

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

Athens, 5 February 2010

1. The fifth Meeting of the Ad hoc Group of Experts on BSEC-EU Interaction was held in Athens, on 5 February 2010, at the invitation of the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) as appointed Coordinator of the Group, upon consultation with the Chairman-in-Office.
2. The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Alexander Bakalov, Representative of the BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office, and Dr. Dimitrios Triantaphyllou, Director General of the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS). The Co-Chairpersons and the Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS made introductory statements.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:
 - Republic of Albania
 - Republic of Armenia
 - Republic of Azerbaijan
 - Republic of Bulgaria
 - Georgia
 - Hellenic Republic
 - Republic of Moldova
 - Romania
 - Russian Federation
 - Republic of Serbia
 - Republic of Turkey
 - Ukraine
4. The BSEC PERMIS participated in the Meeting.
5. The Meeting was also attended by the representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC), the BSEC Business Council (BSEC BC), the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank (BSTDB), and the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS).
6. Representatives of the Czech Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Republic of Poland and the European Commission participated in the meeting in their capacity as Observers and the Republic of Hungary, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Montenegro in their capacity as Sectoral Dialogue Partners in the BSEC.
7. The Representative of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR), Mr. Anthony Papadimitriou, attended the Meeting as a Guest.
8. The list of participants is attached as Annex I.
9. The annotated Programme, as amended, is attached as Annex II.

10. The participants considered the developments since the last meeting of the ad hoc Group of Experts (Athens, 2 October 2009) regarding the BSEC-EU interaction as well as the implications of the Lisbon Treaty on BSEC-EU relations. They agreed that the ad hoc Group should continue following the developments in the field of the BSEC-EU interaction.
11. The participants took note of a Documentary File compiled by the ICBSS as the Coordinator of the ad hoc Group, including key documents relevant to BSEC-EU Interaction.
12. The participants resumed discussion on the revised working document *Black Sea Regional Strategy (2010-2013): Promoting a Region-wide Interaction between the BSEC and the EU*, and took into account the additional written comments and proposals sent since the last meeting of the ad hoc Group of Experts by the Member States: Note 7/182-13 by Georgia (dated 6 November 2009), Note 15/16311 by the Republic of Armenia (dated 18 November 2009), Note AP3615/OSEP/AS1857 by the Hellenic Republic (dated 18 December 2009), Note 61318/35-207/1-2802 by Ukraine (dated 18 December 2009), Note 255-09 by the Republic of Azerbaijan (dated 30 December 2009). Taking note of the Resolution of the 20th Meeting of the Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC (Yerevan, 16 April 2009), the participants agreed to continue the elaboration of the document in order to finalise it in line with the relevant Council resolutions.
13. The ad hoc Group of Experts reached consensus on eight paragraphs of the working document *Black Sea Regional Strategy (2010-2013): Promoting a Region-wide Interaction between the BSEC and the EU* (Paras: 1-4, 6-9). The working document, as amended, is attached as Annex III.
14. In line with the Report of the Fourth Meeting of the ad hoc Group of Experts on BSEC-EU Interaction, the participants agreed to forward the non-binding paper *A Model for Black Sea Sectoral Partnerships* to the forthcoming Committee of Senior Officials for its consideration to serve as a Background Paper adopted at an experts level and for subsequent BSEC activities on the issue.
15. The ad hoc Group of Experts considers positively the revision of the document BSEC Economic Agenda for the future adopted in April 2001, in particular the items relevant to BSEC-EU Interaction. It proposes to include this item in its next meeting.
16. Following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, the ad hoc Group of Experts considers that there is a need for the appropriate BSEC organs to consider the legal and organisational aspects of the observer status of the European Commission to the BSEC and requests the ICBSS as the coordinator of the ad hoc Group of Experts on BSEC-EU Interaction to prepare a Background Paper assessing the impact of the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty on the participation of EU Institutions in the BSEC.
17. The participants expressed their gratitude to the ICBSS for the excellent preparation of the Meeting and for the warm hospitality extended to them.
17. The date and venue of the next Meeting of the ad hoc Group of Experts will be decided through consultations and communicated in due time.
18. The ad hoc Group of Experts adopted the present Report, with its Annexes, for submission to the next Meeting of the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials.