



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

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Istanbul, 27 April 2015

BS/AHGE/BSEC-EU/R(2015)1

**REPORT OF THE
TENTH MEETING OF THE
AD HOC GROUP OF EXPERTS ON
BSEC-EU INTERACTION**

BSEC Headquarters, 27 April 2015

1. The Tenth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on BSEC-EU Interaction was held at the BSEC Headquarters on 27 April 2015.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Alexei NISTREAN, Head of Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following Member States:
 - Republic of Armenia
 - Republic of Azerbaijan
 - Republic of Bulgaria
 - Hellenic Republic
 - Republic of Moldova
 - Romania
 - Russian Federation
 - Republic of Serbia
 - Republic of Turkey
4. The following BSEC Related Bodies participated in the Meeting:
 - Parliamentary Assembly of the BSEC (PABSEC)
 - BSEC Business Council (BSEC BC)
 - International Center for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS)
5. The European Commission attended the Meeting as a BSEC Observer.

The list of participants is attached as **Annex I.**

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 RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BSEC COUNCIL AND FOLLOW-UP OF THE DECLARATIONS AND JOINT STATEMENTS ADOPTED BY THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT AND THE BSEC COUNCIL

7. In conformity with previous decisions of the CMFA, the AHGE reiterated the need to promote BSEC-EU cooperation in a project-oriented, flexible and mutually beneficial direction.

8. The AHGE took note of the working paper “Chronology of BSEC-EU cooperation”, prepared by the BSEC PERMIS and requested the Member States and Related Bodies concerned to provide their further contributions to it, taking into consideration the proposals made by the Member States during the Meeting. The working paper, as amended, is attached as **Annex III**.

AGENDA ITEM 3: CONSULTATIONS OF THE MOLDOVAN BSEC CHAIRMANSHIP-IN-OFFICE WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND THE EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE

9. The Republic of Moldova provided information on its previous and prospective consultations with European institutions in conformity with the Priorities of the Chairmanship-in-Office to further develop relations between BSEC and the EU.

10. The AHGE welcomed the initiative of the Chairmanship to hold such consultations and encouraged future BSEC Chairmanships to continue this practice, which may contribute in streamlining cooperation between the two sides by identifying not only specific priorities, but also concrete projects of mutual interest.

AGENDA ITEM 4: CONSULTATIONS AND WORKING RELATIONS OF THE BSEC PERMIS WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND THE EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE

11. The AHGE took note of the information, provided by the BSEC PERMIS, on its consultations and working relations with the European Commission and the European External Action Service and encouraged it to continue the practice of regular exchange of information and contacts with European institutions on furthering BSEC-EU interaction.

AGENDA ITEM 5: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE PREPARATION OF AN ACTION PLAN ON BSEC-EU COOPERATION

12. The participants presented their questions, comments, proposals and amendments regarding the working paper “Draft Action Plan for BSEC-EU cooperation”, elaborated by the BSEC PERMIS, and agreed to finalize it at their next Meeting. The said working paper is attached as **Annex IV**.

13. The participants also agreed on the need to indicate, with the help of the relevant BSEC subsidiary bodies, concrete projects in priority areas, which will be further elaborated and eventually proposed to the EU side.

14. The Member States are invited to make their further contributions to the Draft.
15. The representative of the European External Action Service provided information on the Black Sea Stakeholders Conference held in Sofia on 24 March 2015.

AGENDA ITEM 6: TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE AHGE

16. The AHGE continued consideration of its new Terms of Reference. The revised draft of the Terms of Reference is attached as **Annex V**.
17. The AHGE agreed to continue discussion on its new Terms of Reference at its next Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

18. No issue was raised under this Agenda Item.

AGENDA ITEM 8: DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

19. The date and the venue of the next Meeting will be communicated in due time through the BSEC PERMIS, after consultations with the Chairman-in-Office.

AGENDA ITEM 9: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

20. The present Report was adopted for submission to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials to be held at the BSEC Headquarters on 28-29 April 2015.
