

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

BSEC Headquarters, 6 November 2017

1. The Thirteenth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on BSEC-EU Interaction was held at the BSEC Headquarters on 6 November 2017.
2. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Pavlo SULTANSKY, Ambassador at Large, EU & NATO, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following Member States:
 - Republic of Armenia
 - Republic of Bulgaria
 - Hellenic Republic
 - Romania
 - Russian Federation
 - Republic of Serbia
 - Ukraine
4. The representative of the European External Action Service (EEAS) attended the Meeting on behalf of the European Commission as BSEC Observer.
5. The list of participants is attached as Annex I.

AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. The Draft Agenda of the Meeting was discussed, amended 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 and the representative of the European Union on the participation of BSEC PERMIS at the 4th Stakeholders' Meeting on the Integrated Maritime Policy of the EU in the Black Sea, organized by Georgia and the European Commission (Batumi, on 15 September 2017) and the involvement of EC officials in the proceedings of the "Conference on Fisheries and Blue Growth", co-organized by BSEC PERMIS and the Municipality of Sariyer (Istanbul, 31 October-1 November 2017).

8. The Working Group also took note of the consultations of the BSEC PERMIS concerning its participation in the Steering Committee of the “Facility for Blue Economy Development in the Black Sea”, set up by the European Commission, as well as its consultations with the forthcoming Bulgarian EU Presidency and the European Commission in preparation of the scheduling of the “European Maritime Day” (Burgas, 31 May-1 June 2018).

9. The Working Group exchanged views on BSEC-EU interaction and expressed its appreciation over recent developments, which reflect the development of cooperation in a practical, balanced, mutually beneficial and project oriented way.

AGENDA ITEM 3: PARTICIPATION OF BSEC PERMIS IN CALLS FOR PROPOSALS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

10. The Working Group took note of the information presented by BSEC PERMIS concerning its experience in the submission of project ideas under Calls for Proposals of the European Commission.

11. The Working Group encouraged the BSEC PERMIS to continue proactively exploring the opportunities for securing EU’s financial assistance for BSEC projects, falling within the objectives of the Organization and fully respecting the prerogatives of the Member States.

AGENDA ITEM 4: ENHANCING BSEC-EU INTERACTION IN SPECIFIC AREAS OF COOPERATION:

12. 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.

AGENDA ITEM 5: PREPARATIONS FOR THE ANNUAL INFORMAL BSEC-COEST MEETING (BRUSSELS, 1 DECEMBER 2017)

13. The Working Group took note of the information provided by BSEC PERMIS on the programme and preparations for the forthcoming informal meeting of BSEC with the COEST Working Party (Brussels, 1 December 2017).

14. The Working Group also noted the kind request of the representative of the European Union to provide to the hosts information on the composition of their delegations by 22 November 2017, in order to facilitate the organization of the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

15. No issue was raised under this Agenda item.

AGENDA ITEM 7: DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

16. The date and venue of the next meeting of the Working Group will be communicated in due course.

AGENDA ITEM 8: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

17. The Working Group adopted the present Report for submission to the Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials, to be held in Kyiv, on 13-14 December 2017.