



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

**Permanent International Secretariat**

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10 April 2019

**BS/AHWGE/BSEC-EU/R(2019)1**

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

**BSEC Headquarters, 10 April 2019  
(second half of the day, 14:00 -18:00 p.m.)**

1. The Sixteenth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on BSEC-EU Interaction was held at the BSEC Headquarters on 10 April 2019.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Georgi PANAYOTOV, Ambassador-at-Large, Special Representative of the Bulgarian Chairmanship-in-Office to BSEC.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following Member States:  
  
Republic of Armenia  
Republic of Azerbaijan  
Republic of Bulgaria  
Georgia  
Hellenic Republic  
Romania  
Russian Federation  
Republic of Serbia  
Republic of Turkey  
Ukraine
4. The representatives of the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) attended the Meeting as BSEC Related Body.
5. The representatives of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Federal Republic of Germany, Hungary, the United States of America 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 1**.

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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 2**.

## **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 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting for the “Development of a Blue Growth Initiative for Research and Innovation in the Black Sea”, held in Brussels, on 15 January 2019 and in the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Steering Group of the "Facility for Blue Growth in the Black Sea", held in Brussels, on 30 January 2019.

9. The Group took note also of the information regarding three events that took place in Istanbul. Two of the events were hosted by the BSEC PERMIS on 18 March 2019 (8<sup>th</sup> Meeting for “Developing a Blue Growth Initiative for Research and Innovation in the Black Sea”) and on 20 March 2019 (6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Steering Group of the "Facility for Blue Growth in the Black Sea"), while the “Regional Stakeholder Seminar on Blue Economy - Towards a Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea”, which was supported logistically by the BSEC PERMIS, took place on 19 March in Hilton Maslak Hotel.

10. The representative of the European External Action Service informed about recent developments in the Black Sea region, stressing upon the recently issued Joint Staff Working Document related to the review of the Black Sea Synergy Initiative for the period 2015 – 2018.

11. The representative of the ICBSS informed about the organization of a Regional Stakeholders Conference on the “Black Sea Synergy: The Way Forward”, which will be held during the second semester of 2019.

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

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

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

14. The BSEC PERMIS informed about its recent experience in organizing a Conference under the Central European Initiative’s Cooperation Fund (CEI CF), as well as its joining to a consortium as an application under the Horizon 2020 Call for Proposals: “Coordination of Marine and Maritime Research and Innovation in the Black Sea”.

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15. Some of the delegations expressed their support to the International High-level Conference on “Inter-basin Cooperation on Marine Litter: A focus on the Danube River and the Black Sea” (4 April 2019, Sofia) and invited the BSEC PERMIS to hold similar events annually.

16. 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 MINISTERIAL MEETING ON BSEC-EU COOPERATION, TO BE HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 18 JUNE 2019**

17. The BSEC PERMIS provided updated information concerning the Ministerial Meeting on BSEC– EU Cooperation, to be held in Brussels on 18 June 2019.

18. The Ad Hoc Working Group noted that the event would contribute to raising the awareness on BSEC activities among European institutions, presenting BSEC as a valuable partner for EU in the wider Black Sea region.

19. The participants took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS and expressed their positive reaction for the organization of such an event.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5: ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

20. No issue was raised under this Agenda item.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6: 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 7: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING**

22. The Ad Hoc Working Group adopted the present Report for submission to the Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials, to be held in Sofia, on 26-27 June 2019.