

**REPORT
OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE
AD HOC GROUP OF EXPERTS ON BSEC – EU INTERACTION**

Istanbul, 1-2 March 2006

1. The second Meeting of the ad hoc Group of Experts on BSEC-EU Interaction was held in Istanbul, on 1-2 March 2006 at the invitation of the ICBSS as appointed coordinator of the Group.

2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Robert Uzuna, Deputy Director, Division for Western Balkans and Regional Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania, who welcomed the participants on behalf of the Romanian Chairmanship-in-Office of BSEC. The Director General of the ICBSS, Dr. Dimitrios Triantaphyllou, also welcomed the participants.

3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the BSEC Member States:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Republic of Bulgaria
Georgia
Hellenic Republic
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine

4. A representative of the Republic of Poland attended the Meeting as an Observer.

5. The Meeting was also attended by the representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC), the BSEC Business Council and the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank (BSTDB).

6. A representative of the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union attended the meeting as an official guest.

7. Ambassador Jürgen Trumpf, honorary Secretary General of the Council of the European Union, President of the *Institut für Europäische Politik*, and Dr. Dov Lynch, Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Security Studies of the European Union, participated in the Meeting as invited guests.
8. The list of participants is attached as Annex I.
9. The annotated Programme is attached as Annex II.
10. The Delegation of the Hellenic Republic made a comprehensive presentation of the activities undertaken *vis-à-vis* the EU for the implementation of the mandate it had received from the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (Chisinau, 28 October 2005). The document describing the follow-up actions within the mandate, taken by the Hellenic Republic, as well as the working paper entitled “Towards an EU Regional Dimension in the Wider Black Sea Area”, presented by the Hellenic Republic to the EU institutions and Member States, are attached as Annexes III and IV.
11. The Delegation of Romania presented the highlights of its written contribution to the deliberations of the ad hoc Group of Experts. The input of the Romanian Delegation is attached as Annex V.
12. Furthermore, the Delegation of Romania informed the participants on the preparations for the forthcoming special Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials to be held in Brussels in April 2006. In this connection, the Chairman-in-Office requested the ICBSS to present the developments on the work of the ad hoc Group of Experts at the said Meeting.
13. The participants appreciated the information provided by, and written inputs of, the Hellenic Republic and Romania. The Member States that had not done so were requested to forward their written contributions by mid March 2006, in accordance with the Group’s Terms of Reference approved by the CMFA (Chisinau, 28 October 2005), with a view to facilitating the elaboration of a draft working paper by the ICBSS.
14. The delegations of the Member States presented their views on the future course and possible outcome of the ongoing consultations on the issue of BSEC-EU interaction, as well as on the structure and contents of a draft working paper.
15. The Director General of the ICBSS presented information on his recent contacts with EU officials and research centres in Brussels, Paris and London, and introduced the food-for-thought paper prepared by the ICBSS for consideration at the Group Meeting. The ICBSS food-for-thought paper is attached as Annex VI.

16. The representatives of PABSEC, the BSEC Business Council and BSTDB informed the Group on the activities of their institutions in promoting relations with the EU.

17. Ambassador Trumpf and Dr. Lynch presented their views on the general subject of BSEC-EU interaction and on several concrete directions that could be followed.

18. The Director General of the ICBSS presented the draft table of contents of a working paper on BSEC-EU interaction. The delegations of the Member States considered the draft table of contents as an acceptable basis for further work.

19. The date and venue of the next meeting of the ad hoc Group of Experts will be decided through consultations among the participants at a later stage.

20. The participants in the Meeting adopted the present Report, with annexes, for submission to the Meeting of the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials to be held in Bucharest, on 24-25 April 2006.
