



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

BS/WG/CEA/R(2020)1

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON COOPERATION IN EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Videoconference, 27 October 2020

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance was held online on 27 October 2020.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Ms. Roxana BRANDA, Specialist Officer, European Affairs, Assistance and International Relations Department, General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations of Romania.
3. Opening remarks were made by the BSEC PERMIS Deputy Secretary General Dr. Sergei GONCHARENKO and Ms. Roxana BRANDA, Specialist Officer, European Affairs, Assistance and International Relations Department, General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations of Romania.
4. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:
 - Republic of Armenia
 - Republic of Azerbaijan
 - Georgia
 - Hellenic Republic
 - Republic of Moldova
 - Romania
 - Russian Federation
 - Republic of Serbia
 - Republic of Turkey
 - Ukraine

The List of Participants is attached as **Annex I**.
5. The Draft Agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The Agenda, as adopted, is attached as **Annex II**.

AGENDA ITEM 2: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE MERGER OF AD HOC WORKING GROUPS ON A. FLOODS AND TORRENTS, B. MASSIVE FORREST FIRES AND C. EXPERTS ON SEISMIC RISK WITH THE WORKING GROUP ON COOPERATION IN EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

6. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS in the context of this item.

7. On the basis of exchange of views, the Working Group decided to merge the Ad Hoc Working Group on Massive Forest Fires and the Ad Hoc Working Group on Floods and Torrents into the Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance.

8. The decision on the merger of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Massive Forest Fires and the Ad Hoc Working Group on Floods and Torrents into the Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance is submitted for the approval of the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials at its next meeting.

9. The issue of tentative merging of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Seismic Risk into the Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance will be considered at a later stage.

AGENDA ITEM 3: LESSONS IDENTIFIED AND BEST PRACTICES IN MEMBER STATES REGARDING THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

10. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS in the context of this item.

11. The Working Group took note in a positive way of the presentation made by the delegation of Ukraine on “Emergency Response to Combat the Epidemic and Take Additional Measures to Prevent the Spread COVID-19”. The presentation is attached as **Annex III**.

12. The Working Group took note in a positive way of the information provided by the delegation of the Republic of Armenia and the delegation of Romania on the current activities and measures undertaken against the spread of Covid-19 in their respective countries.

13. The delegation of the Republic of Armenia proposed organizing of a Joint Meeting of the Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance and the Working Group on Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals in the near future.

AGENDA ITEM 4: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITIES OF THE WORKING GROUP FOR THE THIRD MEDIUM-TERM (2019-2021) OF THE BSEC ECONOMIC AGENDA 2012

14. The Working Group considered in a positive way information provided by the delegation of Romania, current Country-Coordinator, on the proposed Priorities of the Working Group for the Third Medium-Term (2019-2021) of the BSEC Economic Agenda 2012.

AGENDA ITEM 5: PRESENTATION OF THE EVALUATION REPORT OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC, THE PREVIOUS COUNTRY - COORDINATOR OF THE WORKING GROUP (1 JULY 2019-30 JUNE 2020)

15. The delegation of the Hellenic Republic, the previous Country-Coordinator of the Working Group, presented the Evaluation Report for the period of its Coordinator-ship (1 July

2019 - 30 June 2020). The participants considered and took note of the Report. The Evaluation Report is attached as **Annex IV**.

AGENDA ITEM 6: PRESENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE PERIOD OF 1 JULY 2020 – 30 JUNE 2021 BY ROMANIA, THE CURRENT COUNTRY-COORDINATOR OF THE WORKING GROUP

16. The delegation of Romania, in its capacity of the current Country-Coordinator of the Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance, presented the Plan of Action of this Working Group for the period of 1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021.

17. The Working Group considered and adopted the Plan of Action. The Plan of Action is attached as **Annex V**.

AGENDA ITEM 7: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON CONCRETE MECHANISMS FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS:

A. The Ways of Improvement of the Activities of the BSEC Network of Liaison Officers on Emergency Assistance

18. The participants exchanged the views on the activities of the BSEC Network of Liaison Officers on Emergency Assistance.

19. The Member States were requested to provide an updated list of focal points of the BSEC Network of Liaison Officers on Emergency Assistance.

20. The participants exchanged views on the possible ways of improvement of the activities of the Network aimed at regional cooperation in emergency situations.

21. The delegation of the Republic of Armenia proposed creating a portal integrated into the website of the BSEC Organization, where Liaison Officers of the Member States can post the relevant information which can be a concrete and efficient mechanism to exchange this information.

22. The delegation of Ukraine has proposed creating a WhatsApp group for ensuring an immediate and urgent communication between the Liaison Officers from the Member States.

B. The Possibility of Conducting Joint Exercises on Emergency Preparedness

23. The participants exchanged views on the possibility of conducting joint exercises on emergency preparedness in an online format.

AGENDA ITEM 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

24. The delegation of Ukraine proposed creation of a task force in charge of organizing joint exercises for the next year (including online platforms).

25. The delegation of Ukraine proposed to hold table exercises on preparedness and emergency response to natural and man-made disasters for the BSEC Member States in online regime in 2021. BSEC Member States were kindly requested to present information on their possible participation in the activities of the task force to the BSEC PERMIS.

AGENDA ITEM 9: DATE AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

26. The date and the venue of the next meeting will be communicated to the Member States in due course.

AGENDA ITEM 10: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

27. The participants of the Working Group adopted the Report of the Meeting for its submission to the next Meeting of the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials.