



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

6 December 2022

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REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON CUSTOMS MATTERS

Online, 6 December 2022

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Customs Matters was held online on 6 December 2022.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Alexandru CAZACU, Third Secretary, Regional Cooperation Unit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova.
3. The Meeting was attended by the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Republic of Bulgaria
Georgia
Republic of Moldova
Russian Federation
Republic of Serbia
Republic of Türkiye
Ukraine
4. The List of Participants in the Meeting is attached as **Annex I**.
5. Opening remarks were made by the BSEC PERMIS Deputy Secretary General Ambassador Dimitrios RALLIS.

AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. The Draft Agenda of the Meeting was considered and adopted. The Agenda, as adopted, is attached as **Annex II**.

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AGENDA ITEM 2: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS RELATED TO CUSTOMS MATTERS AND FOLLOW-UP OF THE DECLARATIONS ADOPTED BY THE HEADS OF CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATIONS OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

7. The BSEC PERMIS informed the Working Group on the state of implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the BSEC Council and of the Declarations adopted by the Heads of Customs Administrations of the BSEC Member States.

AGENDA ITEM 3: HARMONIZATION AND SIMPLIFICATION OF CUSTOMS PROCEDURES

8. The representative of Ukraine made a statement on the current situation in the country. It was followed by a statement of the representative of the Russian Federation. Both statements are attached to this Report as **Annexes III and IV**, respectively.

9. The delegation of the Republic of Armenia informed the participants on recent developments in the respective area in the country.

AGENDA ITEM 4: EXCHANGING EXPERIENCE ON METHODOLOGY OF TIME RELEASE STUDY

10. The delegations of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Moldova and Republic of Türkiye shared with the participants information on the activities and events that took place in their respective countries. Among others, the representative of Azerbaijan emphasized that the respective works are being conducted together with the Georgian side on the establishing of the new joint customs control BCP between Azerbaijan and Georgia; participant from Moldova informed that a workshop will be organized next year with the World Customs Organization (WCO), based on the outcomes of which national methodology for Time Release Study (TRS) will be elaborated; the representative of Türkiye stressed the usefulness of exchange of experience on the TRS.

11. The Working Group reiterated the usefulness of study-visits to the border-crossing points (BCP) in the BSEC region and further invited Member States to send to the PERMIS their proposals in this regard.

AGENDA ITEM 5: IMPROVING CUSTOMS OPERATIONS AND CUSTOMS CONTROL IN RESPECT OF GOODS FOR PERSONAL USE MOVED THROUGH INTERNATIONAL E-COMMERCE

12. The delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan delivered a presentation on “*Implementation of paperless trade in Azerbaijan*”, informing the participants about the scope of the implemented works in the country. The presentation is attached as **Annex V**. The presentation was followed by an interactive demonstration of how the customs clearance procedures are being implemented in the Republic of Azerbaijan through a web-portal in respect of personal parcels moving through international e-commerce.

AGENDA ITEM 6: CONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUE OF APPOINTMENT OF THE COUNTRY COORDINATOR OF THE WORKING GROUP

13. The Working Group was reminded by the BSEC PERMIS about the absence of applications from the Member States for the position of the Country-Coordinator of the

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Working Group on Customs Matters and urged the Member States to apply for the position of the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group.

AGENDA ITEM 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14. No issue was raised under this Agenda Item.

AGENDA ITEM 8: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

15. The Working Group adopted the Report of the Meeting to be submitted to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials.
