



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION
Permanent International Secretariat

BS/IM/AHWG/MFF/C(2019)1

**CONCLUSIONS OF THE INFORMAL MEETING
OF THE BSEC AD HOC WORKING GROUP
ON MASSIVE FOREST FIRES**

Antalya, 23-25 September 2019

1. The Informal Meeting of the BSEC Ad Hoc Working Group on Massive Forest Fires was held in Antalya, the Republic of Turkey, on 23-25 September 2019.
2. The Informal Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group was chaired by Mrs. Tülay URAN, Engineer, International Relations and Humanitarian Aid Department, Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency, Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Turkey.
3. Opening remarks on the BSEC PERMIS activities in 2019 were delivered by the Deputy Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS Dr. Sergei GONCHARENKO.
4. The Informal Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:

Georgia
Hellenic Republic
Russian Federation
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine

The List of Participants is attached as **Annex I**.

5. The Draft Agenda of the Informal 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 COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS AND THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE DECLARATIONS AND JOINT
STATEMENTS ADOPTED BY THE MINISTERS FOR EMERGENCIES AND
HEADS OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

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6. The participants took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on the implementation of the recent Resolutions and Decisions of the Council of Ministers and the Joint Statement of Ministers and Heads of Emergencies and Rescue Governmental Agencies of the BSEC Member States adopted in Sochi on 8 June 2016.

AGENDA ITEM 3: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE “BSEC ECONOMIC AGENDA TOWARDS AN ENHANCED BSEC PARTNERSHIP” RELATED TO THE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE IN THE BLACK SEA REGION

7. The participants took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS in the context of this item.

AGENDA ITEM 4: FINALIZATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE BSEC AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON MASSIVE FOREST FIRES SUBMITTED BY THE COUNTRY-COORDINATOR, REPUBLIC OF TURKEY, FOR THE PERIOD OF 1 JULY 2018 – 30 JUNE 2020

8. The participants agreed on the Plan of Action and suggested to present it to the consideration of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance.

AGENDA ITEM 5: SHARING OF EXPERTISE, KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE AMONG MEMBER STATES ON REDUCING AND PREVENTING MASSIVE FOREST FIRES AS WELL AS ON PRACTICAL STEPS AND IMMEDIATE SOLUTIONS (PRESENTATIONS OF MEMBER STATES)

9. The representative of Georgia presented information on recent activities of the Emergency Management Service of Georgia and mentioned the importance of regional cooperation and assistance. The proposal of establishment of flexible and operative mechanism for sharing relevant information was made.

10. The delegation of the Russian Federation made a presentation on “Organization of Extinguishing Large Forest Fires in the Territory of the Russian Federation”. The presentation is attached as **Annex III**.

AGENDA ITEM 6: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE POSSIBLE MECHANISMS FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION IN CASE OF MASSIVE FOREST FIRES PARTICULARLY ON ESTABLISHING A REGIONAL COMMUNICATION MULTI-PURPOSE PLATFORM FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS, PUBLIC AWARENESS ETC

11. The participants agreed that forest fires affect all the BSEC Member States and, if occurred, cause big damages to the territories and people of these countries. In this regard, they stressed importance of the implementation of the Agreement among the Governments of the Participating States of BSEC on collaboration in Emergency Assistance and Emergency Response to natural and man-made Disasters as an instrument for concise actions of the BSEC Member States and agreed that this document serves for their interests.

12. The delegation of the Republic of Turkey highlighted importance of establishment of the communication multipurpose platform which may serve as an effective basis for BSEC Member States aimed at reducing and preventing massive forest fires.

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13. The Republic of Turkey expressed its readiness to use the International Forestry Training Center for trainings of the interested BSEC Member States.

14. The delegation of the Hellenic Republic stressed the importance of updating on regular basis the unified data base and contact details of the Network of Liaison Officers in Emergency situations.

15. The BSEC PERMIS urged the participants on necessity of providing by Member States updated information on the contacts of responsible persons at their earliest convenience.

16. The delegation of Ukraine expressed importance of exchange of information on modern technologies in early warning system.

AGENDA ITEM 7: ROLE OF BSEC (POSSIBLE CONCRETE ACTIONS AND INTERACTIONS) IN THE CONTEXT OF THE RECENT MASSIVE FOREST FIRE EMERGENCY SITUATIONS IN MEMBER STATES

17. The participants took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS in the context of this item and agreed to elaborate further on the matter at the next meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group.

AGENDA ITEM 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

18. No issue has been raised under this agenda item.

AGENDA ITEM 9: DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

19. The date and venue of the next Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Massive Forest Fires will be communicated to the Member States through the BSEC PERMIS in due course.

AGENDA ITEM 10: CONCLUSIONS OF THE INFORMAL MEETING

20. The present Conclusions will be submitted to the next Meeting of the Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance.