

**THE HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES OF
THE BSEC MEMBER STATES**

Yerevan, 5 October 2013

REPORT

1. The High-Level Conference on Information and Communication Technologies of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) was held in Yerevan, Republic of Armenia, on 5 October 2013. The Conference was preceded by the Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Information and Communication Technologies held at the BSEC Headquarters in Istanbul, on 25 September 2013.
2. The following BSEC Member States attended the Conference:
 - Republic of Armenia
 - Republic of Bulgaria
 - Georgia
 - Hellenic Republic
 - Republic of Moldova
 - Romania
 - Russian Federation
 - Republic of Serbia
 - Republic of Turkey
 - Ukraine
3. The list of participants of the Conference is attached as **Annex I**.
4. The Program of the Conference is attached as **Annex II**.
5. The Conference was chaired by H.E. Mr. Garegin MELKONYAN, Deputy Minister of Economy of the Republic of Armenia. The opening statement of the Chairman is attached as **Annex III**.
6. H.E. Ambassador Dr. Victor TVIRCUN, Secretary General of the Permanent International Secretariat of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, delivered a statement, the text of which is attached as **Annex IV**.
7. The Heads of Delegations made presentations on ICT development in their respective countries.
8. Mr. Bagrat YENGIBARYAN, Director of Enterprise Incubator Foundation, made a presentation on the concept for the establishment of a BSEC ICT Incubators Association.
9. The Heads of Delegations took note of the initiative of the Republic of Armenia to establish the BSEC ICT Incubators Association and invited the ICT incubators and

similar entities of the BSEC Member States to elaborate on their proposals to be considered as practical steps towards this end.

10. Mr. Vahagn LALAYAN, Head of Investment Policy Department, Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia, delivered a presentation on the Armenian Free Economic Zones Program.
11. Mr. Michael VARDANIAN, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia to the Organization of BSEC, shared the results of the last Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Information and Communication Technologies (BSEC Headquarters, Istanbul, 25 September 2013) with the participants of the High-Level Conference.
12. The participants appreciated the activities of the Working Group and took note of the outcomes of its last Meeting.
13. The participants also encouraged the Working Group on ICT to undertake further efforts in developing prospects of cooperation with the BSEC Related Bodies, Observers, Sectoral Dialogue Partners, relevant international organizations and other interested partners.

EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE

14. The Heads of Delegations expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Armenia and personally to H.E. Mr. Garegin MELKONYAN, Deputy Minister of Economy of the Republic of Armenia, for their efforts to further promote the BSEC goals in the field of ICT cooperation. They also expressed their gratitude for the warm hospitality extended to the delegations and the excellent arrangements made for the High-Level Conference in Yerevan.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

15. The present Report was adopted for submission to the 29th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States which will be held in Yerevan, Republic of Armenia, on 12 December 2013.