



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

BS/WG/CEA/R(2021)1

**REPORT
OF THE MEETING
OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP
ON COOPERATION IN EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**
10 June 2021, online

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance was held online on 10 June 2021.

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. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Albania
Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Republic of Bulgaria
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**.

4. The representative of the Parliamentary Assembly of BSEC attended the Meeting as the BSEC Related Body.

5. The representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt attended the Meeting as the BSEC Observer.

6. 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 PLAN OF ACTION OF THE WORKING GROUP IN LIGHT OF EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES CAUSED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

7. The delegation of Romania presented the Evaluation Report on the process of the implementation of the Plan of Action for the period of 1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021 which was considered and adopted at the previous Meeting of the Working Group held online on 27 October 2020. The Evaluation Report is attached as **Annex III**.

AGENDA ITEM 3: EVALUATION REPORT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY, THE COUNTRY-COORDINATOR OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON MASSIVE FOREST FIRES (1 July 2018 – 30 June 2020)

8. The delegation of the Republic of Turkey presented the Evaluation Report for the period of its Country-Coordinator-ship (1 July 2018 – 30 June 2020) of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Massive Forest Fires. The Evaluation Report is attached as **Annex IV**.

9. The Working Group took note of the Evaluation Report and expressed its appreciation for the work performed by the Republic of Turkey as the Country-Coordinator of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Massive Forest Fires.

AGENDA ITEM 4: EVALUATION REPORT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY, THE COUNTRY-COORDINATOR OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON FLOODS AND TORRENTS (1 July 2018 – 30 June 2020)

10. The delegation of the Republic of Turkey presented the Evaluation Report for the period of its Country-Coordinator-ship (1 July 2018 – 30 June 2020) of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Floods and Torrents. The Evaluation Report is attached as **Annex V**.

11. The Working Group took note and expressed its appreciation for the work performed by the Republic of Turkey as the Country-Coordinator of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Floods and Torrents.

AGENDA ITEM 5: LESSONS IDENTIFIED AND BEST PRACTICES IN MEMBER STATES REGARDING THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. PRESENTATIONS BY MEMBER STATES

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

13. The delegation of Ukraine made a presentation entitled “*Emergency Response to Combat the Epidemic and Take Additional Measures to Prevent the Spread of the COVID-19*”. The presentation is attached as **Annex VI**.

14. The delegation of Romania made a presentation entitled “*COVID-19 Pandemic. Lessons learnt*”. The presentation is attached as **Annex VII**.

15. The delegation of the Hellenic Republic made a presentation entitled “*COVID-19: lessons identified and best practices*”. The presentation is attached as **Annex VIII**.

16. The delegation of the Republic of Serbia provided information on the lessons learnt and experience of the country regarding the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

17. The Working Group expressed its condolences to the delegation of the Republic of Serbia over the decease of Mr. Predrag MARIC, Head of the Sector for Emergency Management of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia.

AGENDA ITEM 6: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON MECHANISMS FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

18. The participants exchanged views on establishment of possible effective mechanisms for regional cooperation in emergency situations.

19. The delegation of Romania reiterated the idea of using the BSEC Network of Liaison Officers on Emergency Assistance as an effective tool for regional cooperation, and urged the Member States to periodically update the contact details of liaison officers, in order to ensure the possibility of immediate action in case of emergency situation.

20. The delegation of Romania invited the BSEC Member States to update information in the Unified Database including the contact details of the Liaison Officers of the BSEC Network on Emergency Assistance by the next meeting of the Working Group. The PERMIS will provide them with the necessary details on the access to the Database.

21. The Working Group took note of the request of the Observers for having the access to the Unified Database.

22. The delegation of the Republic of Armenia proposed to convene a Joint Meeting of the Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance and the BSEC Network of Liaison Officers on Emergency Assistance.

AGENDA ITEM 7: THE OUTCOME OF THE ONLINE MEETING OF THE BSEC AD HOC WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS IN SEISMIC RISK (9 June, 2021)

23. The Working Group took note of the Report of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts in Seismic Risk which was held online on 9 June 2021. The Report is attached as **Annex IX**.

AGENDA ITEM 8: CONSIDERATION OF THE REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE WORKING GROUP IN LIGHT OF THE MERGER OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON MASSIVE FOREST FIRES AND THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON FLOOS AND TORRENTS WITH THE WORKING GROUP ON COOPERATION IN EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

24. The Working Group considered and adopted the revised Terms of Reference of the Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance. The revised Terms of Reference is attached **Annex X**.

AGENDA ITEM 9: COUNTRY-COORDINATORSHIP OF THE WORKING GROUP FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2021-30 JUNE 2023

25. The Working Group considered the issue and decided that the Republic of Turkey will assume the Country-Coordinatorship of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance for the term of two years starting from 1 July 2021.

26. The decision of the Working Group on the Country-Coordinator will be submitted for the consideration of the next CSO meeting.

27. The delegation of Romania expressed its intention to take over the Country-Coordinatorship of the Working Group after the completion of the Country-Coordinatorship of the Republic of Turkey.

AGENDA ITEM 10: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

28. No specific issue was raised under this agenda item.

AGENDA ITEM 11: DATE AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

29. It was decided that the date and the venue of the next meeting will be communicated by the BSEC PERMIS to the Member States in due course.

AGENDA ITEM 12: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

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