



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

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Istanbul, 21 October 2013

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

Istanbul, 21 October 2013

1. The Seventh Meeting of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on BSEC-EU Interaction was held at the BSEC Headquarters in Istanbul on 21 October 2013.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Edouard PANOIAN, Head of Department of Multilateral and Bilateral Economic Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following Member States:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Republic of Bulgaria
Hellenic Republic
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine
4. The representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of BSEC (PABSEC) and the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) participated in the Meeting in the capacity of the BSEC Related Bodies.
5. The representative of the European External Action Service (EEAS) participated in the Meeting on behalf of the EU as a BSEC Observer.
6. The representative of Hungary participated in the Meeting as BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partner.

The list of participants is attached as **Annex I**.

7. The Draft Agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The Agenda, as adopted, is attached as **Annex II**.

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

8. The AHGE considered the guidelines on enhancing BSEC-EU interaction contained in BSEC Documents and Declarations and confirmed the importance of aiming at building a closer, balanced and mutually beneficial relation between the two organizations.

9. In this framework, the AHGE welcomed the initiative of the BSEC Armenian Chairmanship-in-Office to schedule the present Meeting, after the relevant proposal of the ICBSS, in its capacity as coordinator of the Ad Hoc Group, as well as to schedule an informal meeting of the BSEC with the COEST Working Party, in Brussels, on 2 December 2013.

10. The AHGE invited the BSEC PERMIS and the ICBSS to closely cooperate with EU institutions, within the framework of the implementation of the BSEC Economic Agenda towards an enhanced BSEC Partnership, in order to elaborate concrete cooperation proposals for the consideration of the relevant BSEC Working Groups and the Committee of Senior Officials.

11. Taking into consideration the coincidence of the assumption of the BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office by the Republic of Bulgaria and the EU Presidency by the Hellenic Republic, in the first half of 2014, the AHGE invited the BSEC Member States that are also EU Member States to inform regularly BSEC Member States of their initiatives, within the EU institutions, concerning BSEC-EU cooperation.

REVIEW OF BSEC-EU COOPERATION IN SPECIFIC AREAS OF BSEC ACTIVITY

12. The AHGE discussed the ways of implementation of the new BSEC Economic Agenda Towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership, *inter alia*, through elaboration of concrete proposals for joint projects with the EU in areas of common interest.

13. The AHGE took note of the information presented by the BSEC PERMIS on recent BSEC activities in the areas of SMEs, Education, Culture, Science and Technology, Tourism, Environment and Information and Communication Technologies, within the relevant BSEC Working Groups.

14. The AHGE took note of the information presented by the EU representative, concerning recent activities of the EEAS and the competent Directorates General of the European Commission in the Black Sea region.

15. The delegation of the Republic of Turkey stressed that the activities in the framework of BSEC-EU cooperation in maritime issues and in particular in the fields of safety of navigation, maintenance of security, protection of marine environment and fisheries could be further developed via homegrown initiatives and mechanisms to be established with the participation of the littoral countries.

16. The AHGE expressed the view that the regular participation of European Commission representatives in BSEC Working Group Meetings could be instrumental in elaboration of joint project proposals.

PREPARATION OF THE INFORMAL MEETING OF THE BSEC TROIKA IN OPEN FORMAT WITH THE COEST WORKING PARTY (BRUSSELS, ON 2 DECEMBER 2013)

17. The AHGE exchanged views on the content of the forthcoming meeting of the BSEC with the COEST Working Party, to be held in Brussels, on 2 December 2013.

18. With this regard, the AHGE requested the BSEC PERMIS to prepare a Progress Report on the state of play on the implementation of the BSEC Economic Agenda.

19. The BSEC PERMIS was instructed to circulate the Draft Agenda of the meeting in question, to be finalized after consultations with the EEAS, by 22 October 2013.

20. The AHGE kindly requested the BSEC Member States to inform of their participation in the abovementioned meeting, no later than 15 November 2013.

EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE AHGE

21. The AHGE exchanged views on the draft new Terms of Reference of the Group, prepared by the BSEC PERMIS, in cooperation with the ICBSS, in accordance with the decision taken during its previous meeting.

22. The AHGE agreed to continue discussion on the draft new Terms of Reference of the Group at its next Meeting. The draft Terms of Reference, as well as a Background Paper on the joint BSEC PERMIS/ICBSS proposal is attached as **Annex III**.

23. The AHGE recommended to the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials to consider the possibility of upgrading the Group from an “Ad Hoc” to a regular BSEC subsidiary body.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

24. No issue was raised under this Agenda Item.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

25. The date and the venue of the next Meeting will be communicated in due time through the BSEC PERMIS, after consultations with the Chairman-in-Office.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

26. The present Report was adopted for submission to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials to be held in Istanbul on 22-23 October 2013.