



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

21 November 2024

BS/WG/AAI/R(2024)1

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON AGRICULTURE AND AGRO-INDUSTRY

Online, 21 November 2024

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Agriculture and Agro-Industry was held online on 21 November 2024.
2. The Meeting was co-chaired by Ms. Gülden Yavuz ÖNÇIRAK, European Union Expert, and by Ms. Eda ÖNEN, European Union Expert-Legalist, Directorate General for EU and Foreign Relations, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Türkiye.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Bulgaria
Georgia
Hellenic Republic
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Serbia
Republic of Türkiye
Ukraine
4. The representative of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions in Europe (CPMR) attended the Meeting as a Sectoral Dialogue Partner.
5. The List of Participants of the Meeting is attached as **Annex I**.
6. Introductory remarks were made by Ms. Gülden Yavuz ÖNÇIRAK, EU Expert, Directorate General for EU and Foreign Relations, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the

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Republic of Türkiye and Ambassador Dimitrios RALLIS, Deputy Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS.

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 BSEC ECONOMIC AGENDA

7. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the importance of the implementation of the “**BSEC Economic Agenda Towards a Sustainable Future of the wider Black Sea area**”, in particular of the relevant provisions listed in ***GOAL 6: Food Security and Safety***, as a guiding document aimed at achieving tangible results.

8. In this context, the BSEC PERMIS recalled the necessity of consolidating the project-oriented dimension of BSEC activities by identifying new projects of common interest to Member States to reinforce economic cooperation in the region while fully reflecting the provisions of the updated Economic Agenda.

9. The Working Group noted that some of the provisions of the updated “**BSEC Economic Agenda**” are already reflected in the 2-year Plan of Action of the Working Group for the period 1 July 2023 – 30 June 2025.

AGENDA ITEM 3: REVIEW OF THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR OF THE MEMBER STATES

10. The representatives of the Republic of Türkiye, the Russian Federation and Ukraine made presentations and statements on the recent developments in the field of agriculture in their countries.

11. The Working Group agreed to continue the discussion about the recent developments and activities in the field of agriculture at its next meetings with a view to consider the possible prospects of cooperation among the Member States.

AGENDA ITEM 4: CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A REGIONAL NETWORK FOR KEY ACTORS OPERATING IN THE FIELD OF SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

12. The Working Group discussed the proposal to establish a regional network for key actors operating in the field of sustainable food systems with the aim to exchange experience and best practices in this field as a follow up of the implementation of the project to establish the “***Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization Regional Cooperation Centre for Sustainable Food Systems***”.

13. While acknowledging the benefits of creating such a network, the participants also stated the lack of financial resources to support the activities of the network. In this sense the participants decided to further explore this proposal and its implementation after the necessary requirements and sources of financing are identified.

AGENDA ITEM 5: CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A TECHNICAL AD-HOC WORKING GROUP ON ADVERSE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON AGRICULTURE

14. The Working Group considered the proposal of the Republic of Türkiye to establish a *technical ad-hoc Working Group on adverse effects of climate change on agriculture*, as a subsidiary organ of the BSEC, with the aim to make technical and scientific studies in order to maintain, protect and develop the conditions of agricultural and food systems environments throughout the BSEC area that might be affected negatively by the climate change.

15. The Working Group invited the Republic of Türkiye to present to PERMIS within one month the draft Terms of Reference of the proposed ad-hoc Working Group to be considered at its next meeting.

16. The Member States were invited to submit to PERMIS within three months their proposals concerning the establishment of the *technical ad-hoc Working Group on adverse effects of climate change on agriculture* as well as on its draft Terms of Reference to be elaborated by the Republic of Türkiye.

AGENDA ITEM 6: COOPERATION WITH REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

14. The Republic of Türkiye informed the Meeting on its cooperation with FAO, in particular about the establishment of the FAO Subregional Office for Central Asia in Ankara and about the FAO-Türkiye Partnership Cooperation Programs (FTPP).

15. BSEC PERMIS informed the Meeting on its participation in the 34th Session of the *FAO Regional Conference for Europe*, organized and hosted by the Republic of Moldova at the FAO Headquarters in Rome, on 14-17 May 2024, in particular about the priorities and the outcomes of the forum and the conclusions and recommendations of the Conference.

AGENDA ITEM 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

16. No issues have been considered under this Agenda item.

AGENDA ITEM 8: DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

17. The next Meeting of the Working Group will be organized online in November 2025. The exact date of the meeting will be communicated to the Member States through diplomatic channels in due course.

AGENDA ITEM 9: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

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