



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

BS/WGCT/R(2025)2

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON COOPERATION IN TOURISM

3 December 2025, online

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism was held online on 3 December 2025.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Ms. Lusine GEVORGYAN, Head of Tourism Committee of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia.
3. Opening remarks were made by:
Ms. Rositsa STOEVA, National Coordinator of the Bulgarian Chairmanship-in-Office of BSEC, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria on behalf of the Bulgarian BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office;
Ms. Lusine GEVORGYAN on behalf of the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group.
4. 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
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Türkiye
Ukraine
5. The following BSEC Related Bodies attended the Meeting:
Parliamentary Assembly of BSEC (PABSEC)
International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS).
6. The following BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partners attended the Meeting:
UN Tourism (UNWTO)
Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR).
7. The List of Participants is attached as **Annex I** to the present Report.

AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

8. 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 UPDATED BSEC ECONOMIC AGENDA “TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE OF THE WIDER BLACK SEA AREA”

9. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the Secretariat regarding the state of affairs in the implementation of the BSEC Economic Agenda, in particular the relevant provisions under GOAL 8: *Development of Tourism, Protection of Cultural Heritage and Promotion of Modern Culture*.

10. The BSEC PERMIS welcomed the written contributions submitted by the Member States outlining relevant national objectives and policies, which will serve as a basis for enhanced cooperation within the Working Group and for the preparation of the Implementation Report on the fulfilment of the aforementioned provisions of the updated Economic Agenda.

11. In addition, the BSEC PERMIS briefed regarding the participation of the BSEC PERMIS Deputy Secretary General, Ambassador Dimitrios RALLIS in the World Tourism Communication Forum, held in Yerevan (Armenia) on 23-25 October 2025.

12. The Working Group took note of the updates regarding the current cooperation with UN Tourism under the existing Memorandum of Understanding and the UNWTO's status as a Sectoral Dialogue Partner of BSEC. The Working Group was also informed about the participation of the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General, Ambassador Lazar COMANESCU, in the 26th General Assembly of UN Tourism in Riyadh (7-11 November 2025), including his meeting on the sidelines of the event with H.E. Mr. Gevorg PAPOYAN, Minister of Economy of the Republic of Armenia, and Ms. Lusine GEVORGYAN, Head of Tourism Committee of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia.

AGENDA ITEM 3: CONSIDERATION OF THE ACTION PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2025 – 31 DECEMBER 2026, DEVELOPED BY THE TOURISM COMMITTEE OF THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA, THE CURRENT COUNTRY-COORDINATOR OF THE WORKING GROUP

13. The Working Group approved the Plan of Action for the period 1 January 2025 – 31 December 2026, submitted by the representative of the Country-Coordinator, the Republic of Armenia. The Plan of Action, attached as **Annex III**, sets out the priorities and main areas of activity under Armenia's Coordinatorship of the Working Group.

AGENDA ITEM 4: EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND EXPERIENCE – SHARING REGARDING NATIONAL PRACTICES IN THE FIELD OF TOURISM IN THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

14. In this context, the representative of the Country-Coordinator informed on Armenia's tourism sector progress during the current year, highlighting key legislative, infrastructural, promotional, and digital advancements that strengthened the country's position, enhanced its global visibility, and promoted sustainable growth.

AGENDA ITEM 5: COOPERATION WITH REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND PARTNERS

15. The representative of the *Parliamentary Assembly of BSEC* (PABSEC) informed on its current policies and priorities in the area of tourism.

16. The representative of the *International Centre for Black Sea Studies* (ICBSS) presented their ongoing activities and cooperation priorities, and provided further details on the TOURAL Project.

17. The representative of UN Tourism reiterated the Organization's readiness to further enhance its cooperation with the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism. In this context, the representative delivered an extensive briefing outlining UN Tourism's strategic priorities, ongoing programmes, and long-term initiatives designed to promote the development of resilient, inclusive, and sustainable tourism ecosystems across Member States. The presentation also provided an in-depth overview of prevailing global tourism dynamics, key policy engagement processes and analytics, established sustainability and governance frameworks, as well as the regional support instruments and technical assistance mechanisms offered by the UN Tourism.

18. The Working Group took note of information presented by the representative of the *Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe* (CPMR).

AGENDA ITEM 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

19. No discussion was held under this agenda item.

AGENDA ITEM 7: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

20. The Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism adopted the present Report for its submission to the next Meeting of the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials.