



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

BS/WG/EP/R(2018)1

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

BSEC Headquarters, 28 September 2018

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Environmental Protection was held at the BSEC Headquarters on 28 September 2018.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mrs. Neli MUTAFOVA, Chief Expert, Ministry of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria, in its capacity of County-Coordinator of the Working Group.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following Member States:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Republic of Bulgaria
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine
4. The List of Participants is attached as **Annex I**.
5. The representatives of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution Permanent Secretariat attended the meeting as Observers.

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 RESOLUTION, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL AND PROVISIONS OF THE JOINT DECLARATIONS ADOPTED AT THE MEETINGS OF THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

7. The BSEC PERMIS briefed the Working Group on the status of implementation of the resolutions, decisions and recommendations of the Council and provisions of the Joint Declarations adopted at the Meetings of the Ministers in Charge of Environmental Protection of the BSEC Member States.

8. The importance of appointment of representatives to the Working Group on a long term basis and their attendance at the meetings was raised by the BSEC PERMIS. The updated list of representatives – national contact points in the Working Group on Environmental Protection is attached as **Annex III**. The countries, which did not deliver updated information, were invited to do so in due course.

9. The BSEC PERMIS informed about its contacts with the United Nations Environment Office in Geneva in order to implement the bilateral Agreement on Cooperation (signed on 20 February 2002). The Secretariat was encouraged to continue working on the possible steps to be taken for strengthening the cooperation with UNEP.

AGENDA ITEM 3: CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT PLAN OF ACTION OF THE WORKING GROUP, PREPARED BY THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND WATER OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

10. The Country-Coordinator (Bulgaria) presented a draft Action Plan 2018–2019, which was discussed and approved by the Working Group. The Action Plan is attached as **Annex IV**.

AGENDA ITEM 4: PRESENTATION OF THE ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP FOR THE PERIOD 2016-2017, PREPARED BY THE MINISTRY OF WATERS AND FORESTS OF ROMANIA

11. The Working Group took note of the Activity Report for 2016–2017, presented by Romania. The Report is attached as **Annex V**.

AGENDA ITEM 5: MODALITIES OF ESTABLISHING AN INFORMATION EXCHANGE MECHANISM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

12. The Working Group discussed the issue of the Establishment of Information Exchange Mechanism for Environment Protection. Following the decision of the Member States (26 October 2017) to send links of their legislative documents available on the portals of the relevant National Authorities to the BSEC website, only one Member State has done so. Therefore, the Working Group decided to get back to this issue whenever, in the future, such interest is shown by the Member States.

AGENDA ITEM 6: PRESENTATION OF THE NEW DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION IN THE MEMBER STATES

13. The representative of Romania made presentation on the recent developments in the national environmental legislation and informed about implemented projects in the Black Sea marine area. The provided information is attached as **Annex VI** to the Report.

AGENDA ITEM 7: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BSEC CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION STRATEGY FOR THE BLACK SEA REGION, ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL ON 15 DECEMBER 2017 IN KIEV

14. The participants shared their views about the implementation of the BSEC Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, which was adopted on 15 December 2017 in Kiev. The text of the Strategy is attached as **Annex VII**.

15. The idea of hiring a consultancy firm/consultant for a period of one or two years was discussed, in order to prepare an action plan/report for the implementation of the Strategy for the next 5 years.

AGENDA ITEM 8: PROJECT PROPOSALS TO BE JOINTLY DEVELOPED WITHIN THE WORKING GROUP ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

16. Romania informed about two project proposals that can be implemented within the Working Group focused on marine litter and climate change.

17. Romania also proposed to the Working Group to continue elaborating on the project proposal: “Strengthening of the competent authorities’ capacity and of the cooperation for the control of the transboundary waste transport in order to face illegal traffic”, which may be financed under the Black Sea Project Promotion Facility.

18. The representative of the Permanent Secretariat of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution made a presentation on their current work on a Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter, as well as their Memorandum of Understanding with Barcelona Convention. The presentation is attached as **Annex VIII**.

19. BSEC PERMIS informed that it received a Letter from the Executive Secretary of the ACCOBAMS Organization based in Monaco. This Organization is specialized in marine ecology and within the Mediterranean and Black Sea areas and focuses on preservation of marine mammals called cetacean. 5 out of 6 littoral Black Sea States are members of ACCOBAMS.

In this Letter BSEC PERMIS was informed on the implementation of the ACCOBAMS Module on Cetacean Conservation in early 2019 with the Istanbul University. This teaching module is designed to be taught during 4 days as part of a Master’s degree or any equivalent further education course in the countries of the area covered by ACCOBAMS. It addresses several aspects of cetacean biology, ecology and conservation.

The main objective of this module is to develop specific skills in cetology that allow students to learn about different aspects of cetacean population dynamics and conservation. ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat proposes to BSEC Member States collaboration. The Letter of ACCOBAMS is attached as **Annex IX**.

20. BSEC PERMIS provided also information regarding a project proposal submitted under the Central European Initiative’s Cooperation Fund (CEI CF) for organizing a High-Level International Conference on “Inter-basin Cooperation on Marine Litter. A focus on the Danube River and the Black Sea” to be held in Bulgaria in 2019. The information was disseminated to the Member States by the BSEC Note No: BS/INFO.2018.0260, dated 29 May 2018.

AGENDA ITEM 9: CONTRIBUTION OF RECENTLY COMPLETED PROJECTS TO THE PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND ECOSYSTEMS. RECENT, ONGOING AND UPCOMING INITIATIVES, EVENTS AND PROJECTS IN THE BLACK SEA REGION – PRESENTATIONS BY THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

21. The representative of Romania presented two projects related to Marine Strategy Framework Directive and Marine Spatial Planning, respectively. CeNoBs project was also presented. The presentation is attached **Annex X**.

22. The representative of the Republic of Bulgaria made a presentation on four implemented projects – IMAMO, MARLEN, ISMEIMP, FEMA/WEMA. The presentation is attached as **Annex XI**.

AGENDA ITEM 10: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

23. The BSEC PERMIS informed about two project proposals/ideas:

- for creating a consortium to answer Horizon 2020 Call for proposal: [DT-BG-04-2018-2019 Sustainable European aquaculture 4.0: nutrition and breeding](#). The proposal is attached as **Annex XII**.

- “Toxin Residues in Black Sea Marine Organisms and Impacts on Human Health”, prepared by the College of Staten Island, New York, USA, in partnership with the Institute of Marine Biology, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and Institute of Molecular Biology, National Academy of Science of Bulgaria. The information was disseminated to the Member States by the BSEC Note No: BS/INFO.2018.0156, dated 30 March 2018.

AGENDA ITEM 11: DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP

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

AGENDA ITEM 12: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

25. The Working Group adopted the present Report for submission to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials, to be held at the BSEC Headquarters on 31 October – 1 November 2018.