cooperate on the basis of the agreed priorities and to consider new proposals on priority issues of cooperation within the framework of the “BSEC Economic Agenda” in conformity with the Action Plan on “The way forward on the implementation of the Economic Agenda”.

13. The Working Group called upon the Member States, who have not yet done so, to expedite sending their replies to Survey in order to enable the Working Group to continue its substantive discussion on the issue.

14. The BSEC PERMIS representative proposed to elaborate an “Agreement (or Memorandum of Understanding) among the BSEC Member States on cooperation in combating illicit trafficking of cultural property belonging to the archaeological, historical, ethnographical heritage and arts”.

15. In conformity with the BSEC Economic Agenda, the delegation of the Republic of Moldova expressed its willingness to elaborate on a pilot project on cultural and creative industries.

16. The Working Group took note of the above mentioned proposals.

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BSEC PUBLIC COMMUNICATION STRATEGY**

17. The BSEC PERMIS representative informed on the ongoing discussions on the ways and means to implement the BSEC Public Communication Strategy.

18. The Member States were invited to comply with the decisions of the Council to this end, taking into consideration the list of proposals which were put forward at the Coordination Meetings of the Communication Officers of the BSEC Member States for the Implementation of the BSEC Public Communication Strategy (BSEC Headquarters in Istanbul, 15 October 2012 and 5 March 2013).

19. The Working Group decided to continue discussion on concrete proposals for implementation of the Public Communication Strategy in compliance with the Action Plan on the implementation of the BSEC Economic Agenda.

### **CONSIDERATION OF THE NEW DRAFT PLAN OF ACTION OF THE WORKING GROUP (2013-2014)**

20. The Working Group discussed, amended and adopted the Draft Plan of Action of the Working Group for the period 1 January 2013 – 31 December 2014, elaborated by the Republic of Moldova in its capacity as the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group. The Plan of Action is attached as **Annex IV** to the Report.

### **CULTURAL ROUTES: DISCUSSION ON THE WAYS AND MEANS TO IMPLEMENT THE PROJECTS**

21. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS representative on the outcome of the consideration of the issues of Cultural Tourism / Cultural Routes at the Joint Meeting of the Working Groups on Cooperation in Tourism and on Culture (Istanbul, 9 October 2012).

22. The Working Group, while reiterated the suggestions made at the Joint Meeting, emphasized that the combined efforts by the Member States are encouraged to further promote and implement the joint projects.

23. The delegation of the Republic of Armenia made a presentation on “Areni Wine Festival” as one of the activities within the framework of the project “Vine and Wine Routes of Armenia” and invited the Member States to participate in the project.

24. Furthermore, the delegation of the Republic of Armenia informed on the next wine festival in Areni to be held in October 2013 and proposed to consider the possibility to introduce a joint wine project which will incorporate the similar projects, presented by other Member States.

25. The Working Group took note of the proposal by the delegation of the Republic of Moldova on a pilot project on “Wine Museum Map” and invited Moldova to submit the proposal for the consideration of the Member States.

### **CULTURAL HERITAGE: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON INVENTORY DATA, CONSERVATION AND OVERALL MONITORING OF THE CULTURAL ASSETS**

26. The Working Group decided to continue consideration of the proposal by Romania on the interactive online platform and newsletter (web-site) on culture for the BSEC Member States.

27. The Member States are invited to communicate their final comments/observations on the proposal by 1 May 2013.

28. The Working Group took note of the BSEC PERMIS proposal to publish a collection of XX century works of the classic literature writers of the BSEC Member States and decided to continue the consideration at its next Meeting.

### **STRENGTHENING AND BOLSTERING THE CULTURAL CO-OPERATION AND THE CONTACTS BETWEEN THE BSEC MEMBER STATES, ENCOURAGING CREATIVITY AND STIMULATING INNOVATION AND, CONSEQUENTLY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

29. The Working Group decided to continue consideration of the proposal by Romania on “Developing and supporting creativity culture” at its next Meeting and invited the Member States to communicate their comments/observations on the paper well in advance of the next Meeting.

30. The Working Group took note on the initiative of the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General to elaborate a project proposal on the hospitality traditions in the BSEC Member States and instructed BSEC PERMIS to provide more information on the proposal well in advance of its next Meeting.

### **COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS**

31. The representative of the Republic of Slovenia, which is currently holding the Chairmanship-in-Office of the Council of Ministers of Culture of South-East Europe (April 2012 – April 2013) informed of the activities of the Council and the preparations for the next Ministerial Meeting to be held in Slovenia on 8-9 April 2013. Information is attached as **Annex V** to the Report.

32. The delegation of the Republic of Armenia informed on the Cultural Capitals project being implemented within the Intergovernmental Foundation for Educational, Scientific and Cultural Cooperation (IFESCCO) and proposed to invite the representative of the Foundation to the next Meeting of the Group.

33. The delegation of the Republic of Moldova provided information on the state of cooperation within the framework of EU Eastern Partnership Cultural Programme and on Council of Europe support of regional pilot project on rehabilitation of cultural heritage in historic towns.

## **PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND**

34. The Working Group took note positively of the Report and supplementary documents on the outcome of the recently accomplished project the “Literary Ark” with the PDF financing, which was presented by the delegation of the Republic of Armenia. The presentation is attached as **Annex VI** to the Report.

35. Furthermore, the Working Group highly appreciated efforts of the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the project partners in promoting multicultural cooperation in the Black Sea Region. It also emphasized the necessity to expand the practice of multicultural projects as one of the useful tools in demonstrating the diversity of cultures, making them closer and promoting friendship and cooperation in the Region.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

36. The participants reiterated the importance of holding a Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Culture. The Member States are invited to consider the possibility of organizing the Meeting in the second half of 2013 or in 2014.

37. The BSEC PERMIS representative informed on the 2013 BSEC Calendar, which was prepared and disseminated by PERMIS, with the theme of historical buildings. The PERMIS expressed its intention to continue printing such calendars every year with a different theme in order to promote the rich cultural heritage of its Member States. The Member States are invited to provide high-quality visuals for the preparation of the next calendar.

## **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING**

38. The Working Group on Culture adopted the present Report and submitted it for consideration to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials of the BSEC Member States.

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