



# ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

## Permanent International Secretariat

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30 October 2018

BS/AHWGE/BSEC-EU/R(2018)2

### REPORT OF FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS ON BSEC-EU INTERACTION

**BSEC Headquarters, 30 October 2018**  
*(second half of the day, 14:30 -18:00 p.m.)*

1. The Fifteenth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on BSEC-EU Interaction was held at the BSEC Headquarters on 30 October 2018.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Anar HUSEYNOV, Director of the Department for Economic Cooperation and Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following Member States:  
  
Republic of Azerbaijan  
Republic of Bulgaria  
Hellenic Republic  
Romania  
Russian Federation  
Republic of Turkey  
Ukraine
4. The representative of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) and the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) attended the Meeting as BSEC Related Bodies.
5. The representatives of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the State of Israel, Hungary, the Republic of Poland and the European External Action Service (on behalf of the European Commission) attended the Meeting as BSEC Observers.
6. The list of participants is attached as **Annex I**.

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## **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. The Ad Hoc Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on its participation in the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting for “Developing a Blue Growth Initiative for Research and Innovation in the Black Sea”, held in Bucharest on 5 October 2018 and in the forthcoming 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Steering Group of the "*Facility for Blue Growth in the Black Sea*", to be held in Brussels, on 8 November 2018.

9. The representative of the European External Action Service informed about recent developments in the Black Sea region, stressing upon the new financial grants and mechanism which are available to the BSEC Member States.

10. The participants exchanged views on recent developments on BSEC- EU interaction and on further promoting cooperation in practical, balanced, mutually beneficial and project oriented direction.

## **AGENDA ITEM 3: PARTICIPATION OF BSEC PERMIS IN CALLS FOR PROPOSALS (HORIZON 2020, CEI AND ETC..) AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUTURE JOINT PROJECTS**

11. Following the Council’s instruction (Belgrade, 13 December 2016) the BSEC PERMIS continues to proactively engage in the formulation of project proposals falling within BSEC objectives, fully respecting the prerogatives of the Member States.

12. The BSEC PERMIS informed about its recent experience in applying under the Central European Initiative’s Cooperation Fund (CEI CF), as well as its intention to become a part of the consortium under the Horizon 2020 Call for Proposals: “Coordination of marine and maritime research and innovation in the Black Sea”.

13. The representative of the International Center for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) informed about the opportunities for future joint projects within the European funding instruments, among them the recently published Call for proposals under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (18 million Euros for projects in the neighboring sea basins, including the Black Sea basin).

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

**AGENDA ITEM 4: INFORMATION ABOUT THE HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE UNDER THE INDICATIVE TITLE “THE BSEC ORGANIZATION BEYOND 26: PERSPECTIVES FOR ENHANCING REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN THE WIDER BLACK SEA AREA”, TO BE ORGANIZED IN BRUSSELS DURING THE ROMANIAN PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (FIRST SEMESTER OF 2019)**

15. The BSEC PERMIS provided an updated information concerning the High-level conference on BSEC, to be organized in Brussels during the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union (June 2019).

The forthcoming Bulgarian BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office was invited to provide its auspices to the event and include it in its official Calendar of events.

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

The participants took note of the provided information and expressed their positive reaction for holding such an event.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: PREPARATIONS FOR THE ANNUAL INFORMAL BSEC-COEST MEETING (BRUSSELS, 20 NOVEMBER 2018)**

16. The Ad Hoc Working Group took note of the information provided by BSEC PERMIS on the programme and preparations for the forthcoming informal meeting of BSEC with the COEST Working Party (Brussels, 20 November 2018).

17. The Ad Hoc Working Group also noted the kind request of the representative of the European External Action Service to inform the BSEC PERMIS on the composition of their delegations by 7 November 2018, in order to facilitate the organization of the meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

18. No issue was raised under this Agenda item.

**AGENDA ITEM 7: DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

19. 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**

20. The Ad Hoc Working Group adopted the present Report for submission to the Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials, to be held in Baku, on 12-13 December 2018.