



## ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

### Permanent International Secretariat

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### REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF CULTURE AND TOURISM OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

*Sochi, the Russian Federation, 23 June 2016*

1. The Conference of the Ministers in charge of Culture and Tourism of the BSEC Member States was held in Sochi, the Russian Federation, on 23 June 2016.
2. The Conference was chaired by Mr. Sergey KORNEEV, Deputy Head of the Federal Agency for Tourism of the Russian Federation.
3. The following BSEC Member States attended the Meeting:  
  
Republic of Armenia  
Republic of Azerbaijan  
Republic of Bulgaria  
Hellenic Republic  
Romania  
Russian Federation  
Republic of Serbia
4. The following BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partners attended the Meeting:  
  
- World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)
5. The list of Participants 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**.
7. Mr. Sergey KORNEEV, Deputy Head of the Federal Agency for Tourism of the Russian Federation, delivered an opening statement.

8. The welcome addresses were delivered by Mr. Sergey USENKO, Deputy Governor of Krasnodar Krai, H.E. Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES, Secretary General of the Permanent International Secretariat of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) and Mr. Zoltan SOMOGYI, Executive Director of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).
9. The Heads of Delegations delivered their national statements reflecting the Agenda items.
10. The Heads of Delegations agreed with the proposal of BSEC PERMIS to initiate the collection of statistical data concerning the intra-BSEC touristic flows, as well as data referring to the BSEC Member States' incoming and outgoing touristic flows from and to non-BSEC countries. It was agreed that this data, to be periodically updated under the supervision of BSEC PERMIS, will help underline the importance of intra-BSEC Tourism and help Member States in their efforts to further enhance their cooperation in the fields of Tourism and Culture.
11. The Heads of Delegations welcomed the intention expressed by the Minister of Tourism of the Republic of Bulgaria to consider assuming the function of the Country-Coordinator of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism.
12. The Heads of delegations of the BSEC Member States adopted "The Joint Declaration of the Conference of the Ministers in charge of Culture and Tourism of the Member States of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (Sochi, 23 June 2016)". The Joint Declaration is attached as **Annex III**.
13. The Participants expressed their gratitude to the Government of the Russian Federation for the organization of the Conference and for the hospitality extended.
14. The Participants adopted the Report of the Conference of the Ministers in charge of Culture and Tourism of the BSEC Member States and decided to present it to the next meeting of the Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States (Sochi, 1 July 2016).