



BS/CT/WG/R(2003)1

**REPORT OF THE
MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP
ON COOPERATION IN TOURISM**

Thessaloniki, 30 October – 1 November 2003

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism was held in Thessaloniki, Greece on 31 October – 1 November 2003.
 2. The Meeting of the Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism was chaired by Mr. Athanasios Zacharoglou, Head of the International Relations Department, General Secretariat of Tourism, Ministry of Development of the Hellenic Republic.
 3. The Meeting was attended by the following Member States of the BSEC:
 - Republic of Azerbaijan
 - Republic of Bulgaria
 - Hellenic Republic
 - Republic of Moldova
 - Romania
 - Russian Federation
 - Republic of Turkey
 - Ukraine
 4. The BSEC PERMIS was represented in this Meeting by Mr. Agim Pasholli, Executive Manager, who addressed the Meeting.
 5. The representatives of the BSEC Business Council and the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank also participated in the Meeting.
- The list of participants is attached as Annex I .
6. The participants were greeted by a welcoming speech from H.E. Mr. Dimitrios Georgakopoulos, Deputy Minister of Development, Hellenic Republic.
 7. The draft agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The agenda, as adopted is attached as Annex II.

8. The participants were informed on the previous International Conference “Tourism Opportunities in the BSEC Region” organized on 25-26 September in Baky, Azerbaijan. They took note of its outcome.

REVIEW AND EXCHANGE OF NATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM AND FURTHER ENCOURAGEMENT OF ALTERNATIVE FORMS OF TOURISM IN THE BSEC AREA

9. The participants from BSEC Member States exchanged opinions and views on concepts of sustainable development of Tourism in their respective countries and in the region as a whole. They were informed on the national strategies on sustainable tourism development in Greece and Turkey as well as on relevant development in EU and WTO Sustainable Development Committee.

10. The participants agreed upon sending relevant information via BSEC PERMIS on their strategies on sustainable tourism development which will be distributed among the BSEC Member States. They also agreed their best practices in the above field.

WAYS AND MEANS TO ENCOURAGE THE EXCHANGE OF TOURISM PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL BETWEEN THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

11. The participants of the Working Group approved the proposal to gather information from each BSEC Member State on the forthcoming National or International Tourism fairs, exhibitions and other similar events. They agreed to forward the noted information alongside with that on cultural routes of common interests of Member States till the end of January 2004.

COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF PROMOTING THE REGION, AS A TOURISM DESTINATION, TO THIRD MARKETS. FIRST THOUGHTS FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF THE JOINT PARTICIPATION, IN THE “PHILOXENIA” INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

12. The participants were invited by the host country to visit the premises of “Philoxenia” International Tourism Exhibition.

13. The participants took note of the proposal to organize the future meetings of the Working Group in parallel with an international fair or exhibition on Tourism in the host country.

14. The participants of the BSEC Member States that are not Members of Black Sea Cruising Association (BSCA) received an invitation to join the Association. They took notes for the next Black Sea Yacht Rally “The Kayra 2004”.

ORGANIZATION OF EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING PROGRAMS

15. The delegation of the Republic of Turkey brought to the participants' notice the possibility of the organization of the course on Marketing and Promotion Strategies in December 2003.

16. The delegation of the Hellenic Republic announced the organization of a tourism seminar for "Training the Trainers in Human Resources Management, in Hospitality Industry". Two representatives from each BSEC Member State will participate in it, tentatively in Fall 2004.

INTERACTION WITH NEIGHBORING REGIONAL ACTIVITIES SUCH AS EUROPEAN UNION, ADRIATIC-IONIAN INITIATIVE ETC.

17. The participants were informed on the recent steps that BSEC has taken towards the interaction with other regional initiatives like Adriatic-Ionian Initiative and Central European Initiative.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

18. Romania has expressed its interest for the post of Country Coordinator in the field of tourism and will follow the necessary steps towards this aim.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

19. Turkey has offered to host the meeting of the Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism for the second half of the year 2004.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

20. The participants expressed their gratitude to the host country, the Hellenic Republic for the excellent organization of the Meeting and for the warm hospitality extended to them.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

21. The Report was adopted for submission to the Committee of Senior Officials prior to the Tenth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

