



25 April 2017

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**REPORT OF THE
TWELFTH MEETING OF THE
AD HOC WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS
ON BSEC-EU INTERACTION**

BSEC Headquarters, 25 April 2017

1. The Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on BSEC-EU Interaction was held at the BSEC Headquarters on 25 April 2017.
2. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Ms. Serap ÖZCOŞKUN, Special Representative of the Turkish Chairmanship-in-Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Azerbaijan
Hellenic Republic
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Serbia
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine
4. The representative of the International Center for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) attended the Meeting in the capacity of a BSEC Related Body.
5. 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**.

**AGENDA ITEM 2: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS
AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BSEC COUNCIL AND FOLLOW-UP OF
THE DECLARATIONS AND JOINT STATEMENTS ADOPTED BY THE HEADS OF
STATE AND GOVERNMENT AND THE BSEC COUNCIL**

7. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on the financing opportunities and procedures concerning application to European financial instruments and, in conformity with previous decisions of the CMFA, invited the BSEC PERMIS to proactively engage in the formulation of project proposals, fully respecting the prerogatives of the Member States, in the areas of BSEC priority.

8. The Working Group underlined the role of BSEC Member States which are also members of the EU in promoting BSEC-EU interaction and invited all Member States to provide suggestions as to the main priorities of such interaction, ensuring the appropriate guidance and follow-up of cooperation between the two organizations in the framework of BSEC Working Groups.

9. The Republic of Azerbaijan underlined the importance for the EU and European Financial Institutions to fully respect the sensibilities of all countries in the formulation of their activities in the region.

AGENDA ITEM 3: ENHANCING BSEC-EU INTERACTION IN SPECIFIC AREAS OF COOPERATION:

10. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on current and prospective activities of BSEC in the areas of Culture and Tourism, Environmental protection, Renewable Energy Sources and energy efficiency, Science and Technology and Transport and the opportunities they present for increased interaction with the EU.

11. Participants exchanged views on the prospects of developing sector cooperation between the BSEC and the EU and invited the BSEC PERMIS to actively promote this cooperation and inform the Member States accordingly.

12. The Working Group also took note of the information provided by the ICBSS on its participation to projects in the field of Science and Technology and, in particular, to the “Black Sea Horizon” project. The Working Group invited Member States, the ICBSS and PERMIS to explore ways as to ensure the widest possible participation of entities from BSEC countries to this project.

13. The BSEC PERMIS provided detailed information on its participation in the formulation of the project proposal “MED-BLACK Nautical Route”, submitted for approval under the call for proposals EASME/EMFF/2016/1.2.1.12 of the European Commission (Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises-EASME). The said proposal is attached as **Annex III**.

AGENDA ITEM 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14. The Republic of Azerbaijan provided information on its cooperation with the EU, in particular in the fields of energy, energy security and transport.

AGENDA ITEM 5: DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

15. The date and venue of the next Meeting will be communicated in due course.

AGENDA ITEM 6: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

16. The Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts adopted the present Report for the submission to the Committee of Senior Officials of the BSEC Member States.