



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

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REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF HEALTHCARE OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

Athens, 29 September 2014

1. The Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Healthcare of the BSEC Member States was held in Athens, Hellenic Republic, on 29 September 2014.
2. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Mavroudis VORIDIS, Minister of Health of the Hellenic Republic
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Albania
Republic of Bulgaria
Georgia
Hellenic Republic
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Turkey

The List of Participants of the Meeting is attached as **Annex I**.

4. H.E. Mr. Mavroudis VORIDIS, Minister of Health of the Hellenic Republic welcomed the participants.
5. H.E. Ambassador Victor TVIRCUN, Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS also welcomed the participants.

6. The Draft Agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The Agenda, as adopted by the Heads of Delegations, is attached as **Annex II**.
7. The Heads of Delegations delivered their general statements and discussed the agenda items.
8. The Heads of Delegations of the BSEC Member States adopted the Declaration of the Ministers in Charge of Healthcare of the BSEC Member States by which a Network for the Emergency Preparedness and Response (NET-EPR) in the field of healthcare within the BSEC Region has been established. The Declaration and the Network are attached as **Annexes III and IV** accordingly.
9. The participants expressed their gratitude to the Ministry of Health of the Hellenic Republic for excellent organization of the Meeting and extended hospitality.
10. The Heads of Delegations adopted the present Report and submitted it to the 31th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States.

**MEETING OF THE MINISTERS
IN CHARGE OF HEALTHCARE
OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES**

Athens, 29 September 2014

- LIST OF PARTICIPANTS-

CHAIRMAN

H.E. Mr. Mavroudis VORIDIS : Minister of Health of the Hellenic Republic

REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

Ilir BEQAJ : Minister of Health of the Republic of Albania

Thanas GOGA : Advisor to the Minister, Ministry of Health of the Republic of Albania

REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

Radosveta FILIPOVA : Head, Department “Surveillance of Communicable Diseases”, Directorate “Public Health”, Ministry of Health of the Republic of Bulgaria

Ivan IVANOV : Third Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria to the Hellenic Republic

GEORGIA

David BAKRADZE : Ambassador, Embassy of Georgia to the Hellenic Republic and the Republic of Serbia

HELLENIC REPUBLIC

Michael CHRISTIDIS : Ambassador, National Coordinator, BSEC Hellenic Chairmanship

Giorgos SPANOS : Expert Counsellor B, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic

Sofoklis MANDALIDIS : Office of the Hellenic Chairmanship-in-Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic

Sarantis MOSCHOVIS : First Counselor for Economic and Commercial Affairs, Directorate for Economic Relations with SE

Europe, CIS and BSEC, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic

- Panagiotis EFSTATHIOU : Commander of the National Health Operations Centre and BSEC Coordinator of the WG on Health and Pharmaceutics
- Vassiliki PAPANOTI : Head of International Relations Division, Ministry of Health of the Hellenic Republic
- Konstantinos GOGOSSIS : Director, National Health Operations Center (NAHOC)
- Zacharoula MANOLIDOU : General Coordinator, National Health Operations Centre (NAHOC)
- Anna TSEKOURA : Executive Administrative Officer, National Health Operations Centre (NAHOC)
- Seti KOLOMVA : Officer, Directorate of International Relations, Ministry of Health of the Hellenic Republic
- Dionysia NTAPADA : Head of Unit A, Directorate of International Relations, Ministry of Health of the Hellenic Republic

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

- Nicolae JELAMSCHI : State Secretary, Ministry of Health of the Republic of Moldova
- Mihail PISLA : General Director, Deputy of Chief State Sanitary Doctor of the Republic of Moldova, PhD, National Center of Public Health, Ministry of Health of the Republic of Moldova

ROMANIA

- Razvan Teohari VULCANESCU : Secretary of State, Ministry of Health of Romania

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

- Dmitry KOSTENNIKOV : Stats Secretary, Vice Minister, Deputy Minister of Health of the Russian Federation
- Sergey MURAVYEV : Director, Department of International Cooperation Control Public Relations, Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation

Marina NAUMOVA : Senior Counselor, Department of Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

Irfan ŞENCAN : Deputy Undersecretary, Ministry of Health of the Republic of Turkey

Yusuf IRMAK : Officer, General Directorate of Foreign and EU Affairs, Ministry of Health of the Republic of Turkey

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BSEC PERMANENT INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

