



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

BS/WG/CEA&LO/R(2019)1

**REPORT
OF THE MEETING
OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON COOPERATION
IN EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AND LIAISON OFFICERS
OF THE BSEC NETWORK ON EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**

BSEC Headquarters, 4 November 2019

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance and Liaison Officers of the BSEC Network on Emergency Assistance was held at the BSEC Headquarters on 4 November 2019.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Nikolaos CHARDALIAS, Secretary General for Civil Protection, General Secretariat for Civil Protection of the Hellenic Republic, and Major (Fire Corps Headquarters) Spyridon GEORGIU, General Secretariat for Civil Protection of the Hellenic Republic.
3. Opening remarks were made by the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Amb. Michael B. CHRISTIDES and Secretary General for Civil Protection, General Secretariat for Civil Protection of the Hellenic Republic Mr. Nikolaos CHARDALIAS.
4. The Meeting of the Working Group was attended by the following BSEC Member States:
 - Republic of Armenia
 - Republic of Azerbaijan
 - Republic of Bulgaria
 - Georgia
 - Hellenic Republic
 - Romania
 - Russian Federation
 - Republic of Turkey
 - Ukraine
5. The representative of the Parliamentary Assembly of BSEC attended the Meeting as the BSEC Related Body.

The List of Participants is attached as **Annex I**.
6. The Draft Agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The Agenda, as adopted by the Working Group, is attached as **Annex II**.

AGENDA ITEM 2: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE DECLARATIONS AND JOINT STATEMENTS ADOPTED BY THE MINISTERS FOR EMERGENCIES AND HEADS OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

7. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS in the context of this item.

AGENDA ITEM 3: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITIES OF THE WORKING GROUP AND SELECTION OF THE PRIORITIES FOR THE THIRD MEDIUM-TERM (2019-2021) OF THE BSEC ECONOMIC AGENDA 2012

8. The Working Group decided to keep the following current priorities for the third medium-term (2019-2021):

- *Strengthening cooperation in implementing the Agreement among the Governments of the BSEC Member States on Collaboration in Emergency Assistance and Emergency Response to Natural and Man-made Disasters and its Additional Protocol;*
- *Enhancing coordination among the BSEC Member States in preventing and eliminating the consequences of natural and man-made disasters and on providing humanitarian assistance and help on protection of environment in case of emergency situations or imminent threat thereof;*
- *Promoting organization of regional trainings, seminars and scientific conferences aimed at the achievement of better application of joint efforts in case of emergency and increase of awareness about the best practices used in emergency situations with a special attention to the Liaison Officers of the relevant BSEC Network.*

AGENDA ITEM 4: CONSIDERATION OF THE EVALUATION REPORT OF ROMANIA, THE PREVIOUS COUNTRY COORDINATOR OF THE WORKING GROUP, FOR THE PERIOD OF TWO YEARS (1 JULY 2017- 30 June 2019)

9. The delegation of Romania, the previous Country-Coordinator of the Working Group, presented the Evaluation Report for the period of its Coordinator-ship (1 July 2017 - 30 June 2019). The participants took note on the presented Evaluation Report. The Evaluation Report is attached as **Annex III**.

AGENDA ITEM 5: PRESENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE PERIOD OF 1 JULY 2019-30 JUNE 2020 BY THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC, THE CURRENT COUNTRY COORDINATOR OF THE WORKING GROUP

10. The delegation of the Hellenic Republic, in the capacity of the Country-Coordinator, presented the Plan of Action for the period of 1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020. The Participants of the Meeting considered and adopted the Plan of Action. The Plan of Action is attached as **Annex IV**.

AGENDA ITEM 6: MODALITIES OF WORK OF THE BSEC NETWORK OF LIAISON OFFICERS ON EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE. SUGGESTIONS AND PROPOSALS BY THE MEMBER STATES ON IMPROVEMENT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NETWORK

11. The participants exchanged views on the activities of the BSEC Network of Liaison Officers on Emergency Assistance.

12. The BSEC PERMIS requested the Member States to provide the updated list of focal points of the BSEC Network of Liaison Officers on Emergency Assistance.

AGENDA ITEM 7: THE OUTCOME OF THE INFORMAL MEETING OF THE BSEC AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON MASSIVE FOREST FIRES (Antalya, 23-25 September 2019)

13. The Working Group took note of the Conclusions of the Informal Meeting of the BSEC Ad Hoc Working Group on Massive Forest Fires, held in Antalya on 23-25 September 2019.

14. The participants exchanged views on future activities of the BSEC Ad Hoc Working Group on Massive Forest Fires and decided to consider the issue at the next meeting of the Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance.

15. The delegation of the Republic of Armenia made a presentation on “*Innovative Solutions to Forest Protection Challenges in Armenia*”. The presentation is attached as **Annex V**.

AGENDA ITEM 8: THE OUTCOME OF THE INFORMAL MEETING OF THE BSEC AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON FLOODS AND TORRENTS (Antalya, 26 – 27 September 2019)

16. The Working Group took note of the Conclusions of the Informal Meeting of the BSEC Ad Hoc Working Group on Floods and Torrents, held in Antalya on 26 – 27 September 2019.

17. The participants exchanged views on future activities of the BSEC Ad Hoc Working Group on Floods and Torrents and decided to consider the issue at the next meeting of the Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance.

AGENDA ITEM 9 : EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON CONCRETE MECHANISMS FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION PARTICULARLY ON ESTABLISHING A REGIONAL COMMUNICATION PLATFORM FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

18. The participants agreed on the importance of establishing concrete and efficient mechanisms, particularly a regional communication platform for emergency situations.

19. The delegation of the Russian Federation made a presentation on “*Creation and Functioning of the Global Network of Crisis Centers*”. The presentation as attached as **Annex VI**.

20. The Working Group decided to consider the possibility of conducting joint exercises on emergency situations.

AGENDA ITEM 10: ROLE OF BSEC IN VIEW OF RECENT EMERGENCY SITUATIONS IN MEMBER STATES - POSSIBLE CONCRETE ACTIONS AND INTERACTION

21. The participants of the Working Group exchanged views on the issue and took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS.

AGENDA ITEM 11: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

22. The participants of the Working Group exchanged views on possible procedures for the consideration of the future activities of the BSEC Ad Hoc Working Group on Massive Forest Fires and the BSEC Ad Hoc Working Group on Floods and Torrents.

AGENDA ITEM 12: DATE AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

23. The delegation of the Hellenic Republic expressed its intention to host the next meeting of the Working Group at the end of April 2020.

25. The date and the venue of the next meeting will be communicated to the Member States in due course.

AGENDA ITEM 13: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

26. The participants of the Working Group adopted the Report of the Meeting for its submission to the next Meeting of the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials.