



**ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION**  
**Permanent International Secretariat**

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**24 November 2025**

**BS/WG/CM/R(2025)1**

**REPORT OF THE  
MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP  
ON CUSTOMS MATTERS**

**Online, 24 November 2025**

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Customs Matters was held online on 24 November 2025.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Ms. Sose STEPANYAN, Head of International Cooperation Department, State Revenue Committee of the Republic of Armenia.
3. Opening remarks were delivered by Ms. Sose STEPANYAN and Ambassador Dimitrios RALLIS, BSEC PERMIS Deputy Secretary General.
4. The Meeting was attended by the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Armenia  
Republic of Azerbaijan  
Republic of Bulgaria  
Hellenic Republic  
Republic of Moldova  
Romania  
Russian Federation  
Republic of Serbia  
Republic of Türkiye  
Ukraine

5. The List of Participants in the Meeting is attached as **Annex I**.

**AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

6. The Draft Agenda of the Meeting was considered 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 CUSTOMS MATTERS AND FOLLOW-UP OF THE DECLARATIONS ADOPTED BY THE HEADS OF CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATIONS OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES**

7. The BSEC PERMIS informed the Working Group on the state of implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the BSEC Council and of the Statement and Declaration adopted by the Heads of Customs Administrations of the BSEC Member States.

**AGENDA ITEM 3: CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT PLAN OF ACTION PREPARED BY THE COUNTRY-COORDINATOR OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CUSTOMS MATTERS (REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA) FOR THE PERIOD OF 1 JULY 2025 – 30 JUNE 2027**

8. The Country-Coordinator (Republic of Armenia) presented the draft Plan of Action of the Working Group for the period of 1 July 2025 - 30 June 2027.

9. The Working Group considered, amended and approved the draft Plan of Action. The Plan of Action as adopted is attached as **Annex III**.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: HARMONIZATION AND SIMPLIFICATION OF CUSTOMS PROCEDURES**

10. The representative of the Republic of Armenia informed the participants on recent developments in the area of harmonization and simplification of customs procedures, highlighting the country's strong alignment with international customs standards. Furthermore, it was emphasized that the harmonized and transparent regulatory framework contributes to simplified procedures and more predictable conditions for trade.

11. The representative of the Republic of Türkiye informed the Working Group on the importance the country attaches to the process of constantly harmonizing and simplifying customs procedures, paying specific attention to the transparency and digitalization of the procedures. The participants of the meeting were also briefed on the projects being implemented in the Republic of Türkiye, namely on Digitalization of Airways Transactions and on Container and Port Tracking System.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: EXCHANGING EXPERIENCE ON THE METHODOLOGY OF TIME RELEASE STUDY**

12. The representative of the Republic of Armenia informed the participants on key measures undertaken by Armenian Customs to reduce customs release times, including through Preliminary Declaration System. Armenia's participation in the WCO/JICA TRS Program, within which a national TRS project is intended to be implemented in 2026, was also reported.

13. The Working Group reiterated once again, the usefulness of study-visits to the BCPs in the BSEC region and further encouraged the Member States to use this exercise for coming period of time as well.

## **AGENDA ITEM 6: IMPLEMENTATION OF AUTHORIZED ECONOMIC OPERATORS (AEO) PROGRAMS IN CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATIONS OF THE MEMBER STATES**

14. The representative of the Republic of Armenia informed the Working Group on the status and implementation of the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) program. The legal framework governing AEOs and the positive reception by the business community, following outreach efforts, were highlighted. The participants were also informed about ongoing negotiations with the People's Republic of China and initial steps with the Islamic Republic of Iran to establish mutual recognition of AEOs, further promoting trade facilitation and regional cooperation.

15. The representative of the Republic of Türkiye delivered a presentation on “*AEO Practice in Türkiye*”, highlighting the achievements attained so far in the country in implementation of AEO program. The presentation is attached as **Annex IV**.

## **AGENDA ITEM 7: EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE ON APPLICATION OF INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES IN CUSTOMS OPERATIONS**

16. The representative of the Republic of Armenia informed on development of Armenia's Single Window system which is aligned with global trends in paperless trade and trade facilitation. It was stated, that the integrated platform connects 15 governmental and non-governmental agencies and enables the issuance of around 60 types of permits required for import, export and transit operations; through automation of data submission, verification, and interagency coordination, the system reduces administrative barriers, accelerates customs clearance, and enhances transparency. Furthermore, it was mentioned that its features, including parallel processing, electronic information exchange, and risk-management tools, contribute to faster control procedures and more efficient government oversight, and that the system strengthens Armenia's trade environment by lowering business costs, improving compliance, and increasing the country's attractiveness as a reliable trade and logistics partner.

17. The representative of the Republic of Türkiye delivered a presentation on “*Türkiye's National Experience of Digital Transformation in Customs: Single Window System*”, informing the Working Group on the history, modalities and achievements attained through the application of SWS in Türkiye. The presentation is attached to the Report as **Annex V**.

## **AGENDA ITEM 8: IMPROVING CUSTOMS OPERATIONS TOWARDS E-COMMERCE GOODS FOR PERSONAL USE**

18. The representative of the Republic of Armenia informed the participants on recent improvements in customs operations toward e-commerce goods, including the establishment of new temporary storage warehouses and the procedure allowing customs authorities to complete declarations for individuals. It was emphasized, that these measures have improved efficiency, reduced delays and enhanced service quality, contributing to a more streamlined and user-friendly customs environment.

19. The Working Group agreed on the usefulness of exchange of information and experience on the topic and decided to continue discussion under this Agenda Item during the next Meeting.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 9: ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

20. No issue was raised under this Agenda Item.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 10: DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

21. The date and venue of the next Meeting of the Working Group will be communicated through diplomatic channels in due course.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 11: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING**

22. The Working Group adopted the Report of the Meeting to be submitted to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials.

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