



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION
Permanent International Secretariat

8 April 2026

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REPORT
OF THE MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP
ON TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

BSEC Headquarters, 8 April 2026

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Trade and Economic Development (WGTED) was held on 8 April 2026, at the BSEC Headquarters, Istanbul.

2. The Meeting was chaired by Ms. Demet Işıl KARAKURT, Head of the Department of Regional Agreements and Dispute Settlement, Directorate General for International Agreements and EU Affairs, Ministry of Trade of the Republic of Türkiye.

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

5. Opening remarks were made by:

Ms. Demet Işıl KARAKURT, on behalf of the Country-Coordinator of the BSEC Working Group on Trade and Economic Development;

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: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS RELATED TO TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE JOINT DECLARATIONS ADOPTED BY THE MEETINGS OF THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF ECONOMY

7. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on the state of implementation of the relevant Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, as well as of the Joint Declarations adopted by the Ministers in charge of Economy of the BSEC Member States.

8. The delegations of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Türkiye informed the Working Group on free trade and preferential trade agreements signed by their respective countries, as well as on the activities carried on with regard to future perspectives to that end.

9. The delegation of Romania informed the Working Group on free trade and preferential trade agreements signed by the EU and those that are currently under negotiations.

10. The delegations of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Türkiye emphasized the urgent need for adoption of the Draft Regional Trade Facilitation Strategy for the BSEC region and of the Draft Framework for BSEC Single Window Cooperation.

AGENDA ITEM 3: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND COOPERATION AMONG THE BSEC MEMBER STATES IN THE SPHERE OF ELECTRONIC COMMERCE

- Outcome of the Workshop on “Cross-Border E-commerce: Navigating the Challenges for Reaping the Benefits for BSEC Member States” (BSEC Headquarters, 7 April 2026).

11. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the representative of the BSEC PERMIS on the Workshop on “*Cross-Border E-commerce: Navigating the Challenges for Reaping the Benefits for BSEC Member States*”, held at the BSEC Headquarters on 7 April 2026, and expressed its appreciation to the Ministry of Trade of the Republic of Türkiye and the BSEC PERMIS for co-organizing this event.

12. The Working Group discussed the cooperation among the BSEC Member States in the relevant sphere and decided to continue the consideration of this issue in its future meetings as well, taking into account also the conclusions and recommendations of the above-mentioned Workshop.

13. In the course of discussions, support for the implementation of the Framework for BSEC E-commerce Cooperation was expressed.

14. The Working Group took note of the proposals of the delegations of the Hellenic Republic on the establishment of co-working network with market and e-commerce stakeholders and Romania on cooperation in identifying, developing and implementing joint projects for development of broadband internet access infrastructure, digitalization and cyber security.

15. The importance of broader participation from the BSEC Member States in the activities which will be organized in the framework of BSEC was emphasized.

AGENDA ITEM 4: SETTING UP AN INFORMATION EXCHANGE MECHANISM ON TRADE AND ECONOMIC ISSUES IN THE BSEC REGION

16. The Working Group considered the Project Proposal on “*Setting up an Information Exchange Mechanism on trade and economic issues in the BSEC Region*”, and invited the Member States to send their further feedback **by 30 June 2026**.

17. The Working Group instructed the BSEC PERMIS to examine possible ways to further elaborate the project proposal, based on the feedback to be received from the Member States.

18. The Working Group also invited the Member States to nominate focal points/experts by the above deadline to further consider the Project Proposal aiming at its eventual finalization, and instructed the BSEC PERMIS to examine the possibility to convene a meeting of the above-mentioned focal points/experts prior to the next Meeting of the Working Group.

19. The Project Proposal is attached as **Annex III**.

AGENDA ITEM 5: EXPERIENCE SHARING IN RELATION TO THE NATIONAL TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEES OF THE MEMBER STATES

20. The delegations of the Hellenic Republic, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Türkiye informed the Working Group on the state of affairs with regard to the mechanisms established and existing in their respective countries for supervising the implementation of the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement (WTO TFA), as well as on the recent activities carried on by them in the respective sphere.

21. The delegation of the Hellenic Republic made specific mention to relevant cooperation with the Republic of Albania and the Republic of North Macedonia in the form of Memoranda of Cooperation.

22. The delegation of the Republic of Türkiye informed the Working Group on the willingness to convene the meeting of National Trade Facilitation Committees or relevant national structures in an online format, subject to sufficient interest from the Member States.

23. The Working Group decided to continue exchange of information and views on the Agenda Item at its next Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 6: REGIONAL COOPERATION IN SUPPORT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

24. The delegations of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Türkiye provided the Working Group with information on the developments in their respective countries with regard to the achievement of sustainable development goals.

25. The Working Group decided to continue exchange of information and views on the Agenda Item at its next Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

26. BSEC PERMIS informed the Working Group that the term of the current Country-Coordinator (Republic of Türkiye) of the WGTED will expire on 30 June 2026, and invited the Member States to consider the possibility of assuming the role of the Country-Coordinator of this Working Group.

AGENDA ITEM 8: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

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