



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

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

BSEC Headquarters, 7 November 2016

1. The Meeting of the Eleventh Meeting of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on BSEC-EU Interaction was held at the BSEC Headquarters, on 7 November 2016.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Vladan LAZOVIC, Minister Counsellor, Special Representative of the Serbian Chairmanship-in-Office of BSEC.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:
Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Republic of Bulgaria
Hellenic Republic
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Serbia
Republic of Turkey
4. The representative of the Parliamentary Assembly of the BSEC (PABSEC) attended the Meeting as a BSEC Related Body.
5. The representatives of the Republic of Austria and the European Commission attended the Meeting as BSEC Observers.
6. The list of participants of the Meeting is attached as **Annex I**.

AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

7. 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

8. 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.

9. The AHGE took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on the financing opportunities and procedures concerning application to European financial instruments and agreed on the need for BSEC to adopt a practical and result oriented approach in the formulation of project proposals falling within BSEC objectives, fully respecting the prerogatives of the Member States in defining BSEC activities and initiatives.

AGENDA ITEM 3: ENHANCING BSEC-EU INTERACTION IN SPECIFIC AREAS OF COOPERATION:

10. The AHGE took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on current and prospective activities of BSEC in the areas of Culture and Tourism, Environmental protection, Renewable Energy Sources and energy efficiency, Science and Technology and Transport in which BSEC-EU interaction could proceed in a practical and project-oriented manner.

11. The AHGE also took note of the presentation made by the representative of the European Commission on its activities in maritime affairs, including the setting up of a dedicated “*Facility for the blue economy development in the Black Sea*” and the open invitation to all riparian States and BSEC to contribute to the definition of its priorities and work modalities. The said presentation is attached as **Annex III**.

12. Participants exchanged views on the prospects of developing sector cooperation between the two organizations and reiterated the usefulness of BSEC in defining, through its own decision-making process, a coherent and practical framework for promoting regional priorities.

13. The AHGE invited the BSEC PERMIS to actively explore possibilities for formulating concrete proposals for promoting joint activities with the EU and inform the Member States accordingly.

AGENDA ITEM 4: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE PREPARATION OF THE MEETING OF BSEC WITH THE COEST WORKING PARTY (BRUSSELS, 24 NOVEMBER 2016)

14. The AHGE took note of the information provided by the representative of the European External Action Service on the preparation and content of the forthcoming informal meeting of BSEC with the COEST Working Party (Brussels, 24 November 2016) and invited the Member States to inform the organizers in time of the composition of their delegations.

AGENDA ITEM 5: NEW TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE AHGE

15. The AHGE considered and revised its new Terms of Reference. The revised draft of the Terms of Reference is attached as **Annex IV**.

16. The AHGE invited the Member States to submit any eventual additional proposals on the draft Terms of Reference **by 1 December 2016**, with the view to consider the document during the following Meeting of the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials (Belgrade, 11-12 December 2016).

AGENDA ITEM 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

17. No issues were raised under this Agenda Item.

AGENDA ITEM 7: DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

18. The date and venue of the next Meeting will be communicated in due course.

AGENDA ITEM 8: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

19. The Ad Hoc Group adopted the present Report for the submission to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials of the BSEC Member States.