Victor TVIRCUN : Ambassador, Secretary General

Alexander BAKALOV : Executive Manager

Natalia LAVROVA : Secretary

**MEETING OF THE MINISTERS
IN CHARGE OF HEALTHCARE
OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES**

Athens, 29 September 2014

A G E N D A

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Statements of the Ministers (National Representatives) on the establishment of a Network for the Emergency Preparedness and Response (NET-EPR) in the field of healthcare in the BSEC Region
4. Any Other Business
5. Adoption of the Final Declaration

**NETWORK FOR THE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE WITHIN
THE BSEC REGION
(HEALTHCARE AND PHARMACEUTICS)**

1. The Network for the Emergency Preparedness and Response (NET-EPR) in the field of healthcare within the BSEC Region is formed as a mechanism of regular and systematic exchange of information (all-hazards approach covering all categories of threat regardless of their origin) among the participating BSEC Member States.
2. Acknowledging the importance of regional cooperation for preparedness and response to health threats, the NET-EPR will function in accordance with the new International Health Regulation (IHR) of the World Health Organization (WHO).
3. The aim of the NET-EPR is to exchange information in real time among the participating partners, regarding
 - a) the communicable diseases/epidemiological issues (risk analysis/assessment, real-time exchange of information);
 - b) pharmaceutical related eventsas well as, to the extent possible, in the public health interrelated cases of
 - natural hazards (earthquakes, extreme weather conditions, landslides, forest fires, floods, volcanic eruptions, health risks connected with migrant flow etc.;
 - technological accidents (chemical accidents at industrial facilities);
 - accidents in transporting hazardous materials and goods;
 - transport accidents (road, railway, sea, air);
 - massive casualties;
 - events that fall in CBRN-e categories.
4. The participating BSEC Member States shall nominate their National Focal Points to the NET-EPR.
5. The NET-EPR will implement an online application which will also include a forum (internet access) restricted to the registered BSEC Member States with all security conditions according to the international safety regulations.

6. The function of the NET-EPR will not affect the right of the participating BSEC Member States to implement any measures or procedures for protecting the health of the population in their territories.
7. The participation to the NET-EPR will not affect the obligation of the BSEC Member States to report health events in accordance with WHO and EU rules and regulations or in accordance with other bilateral or multilateral agreements already in force (within the BSEC region or otherwise).
8. The NET-EPR will be administrated, on a rotation basis, by a competent National Authority of the participating BSEC Member States (on a voluntary basis), according to the period of coordination in the relevant Working Group.
9. The NET-EPR coordinator will report, on a regular basis, to the BSEC Working Group on Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals.
10. The coordination of the NET-EPR establishment and operation for the initial two years period will be provided by the National Health Operations Center of the Hellenic Ministry of Health.

DECLARATION
of
the Ministers in Charge of Healthcare of the BSEC Member States
(Athens, 29 September 2014)

We, the Ministers in charge of Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals of the BSEC Member States,

Recognizing the need of strengthening cooperation in the sphere of public health and pharmaceuticals in the BSEC region;

Desirous to intensify interaction on health issues through programmes and concrete projects of common interest;

Acknowledging the importance of regional cooperation in improving the preparedness and response of our countries to health threats;

Guided by the “BSEC Economic Agenda Towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership”, endorsed at the Summit on the 20th Anniversary of the BSEC on 26 June 2012;

Taking stock of the Decision of the Thirtieth Meeting of the Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States in Varna on 19 June 2014, which instructed the relevant BSEC Working Group to proceed with the designed schedule for creating a Network on emergency preparedness and response to health threats with all hazards approach and establishing a system of regular exchange of information among the BSEC Member States;

Affirming the need to implement the International Health Regulations (2005) under the World Health Organization (WHO) guidance for the coordination in management of events that may constitute a public health emergency of international concern;

Based on the priorities of cooperation in the field of healthcare and pharmaceuticals of the Hellenic BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office “Building Support for Economic Cooperation-BSEC”;

We declare our resolution to:

1. *Encourage* the relevant National Administrations of the BSEC Member States to coordinate their actions, in order to allow the regular and systematic exchange of information on health threats;

2. *Develop* regional approaches, as appropriate, for networking between the competent Authorities in the BSEC region;

3. *Establish* a “Network for the Emergency Preparedness and Response within the BSEC Region (NET-EPR) in the field of healthcare”, to function in accordance with the International Health Regulation (IHR) of the World Health Organization (WHO), with the aim to ensure the exchange of information on health threats, in real time, between the participating BSEC Member States.

We express our gratitude to the Government of the Hellenic Republic for the organization of the Meeting and for the hospitality extended.