



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

BS/WG/EP/R(2025)1

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

3 November 2025, online

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Environmental Protection was held online, on 3 November 2025.

2. The Meeting was chaired by Ms. Emiliya KRAEVA, Head of Department, International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria.

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

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Republic of Bulgaria
Georgia
Hellenic Republic
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Türkiye
Ukraine

4. The following BSEC Related Body also participated in the Meeting:

International Center for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS), Research and Policy Development Department.

5. The following Sectoral Dialogue Partner participated in the meeting:

The Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions in Europe, Balkans and Black Sea Commission (CPMR).

6. The following guest attended the meeting:

United Nations Office for Project Services, Austria Multi Country Office.

7. The representative of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution (Black Sea Commission), being unable to participate, sent a written message.

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

AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

9. The Draft Agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The Agenda as adopted, is attached as **Annex II**.

AGENDA ITEM 2: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS RELATED TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE JOINT DECLARATIONS ADOPTED BY THE MEETINGS OF THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF ENVIRONMENT

10. The Secretariat provided a short information on the state of affairs with regard to the implementation of:

- BSEC Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for the Black Sea Region;
- BSEC Economic Agenda Towards a Sustainable Future of the wider Black Sea area.

11. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the state of implementation of Resolutions and Decisions of the BSEC Council as well as of the provisions of the Joint Declarations, and decided to start a new cycle of reporting on the BSEC Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for the Black Sea Region.

AGENDA ITEM 3: EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON NATIONAL POLICIES, ON PROGRESS ACHIEVED AND ON BEST PRACTICES IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

12. The representatives of the Russian Federation, Republic of Bulgaria, Republic of Türkiye and Georgia, briefed the participants on their respective national policies, highlighting progress achieved in the field of marine biodiversity and marine biodiversity loss, waste management, water pollution, air management and pollution, marine litter, land-based pollutants, land degradation, improving the environmental conditions in settlements, emergency response plan in the Black Sea, sustainable blue economy and climate change.

13. The speakers also shared best practices in the field of environmental protection such as several events organized with the focus on environmental challenges of the wider Black Sea region and underscored policy initiatives with regional significance that are currently being implemented or under development, such as the preparation and implementation of national and regional Action Plans targeting environmental or climate change topics.

AGENDA ITEM 4: CONTRIBUTION OF UPCOMING, ONGOING AND RECENTLY COMPLETED PROJECTS TO THE PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE. NEW PROJECT PROPOSALS TO BE JOINTLY DEVELOPED WITHIN THE WORKING GROUP ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. PRESENTATIONS BY THE BSEC MEMBER STATES, SECRETARIAT AND GUESTS

14. The representative of the International Center for Black Sea Studies made a presentation on the projects they are implementing in cooperation with BSEC PERMIS, such as *REST-COAST*, *BRIDGE-BS Project* and its follow – up: *2030 Blue Roadmap for the Black Sea and Digital Twin of the Black Sea*.

15. The representative from the Republic of Bulgaria informed the participants on their ongoing projects: *The River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for the Black Sea Basin District 2022–2027*; *The Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) for the Black Sea Basin District 2022–2027*; and *The Marine Strategy and Programme of Measures 2022–2027*.

16. The representative from Georgia briefed the meeting on their ongoing projects, namely, *Blueing the Black Sea (BBSEA) Project*, that is being implemented by UNOPS with the support of BSEC PERMIS, and the *Marine Litter Management Project*.

17. The representative from the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) presented two projects: *The Coalition of Waterfront Cities, Regions and Islands (CO-WATERS)* and *Innovative Dual sustainable solutions for Rural water scarcity and use OptimizatioN (IDRON) Project*.

18. The representative from the Secretariat, while thanking the previous speakers for their presentations of shared projects (*REST-COAST*, *BRIDGE-BS* and *BBSEA*), briefed the participants about the concluded, ongoing and in the preparation projects: *ARSINOE*, *TOURAL*, *Black Sea Virtual Knowledge Center (BSVKC)*, *Black Sea CONNECT*, *Blue Port Index for BSEC Countries and Agrifood Innovative Living Lab Ecosystems*. It also informed about the upcoming cooperation with the CPMR on the organization of an *International Conference of European Regions*, to be organized next year.

AGENDA ITEM 5: COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL OR REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENT IN THE REGION. DISCUSSIONS ON EVENTUAL PROJECTS FOR JOINT IMPLEMENTATION

19. The Secretariat informed the participants on the state of play with regard to the cooperation with the International and Regional Organizations, such as:

20. The participation for the first time in a Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC meeting in November 2024. Upon the invitation from the President of COP29, Mr. Mukhtar BABAYEV, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan, BSEC PERMIS participated in several high-level events and co-organized a side-event on “*Financing the regional and transboundary cooperation in addressing Climate Change in the Region*”, in partnership with the Secretariats of the Bucharest, Barcelona and Tehran Conventions.

21. In cooperation with UNEP, BSEC PERMIS is working to negotiate an updated Memorandum of Understanding, that will reflect the developments and priorities of the upcoming years.

22. In addition to its contribution to the preparation and now implementation of the *Blueing the Black Sea Project*, BSEC PERMIS is working closely with UNOPS to prepare a *Project on the “Establishment of a Regional and Information Hub on Climate Change for the Black Sea Region”*.

23. The representative of UNOPS also shared a presentation on the *Blueing the Black Sea* project.

AGENDA ITEM 6: PRESENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION BY THE COUNTRY-COORDINATOR, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND WATER OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

24. The representative of the Country-Coordinator (Ministry of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria) presented the priorities of their Country-Coordinatorship for the term 2025–2026 and some planned activities.

AGENDA ITEM 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

25. No matter was raised under this Agenda item.

AGENDA ITEM 8: DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

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

AGENDA ITEM 9: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

27. The Working Group adopted the present Report for its submission to the Committee of Senior Officials and the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs for their consideration.