



BS/AHWGE/BSEC-EU/R(2018)1

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

BSEC Headquarters, 27 April 2018
(second half of the day)

1. The Fourteenth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on BSEC-EU Interaction was held at the BSEC Headquarters on 27 April 2018.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Arsen AVAGYAN, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia to the Organization of BSEC.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following *Member States*:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Republic of Bulgaria
Hellenic Republic
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Serbia
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine
4. The representative of the *Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation* (PABSEC) and *International Centre for Black Sea Studies* (ICBSS) attended the Meeting as BSEC Related Bodies.
5. The representatives of the Republic of Austria, the Arab Republic of Egypt and the European Commission attended the Meeting as BSEC Observers.
6. The representative from the “*Facility for Blue Growth in the Black Sea*” team attended the meeting as a Guest.
7. The list of participants is attached as **Annex I**.

AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

8. The Draft Agenda of the Meeting was discussed, amended 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

9. The Ad Hoc Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on the participation of PERMIS at the 2nd Meeting of the Steering Group of the "Facility for Blue Growth in the Black Sea" (Brussels, on 26 February 2018) and on hosting the 4th Meeting for Developing a Blue Growth Initiative for Research and Innovation in the Black Sea (27 March 2018, Istanbul). The BSEC PERMIS informed on its participation in the "9th edition of the International Black Sea Symposium" organized in Athens on 20-21 March 2018 by the International Center for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) dedicated to the "Blue Growth".

10. The Ad Hoc Working Group also took note of the preparation of the BSEC PERMIS to participate in the forthcoming 3rd Meeting of the Steering Group of the "Facility for Blue Growth in the Black Sea" (Brussels, on 3 May 2018) and in the "European Maritime Day" (Burgas, 31 May-1 June 2018), which is going to be hosted by the Bulgarian EU Presidency and the European Commission.

AGENDA ITEM 3: PRESENTATION OF THE "FACILITY FOR BLUE GROWTH IN THE BLACK SEA", SET UP BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

11. Upon the instruction by the Council (Kyiv, December 2017) to continue informing the BSEC Member States on all EU activities and initiatives potentially interesting to BSEC, in particular in the framework of the "Facility for Blue Growth in the Black Sea", the BSEC PERMIS invited Mr. Christophe LE VISAGE, expert from the Facility team, to deliver a short presentation about "Facility for Blue Growth in the Black Sea" s activities and future plans. The presentation is attached as **Annex III**.

12. The participants exchanged views on the recent developments related to the Facility and reiterated their understanding that the cooperation between BSEC and the European Union has to be developed in a project-oriented, flexible and mutually beneficial direction. BSEC Member States referred to the mandate given by the CSO to the BSEC PERMIS for participation in the work of the Steering Committee as stipulated at the para 23 of the CSO Report (26-27 April 2018, BSEC Headquarters).

AGENDA ITEM 4: EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF ORGANIZING A HIGH-LEVEL MEETING IN BRUSSELS, ON THE OCCASION OF THE COMPLETION BY THE BSEC ORGANIZATION OF ITS 25TH YEAR OF ACTIVITY; SPECIAL FOCUS WILL BE GIVEN TO THE COOPERATION OF BSEC WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION

13. BSEC PERMIS informed the Member States about its idea to organize a High-level conference in Brussels, during the first semester of 2019, under the indicative title "BSEC beyond 25: Perspectives for enhancing regional economic cooperation in the wider Black Sea area".

14. The BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office is expected to provide its auspices to the event and include it in its official Calendar of events.

15. It is expected that the event would contribute to raising the awareness of BSEC activities among European institutions, presenting the BSEC as a trust-worthy partner for the EU in the wider Black Sea region.

16. The participants took note of the provided information and expressed positive reaction to that.

AGENDA ITEM 5: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE BSEC-EU INTERACTION, INCLUDING PROJECT CO-FINANCING WITH THE “FACILITY FOR BLUE GROWTH IN THE BLACK SEA”

17. The participants exchanged views on the BSEC-EU interaction with a view to developing further their cooperation in a practical, balanced, mutually beneficial and project-oriented way.

18. The BSEC PERMIS was encouraged to continue proactively exploring the opportunities for securing EU’s financial assistance for BSEC projects, falling within the objectives and priorities of the Organization and fully respecting the prerogatives of the BSEC Member States.

19. The Russian Federation drew attention to the “Black Sea Project Promotion Facility” which is contributing to implementation of projects for the benefit of sustainable development of the region and invited the European Union to continue exploring the opportunities for co-financing projects in the sphere of common interests, including study the ideas of projects related to the integrated maritime policy.

AGENDA ITEM 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

20. Mr. Daniel DULCA, PABSEC Deputy Secretary General, informed the participants on PABSEC’s recent and forthcoming activities.

AGENDA ITEM 7: DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

21. The date and venue of the next meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on BSEC-EU Interaction will be communicated in due course.

AGENDA ITEM 8: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

22. The Ad Hoc Working Group adopted the present Report for submission to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials.
