



BS/WG/C/R(2017)2

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

BSEC Headquarters, 27 November 2017

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Culture was held at the BSEC Headquarters, on 27 November 2017.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Sergii KRAVCHENKO, Consul in charge of BSEC, Consulate General of Ukraine in Istanbul.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Republic of Bulgaria
Georgia
Hellenic Republic
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Serbia
Ukraine
4. The representatives of the Geo Routes Cultural Institute of Athens, the Hellenic Republic, attended as Guests.

The List of Participants is attached as **Annex I** to the present Report.

AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. 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 THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE DECLARATIONS AND JOINT STATEMENTS ADOPTED BY THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF CULTURE

6. The BSEC PERMIS informed on the implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the Council and the follow-up of Declarations adopted by the Ministers in charge of Culture, since the last Meeting of the Working Group on Culture (BSEC Headquarters, 14 June 2017).

AGENDA ITEM 3: ACTIVITIES IN 2018 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PLAN OF ACTION OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON CULTURE

7. The Country-Coordinator (the Republic of Serbia) informed on the intention to organize the following events in 2018, to which BSEC Member States will be invited :

- *International Archaeological Film Festival (with the participation of BSEC Member States as special guests) (Belgrade, March 2018);*
- *Expert Meeting devoted to the protection of tangible cultural heritage (Belgrade, March 2018);*
- *Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Culture (Belgrade, autumn 2018).*

8. The representative of the Republic of Serbia expressed the willingness to investigate the possibility of establishment of a network of experts on cultural heritage, based on the model already existing in the Working Group on Energy and report back to the Working Group on Culture at its next meeting.

9. The representative of the Republic of Serbia also expressed the readiness to prepare a UNESCO representative list of inscriptions of intangible cultural heritage from the BSEC Member States in order to explore the possibilities of multinational nominations and invited interested Member States to send their own proposals on the matter.

AGENDA ITEM 4: CULTURAL ROUTES: DISCUSSION ON THE WAYS AND MEANS TO IMPLEMENT THE PROJECTS

10. The Working Group took note of information presented by the BSEC PERMIS on the consideration of the Cultural Routes / Cultural Tourism projects within BSEC.

11. The Working Group took note of updated information on the project the “Cultural Port of the Black Sea”, prepared by the European Centre for Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Monuments, and requested the proponents of the project to keep it informed on further developments.

12. The Working Group took note of the proposal of the representative of the Republic of Serbia to make a mapping of future Byzantine route in BSEC Member States. The Member States were invited to choose five sites which are on the World Heritage List or National Importance

that have elements of Byzantine style. The materials should be accompanied by photos and brief descriptions of historical value of each site and submitted to the BSEC PERMIS by 31 January 2018.

13. The Working Group proposed to consider the possibility of organizing a joint meeting with the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism in 2018.

AGENDA ITEM 5: NEW SILK ROAD – CULTURAL DIMENSION

14. The Working Group took note of information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on its cooperation with the UNWTO Silk Road Programme and on participation of the BSEC Member States in its activities.

15. The Working Group invited relevant authorities of the BSEC Member States to investigate possible proposals on cultural dimension of new Silk Road to be developed within the BSEC.

16. The BSEC PERMIS informed the Member States on its intention to organize in Istanbul, in collaboration with the University of Valencia, a meeting among the participants of the “Silk Road Universities Network” and interested academic entities of the BSEC Member States.

AGENDA ITEM 6: CONTEMPORARY ARTS - CONSIDERATION OF CONCRETE PROPOSALS:

a) Publishing a collection of the XX century works of the classic literature writers

17. The Member States that have not yet submitted to the BSEC PERMIS the works of their most representative writers/poets in the original and English languages were kindly invited to do so **by 31 December 2017**, according to the uniform technical details provided in the BSEC PERMIS Note No: BS/INFO.2017.0350 dated 6 July 2017 (attached as **Annex III**).

18. The BSEC PERMIS, after collecting the works contributed, will provide the Member States with the relevant financial conditions for publishing.

b) Proposal on the establishment of a “Black Sea Youth Symphony Orchestra”

19. The delegation of Georgia presented a proposal on the establishment of a “Black Sea Youth Symphony Orchestra” and requested support and active involvement of the BSEC Member States in this project.

20. The Working Group took note of the proposal and invited relevant authorities of the BSEC Member States to communicate to the BSEC PERMIS their comments on this important initiative **by 1 February 2018**. The proposal is attached as **Annex IV**.

AGENDA ITEM 7: COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

-Briefing on the draft Memorandum of Understanding UNESCO-BSEC

21. The Working Group took note of information provided by BSEC PERMIS on the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UNESCO and BSEC, prepared by UNESCO, and supported the idea of conclusion of the MoU as an important step in developing the collaboration between the two organizations. The text of the draft MoU is attached as **Annex V**.

- Balkans and Black Sea Cooperation Forum

22. The representatives of the Geo Routes Cultural Institute from Athens delivered a presentation on the results of the first edition of the “Balkans and Black Sea Cooperation Forum”, held on 25-28 May 2017 in Serres, Greece. Moreover, they outlined the agenda and mentioned the Strategic Dialogue Partners for the second edition of the Forum, to be held on 30 May – 1 June 2018 in Thessaloniki, Greece. The 2018 Forum Declaration will be devoted to “Rail, Road, Rivers connectivity to the EU via Balkans Region”. They invited the relevant authorities and other interested stakeholders from the BSEC Member States to attend and / or suggest speakers for the event. The presentation and the Master Plan on the interconnectivity of destinations in the Balkans and Black Sea region are attached as **Annex VI** and **Annex VII**.

AGENDA ITEM 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

23. The BSEC PERMIS delivered to the Working Group updated information, prepared by the ICBSS, on its activities within the “BSEC Month of Culture” in 2017, carried out in connection with the marking of the 25th Anniversary of the BSEC Organization.

24. The BSEC PERMIS invited the Member States that have not yet done so, to send to the BSEC PERMIS as soon as possible, their contributions for publishing the BSEC Calendar for the year 2018 with the theme of “*Bridges*”, according to the technical conditions communicated by the BSEC PERMIS Note No: BS/INFO.2017.0503 dated 2 November 2017.

AGENDA ITEM 9: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

25. 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.