



# ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

## Permanent International Secretariat

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BS/WG/C/R(2024)1

### REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON CULTURE

*Online, 15 March 2024*

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Culture was held online on 15 March 2024.

2. The Meeting was chaired by Ms. Astghik MARABYAN, Head of the Department of Cultural Heritage, Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia.

3. The Opening Remarks were made by:

- Ambassador Dimitrios RALLIS, Deputy Secretary General of BSEC PERMIS on behalf of the Secretariat;
- Ms. Astghik MARABYAN, on behalf of the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group.

Both speakers emphasized the role that the BSEC Organization is called upon to play in fostering regional cooperation.

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

Republic of Albania  
Republic of Armenia  
Republic of Azerbaijan  
Hellenic Republic  
Republic of Moldova  
Romania  
Russian Federation  
Republic of Serbia  
Republic of Türkiye  
Ukraine

5. The following BSEC Related Bodies attended the Meeting:

Parliamentary Assembly of BSEC (PABSEC)  
International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS)  
BSEC Business Council (BSEC BC)

6. The List of Participants is attached as **Annex I** to the present Report.

## **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 II**.

## **AGENDA ITEM 2: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE BSEC ECONOMIC AGENDA TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE OF THE WIDER BLACK SEA AREA**

8. The BSEC PERMIS informed on the “*BSEC Economic Agenda: Towards a sustainable future of the wider Black Sea area*”, adopted by the 47<sup>th</sup> BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs at an online meeting on 15 December 2023, as a framework strategy document for guiding the cooperation in the BSEC framework in the years to come.

9. In this context, *Goal 8* of the Economic Agenda on *Development of Tourism, Protection of Cultural Heritage and Promotion of Modern Culture*, which outlines short- and medium-term priorities and actions in the aforementioned domain, was highlighted.

10. That being the case, and in order to ensure tangible results, the Secretariat invited Member States to submit to PERMIS by the end of the calendar year information on their relevant measures and national policies aimed at achieving the set goals and objectives in the above context. Based on the received inputs, an Implementation Report will be prepared.

11. Further on, BSEC PERMIS encouraged the participants to elaborate on possible projects/initiatives for collaboration and joint actions in line with the updated BSEC Economic Agenda.

## **AGENDA ITEM 3: CONSIDERATION OF THE ACTION PLAN FOR THE PERIOD OF 1 JULY 2023 – 30 JUNE 2025 DEVELOPED BY THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE, CULTURE AND SPORTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA, THE CURRENT COUNTRY-COORDINATOR OF THE WORKING GROUP**

12. The Working Group considered amendments to the *draft Action Plan of the Working Group on Culture* for the period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2025 (attached as **Annex III**), developed by the Republic of Armenia, as the current Country-Coordinator, and decided to continue the work on the document at its next meeting.

## **AGENDA ITEM 4: EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELD OF CULTURE: EXPLORING POTENTIAL FOR REGIONAL COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIP**

13. In this framework, the following delegations took the floor: Albania, Armenia, Greece, the Russian Federation, Türkiye and Ukraine, thus sharing their experiences and insights on the matter, including various projects and events that were implemented around a wide range of issues in the field of culture and the opportunities they create for the BSEC region.

14. The Working Group took note of the above, and recognizing the importance of joint efforts to reinforce and further expand regional cooperation, decided to continue the practice of monitoring new trends and developments in the field of cultural and creative industries, in accordance with the updated BSEC Economic Agenda.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: COOPERATION WITH REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND PARTNERS**

15. The representative of the *International Centre for Black Sea Studies* (ICBSS) informed regarding their activities and priority areas of cooperation, and provided more details about the TOURAL Project.

16. The Working Group took note of the information presented by the representative of the *BSEC Business Council* (BSEC BC) regarding the relevant BC's activities.

**AGENDA ITEM 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

17. No discussion was held under this agenda item.

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

18. The Working Group on Culture adopted the present Report for its submission to the next Meeting of the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials.