



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

BS/WGC/R(2025)1

**REPORT
OF THE MEETING
OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP
ON CULTURE**

Online, 30 May 2025

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Culture was held online on 30 May 2025.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Ms. Astghik MARABYAN, Head of the Department of Cultural Heritage, Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia.
3. Opening Remarks were made by:
 - Ambassador Dimitrios RALLIS, Deputy Secretary General of BSEC PERMIS on behalf of the Secretariat;
 - Ms. Astghik MARABYAN, 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 Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Georgia
Hellenic Republic
Republic of North Macedonia
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Serbia
Republic of Türkiye
Ukraine.
5. The representative of the Parliamentary Assembly of BSEC (PABSEC) attended the meeting as BSEC Related Body.
6. The representative of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR) attended the meeting as BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partner.
7. The representative of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) participated in the meeting as guest via a pre-recorded video message.

8. The List of Participants is attached as **Annex I** to the present Report.

AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

10. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the importance of the implementation of the BSEC Economic Agenda, more precisely the relevant provisions listed in ***GOAL 8: Development of Tourism, Protection of Cultural Heritage and Promotion of Modern Culture***, as a platform for a more productive, effective and constructive cooperation for achieving tangible results.

11. In this context, the BSEC PERMIS invited the Member States to submit to PERMIS **by 30 June 2025** information on their national policies and measures aimed at achieving the goals and objectives of the BSEC Economic Agenda in the field of culture. Based on the received inputs, an Implementation Report will be prepared.

12. The delegation of the Republic of Armenia, while supporting the above call, invited the Secretariat to provide Member States with a structured, detailed Questionnaire in order to facilitate the preparation of the above-mentioned contributions.

13. In addition, the BSEC PERMIS encouraged the participants to elaborate on possible projects/initiatives for collaboration and joint actions in line with the updated BSEC Economic Agenda.

AGENDA ITEM 3: BUILDING AND PROMOTING COOPERATION NETWORKS AMONG PROFESSIONALS IN INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE, HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION AND EXPLORING WAYS FOR DEVELOPING JOINT PROJECTS IN THE RESPECTIVE AREA

14. Under this Agenda item, and building on the potential and diversity of the cultural offer of the wider Black Sea region, the representative of the Country-Coordinator reiterated its proposal to establish networks of experts specialized in intangible cultural heritage and heritage restoration and called on the Member States to consider providing experts in the above-mentioned networks, in order to further enhance collaboration and strengthen cultural ties in the BSEC region.

15. In this regard, the relevant provisions of the BSEC Economic Agenda were recalled, including the exchange of knowledge, experiences and best practices related to the preservation and promotion of intangible cultural heritage, responding to challenges and utilizing innovative solutions in heritage restoration and safeguarding, fostering continuous professional dialogue, supporting joint nominations for the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Lists, etc.

16. So far, the delegations of the Hellenic Republic, Romania and the Russian Federation have responded positively to this initiative and sent their contributions in this context.

17. The Working Group invited interested Member States to participate in this endeavor. In parallel, the Country-Coordinator will communicate with the National Contacts forwarded so far and, in cooperation with the BSEC PERMIS, start organizing an online meeting within the Networks and elaborating on priorities and concrete forms of cooperation.

AGENDA ITEM 4: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND COLLABORATION IN THE FIELD OF CULTURE IN THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

18. During the debates under this Agenda Item, the delegations of the Republic of Armenia, the Russian Federation, and the Republic of Türkiye made presentations, thus sharing their experiences and informing on recent developments in their respective Countries.

19. In this context, the delegation of the Russian Federation shared their experiences on registration, preservation, study and popularization of intangible cultural heritage objects, including on the establishment of a register of such objects.

20. The representative of the Republic of Türkiye informed on the progress of preparations for the 14th Annual Advisory Forum on the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe entitled “*Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe and Landscapes: Advancing Heritage Protection through Cultural and Sustainable Tourism*”, to be held in Cappadocia, Türkiye, from 22 to 24 October 2025.

21. In the same spirit, the representative of the Country-Coordinator announced that the Republic of Armenia will host the EPA Annual Forum in 2026. The same delegation informed on the establishment of the Foundation for the Development of Culture in Armenia, elaborated on its competencies and forthcoming activities, as well as introduced the newly envisaged electronic ticketing system for museums.

22. Further on, the Member States and partner organizations were invited to communicate to the BSEC PERMIS their proposals to the BSEC Calendar of Events activities for the second semester of the year 2025.

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

23. The Working Group took note of the information delivered by the representative of the *Balkan and Black Sea Commission* (BBSC) of the *Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe* (CPMR).

24. The representative of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) addressed the meeting via a pre-recorded video message.

AGENDA ITEM 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

25. The BSEC PERMIS Deputy Secretary General, Ambassador Dimitrios RALLIS recalled the BSEC PERMIS Note No: BS/INFO.2025.0129 of 27 March 2025, attached as **Annex III**, which distributed a List of Elements to be included in the Annual Report on the Implementation of the BSEC Economic Agenda.

AGENDA ITEM 7: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

26. The Working Group on Culture adopted the present Report for its submission to the next Meeting of the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials.