

# Black Sea NEWS

No: 24 • February 2011

The Newsletter of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation under the supervision of BSEC Permanent International Secretariat sponsored by the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank



FROM THE BSEC PERMANENT  
INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT (PERMIS)

## BSEC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MEETS IN THESSALONIKI

The 23rd Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation was held on 26 November 2010 in Thessaloniki with the theme "Green Development and Entrepreneurship." The meeting was hosted by the Hellenic Republic. H.E. Mr. Dimitrios DROUTSAS, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic chaired the meeting in his capacity as the Chairman-in-Office of the Organization, along with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Mr. Spyros KOUVELIS.

The representatives of the BSEC Member States, as well as Related Bodies, BSEC Observers, Sectoral Dialogue Partners and other guests participated in and delivered statements at the meeting.

One of the highlights of the meeting was the adoption of the Joint Declaration on Combating Climate Change in the wider Black Sea area. Following its adoption, the Declaration was submitted by the Greek Chairmanship-in-Office to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Cancun, Mexico, in December 2010, constituting a contribution of BSEC to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations.

Various measures to further improve the efficiency and effectiveness of BSEC were examined. Steps to enhance the status, capacities and capabilities of the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat in the planning and implementation of BSEC activities were decided on.

In Thessaloniki, the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs also considered the applications for the renewal of Observer status and the granting and renewal of Sectoral Dialogue Partnership status to various countries and organizations. Within this framework, Sectoral Dialogue Partnership status was granted to the Republic of Korea. A Memorandum of Intent on Science and Technology Cooperation was signed with the Government of the United States of America which has Observer status within BSEC.

At the conclusion of the meeting, a ceremony took place whereby Greece handed over the Chairmanship-in-Office of BSEC to Romania. Romania officially assumed the Chairmanship as of 1 January 2011, for a period of six months until 30 June 2011.

Parallel to the Meeting of the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, a Business Forum on the promotion of Green Development and Entrepreneurship was organized under the auspices of the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Forum provided an opportunity for its participants from the wider Black Sea area and beyond to meet, exchange views and explore the possibilities of joint ventures in the sphere of Green Economy.



H.E. Mr. Dimitrios DROUTSAS, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic, chaired the meeting in his capacity as the Chairman-in-Office of BSEC, along with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Mr. Spyros KOUVELIS.



Greece handing over the Chairmanship-in-Office of BSEC to Romania in Thessaloniki, on 26 November 2010.



Family photo at the 23rd Meeting of the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Thessaloniki.



### INTERVIEW WITH H.E. MR. TEODOR BACONSCHI, CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE OF BSEC, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ROMANIA

BS NEWS: Mr. Minister, thank you very much for taking the time to answer our questions. Could you briefly tell us about the upcoming Romanian Chairmanship-in-Office of BSEC and its priorities?

T. BACONSCHI: First of all, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to address your readers, all over the wider Black Sea area.

The priorities of our Chairmanship are synthesised in the motto we have chosen for our endeavours in the first six months of 2011: "Building Sustainability, Enhancing Commitments", mirroring the acronym of BSEC.

Our major objective is to increase the profile and the relevance of the BSEC for its Member States, by making an effort to adapt its activities to the real needs of regional cooperation. We have in mind a threefold effort: first - identifying and focusing on issues of real interest for all Member States where action in the BSEC framework can effectively be taken; second - examining what needs to be done in terms of improving procedures in order to make our work in the structures of the organisation more effective; third - strengthening the project-oriented dimension of BSEC, by identifying additional projects of practical interest for the Member States, which could be usefully undertaken in the framework of the Organization.

We will engage in thorough consultations with our colleagues in the Member States with a view to finding the common denominator regarding all these aspects.

As far as the first aspect is concerned, I would add that we intend to focus on issues related to sustained development of the BSEC Member States and of the region. We will continue the work begun by the Hellenic Chairmanship on green development issues. We will also try to make progress in regional cooperation in some other essential areas of sustainable development, such as environment protection, the development of intra-regional trade and investment, the promotion of projects in the fields of energy and transports, combating organised crime, encouraging intra-regional links at the level of the civil societies of the Member States.

At the same time, we will strive for progress in the implementation of the two major infrastructure projects: The Black Sea Ring Highway and the Development of the Motorways of the Sea at the Black Sea Region.

Attention will be given to increasing the contribution of affiliated bodies to BSEC activities. Here, I would like to emphasize our action to support the involvement of the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank in the projects of our Organization.

Another objective we intend to pursue is to promote and develop the culture of dialogue in the BSEC framework, in general. BSEC offers a unique platform of interaction and consultations, bringing together at the same table all the States of the region, some of them having various sorts of problems - non-resolved issues, tensions and protracted or even latent conflicts. While, of course, the Organization is not mandated to tackle such political issues, dialogue and interaction at a diplomatic level can help in building an atmosphere conducive to the harmonisation of relations and the pacific settlement of unresolved issues and disputes. That is why we believe that the culture of dialogue needs to be developed in the BSEC framework. It will make a significant contribution to a climate of understanding and security in the region.

BS NEWS: What factors played a role in defining the Chairmanship's main theme?

T. BACONSCHI: We defined our theme based on the experience of BSEC activities over the years, and on our assessment that this Organization has a great potential to facilitate and organize regional cooperation.

Globalization does not exclude regional cooperation. Quite the contrary. Globalization requires regional cooperation. Globalization provides opportunities for generating sustainable economic growth and welfare. But it needs to be managed through the adoption and implementation of appropriate policies not only at an international level, but also at national and regional levels, in a coherent manner.

Here lies the potential of BSEC as a comprehensive regional organisation for economic cooperation, in terms of membership. It is up to the Member States to take advantage of this potential and to make the Organization work for their economic growth and the welfare of their people. This means enhancing their commitments to work together in the BSEC framework.

At the same time, in view of the 20th BSEC anniversary in 2012, the Romanian Chairmanship-in-Office will consider initiating a consensus-based process of setting concrete and measurable new objectives for our Organization, as well as reshaping BSEC in order to face the challenges of the 21st century.

BS NEWS: What are the highlight events that will be organized during the Romanian Chairmanship?

T. BACONSCHI: In addition to preparing the work and to organizing the meetings of the decision-making bodies - the Committee of Senior Officials and the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, and of the Working Groups, in consultation with the Country-Coordination - we envisage convening two meetings at ministerial level which, in our view, could stimulate regional cooperation in issues of particular interest to the Member States.

We plan a meeting of the Ministers of Environment, as the protection of the environment is a matter of interest, and of concern, for all the 12 Member States. It is high time we shaped a common vision, by setting priorities and agreeing on a common agenda for regional cooperation, to be addressed in the BSEC framework, in line with the BSEC Action Plan for Cooperation in Environmental Protection adopted in Bucharest in 2006. In addition, Member States can all benefit from an important tool offered by the European Union: the Environment Partnership, launched in March 2010 under the Black Sea Synergy.

Secondly, we envisage a meeting of the Ministers of Interior, mainly devoted to ways and means of combating organised crime through regional cooperation, including by revalorising the existing Liaison Officers Network on Combating Crime.

I should also mention in this context our resolve to promote the interaction between BSEC and the European Union. We are looking forward to working closely for this purpose with the upcoming Hungarian Presidency of the European Union in the first half of 2011. We believe it is necessary to undertake joint efforts to support development and cooperation in the wider Black Sea area, which

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

is also a policy goal of the European Neighbourhood Policy of the EU. We believe the EU is a natural partner for BSEC. A growing interaction between BSEC and the EU brings added value to all the countries in the region. We ought to take advantage of this opportunity.

**BS NEWS: How does Romania see BSEC and its future?**

**T. BACONSCHI:** BSEC definitely has a promising future. With the joint efforts of the Member States, it will adapt to their evolving needs of sustainable development and it will find its place in the multilateral structures to which the States in the region belong. There are many issues on which the Organization could bring added value.

I also hope for a BSEC that will be even more open to other States neighbouring the wider Black Sea area and to other actors with interests in this area, offering them the possibility to participate in the discussion of certain problems of common interest, and also to the decision-making process on those problems, on an equal footing.

We have actually been witnessing an increased attention for BSEC activities by a number of States belonging to the European Union (the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia), and also by other States such as the United States, Japan, the Republic of Korea. This trend - which we shall try to encourage during our Chairmanship - will not only increase the relevance of the Organization for the Member States, but will also strengthen its contribution to European and global cooperation and security.

**BS NEWS: Would you like to convey a message to the readers of the Black Sea News?**

**T. BACONSCHI:** I would like readers to be able to see in the edition of the Black Sea News to be issued after the Romanian Chairmanship-in-Office reports indicating that significant progress has been made in implementing the priorities I described at the beginning of our discussion.

## editorial



Dear Readers,

The Greek Chairmanship promoted a green agenda for the Black Sea region. With its motto "Black Sea turns green", the Hellenic Chairmanship hosted various ministerial meetings, producing important results. The Meeting of the BSEC Ministers of Energy was held on 12 October 2010, in Nafplion, Greece, with the theme "Green Energy and Security of Energy Supply." The Nafplion Declaration on the Green Energy Development Initiative for the Black Sea Region was adopted. The Declaration focuses on steps for promoting sustainable energy policies on the basis of Green Growth for the BSEC region, in order to enhance energy security and protect and manage the natural resources and environment in the region. Most

importantly, the Ministers decided to set up a Green Energy Development Initiative Task Force to identify common aspects of Green Growth policies pursued by each Member State and specify areas where regional cooperation can be most effective. The Task Force will also explore ways to promote Green Energy investments and projects.

Another ministerial meeting, namely, the Meeting of the BSEC Ministers of Tourism, took place on 15 November 2010, in Athens. The Ministers adopted a Joint Declaration which will serve as a road map for the future activities of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism. The Declaration is also expected to contribute to the promotion of cultural tourism assets through various planned projects.

Finally, the 23rd Meeting of the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs was organized on 26 November 2010, in Thessaloniki. The theme of the meeting was "Green Development and Entrepreneurship." The Ministers of Foreign Affairs adopted the Joint Declaration on Combating Climate Change in the wider Black Sea area which was presented by the Hellenic Chairmanship-in-Office to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in December 2010, in Cancun, Mexico, constituting a contribution of BSEC to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations.

At the Council Meeting in Thessaloniki, the term of implementation of the pilot project on the issuing of the BSEC Transit Permit for Trucks was extended for an additional year. We also welcomed on board the Republic of Korea as Sectoral Dialogue Partner and signed a Memorandum of Intent on Science and Technology Cooperation with the Government of the United States of America which has Observer status within BSEC. We look forward to a new era of cooperation with our partners and their valuable inputs to the activities of BSEC in 2011.

Also, an Informal Meeting of the BSEC Ministers of Foreign Affairs took place on 21 September 2010, in New York, on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly general debate. It has now become customary practice for the BSEC Foreign Ministers to get together on an informal basis and discuss topics of importance for the region parallel to the UN General Assembly general debate.

The UN General Assembly adopted, by consensus, on 13 December 2010, the resolution on Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization. BSEC and the UN enjoy excellent relations and the cooperation with the UN specialized agencies continues to grow stronger in a wide spectrum of areas.

Now, a new period is ahead of us. After the successful Chairmanship-in-Office of the Hellenic Republic, Romania has assumed the BSEC Chairmanship as of 1 January 2011 for a period of six months, until 30 June 2011. Within this framework, H.E. Mr. Bogdan AURESCU, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania, representing the Chairman-in-Office, paid a visit to the BSEC Headquarters in Istanbul on 20 January 2011 to officially announce the priorities of the Romanian Chairmanship. As you will see from the interview on the cover page with H.E. Mr. Teodor BACONSCHI, Chairman-in-Office of BSEC, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania, a very rich agenda awaits the Organization. A meeting was held with Minister BACONSCHI and other senior officials in Bucharest in December to give the last touches to the calendar of events of the Romanian Chairmanship.

Wishing you a prosperous and happy 2011, in our next issue, I look forward to sharing with you new developments and projects for the common benefit of our region and its peoples.

**Ambassador Leonidas CHRYSANTHOPOULOS**  
Secretary General of the Organization of the  
Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)  
Permanent International Secretariat (PERMIS)

### MINISTERS OF ENERGY OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES MEET IN NAFPLION

The Meeting of the BSEC Ministers of Energy was held on 12 October 2010, in Nafplion, Greece. The theme of the meeting was "Green Energy and Security of Energy Supply." The Nafplion Declaration on the "Green Energy Development Initiative" for the Black Sea region was adopted. The Declaration focuses on steps for promoting sustainable energy policies on the basis of Green Growth for the BSEC region, in order to enhance energy security and protect and manage the natural resources and environment in the region.

The highlight of the meeting was the decision to set up a Green Energy Development Initiative Task Force, within the BSEC Working Group on Energy. The Task Force will identify common aspects of Green Growth policies pursued by each Member State and specify areas whereby regional cooperation can be most effective. It will also explore ways to promote Green Energy investments and innovative Green Energy projects. The Task Force is expected to facilitate the development of a network among the institutions in the Member States mandated to promote renewable energy sources and energy efficiency measures.

### MINISTERS OF TOURISM MEET IN ATHENS

The Ministers in charge of Tourism of the BSEC Member States met in Athens, on 15 November 2010. Mr. Georgios NIKITIADIS, Deputy Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Hellenic Republic chaired the meeting.

A Joint Declaration was adopted at the conclusion of the meeting. The Declaration is expected to serve as a guideline for the future activities of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Tourism and to foster new joint initiatives and projects among the BSEC Member States. Also envisaged in the Declaration is the promotion of BSEC cultural tourism assets through future projects.



Meeting of the BSEC Ministers of Tourism in Athens, on 15 November 2010.

### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE BLACK SEA REGION HELD IN SOCHI

The Fifth International Conference "Development of Tourism Infrastructure in the Black Sea Region" was held in Sochi, the Russian Federation, on 6-8 October 2010.

High-ranking officials from the BSEC Member States, representatives of the BSEC PERMIS and the World Tourism Organization participated in the Conference.

Topics related to the development of tourist infrastructure in the BSEC region were considered at the plenary session. Two thematic round tables on investments and human resources development were held. In their statements and interventions, participants addressed issues pertaining to investment opportunities, development of resort infrastructure, human resources development, training of personnel, diversification of touristic products, development of transport infrastructure, cruise tourism, and preparations for the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympic Games.

The conference provided the opportunity for the exchange of views on the ways and means of further developing the tourism industry in the region through attracting new investments and providing the ambience for enhancing of human resources. A high level participation from the respective ministries of the BSEC Member States, as well as experts, resulted in vibrant discussions, giving impetus to new and innovative ideas and suggestions on developing natural tourism assets.

### BSEC WORKING GROUPS ON CULTURE AND COOPERATION IN TOURISM HOLD JOINT MEETING IN ISTANBUL

BSEC Working Groups on Culture and on Cooperation in Tourism held a joint meeting at the BSEC Headquarters in Istanbul, on 28 September 2010.

Perspectives regarding BSEC cultural tourism projects were discussed. These projects include Route of the Rose, Routes of Coinage, Cultural Routes of the Roman Emperors, Silk Road, Wine Routes of Azerbaijan, Vine and Wine Routes of Armenia, the Legend of Argonauts and the Myth of the Two Seas.

The proponents and associated partners of the projects addressed the ways and means of implementation with regard to evaluation, implementation stages and funding. It was decided that each of the proponents to the projects would sum up the conclusions of the discussions and foster cooperation with partners. The proponents and partners to some projects are expected to explore ways to better integrate their segments within a regional or inter-regional project. Joint teams will be established to prepare the ground for the implementation of the projects.

It is envisaged that the planned projects will attract more tourists and create new opportunities for cultural tourism in the region.

## WORKING GROUP ON TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MEETS IN ISTANBUL

The BSEC Working Group on Trade and Economic Development convened a meeting at the BSEC Headquarters in Istanbul, on 18-19 October 2010.

The discussions focused on how best to revitalize activities and redefine priorities. To that end the BSEC PERMIS was requested to prepare a conceptual paper on the issue of the Working Group priority activities and revise the Terms of Reference of the Working Group.

The Hellenic and Romanian delegations made a detailed presentation on their countries' foreign trade with the other BSEC Member States. As a follow-up, the participants decided to have a regular exchange on foreign trade data among the Member States. The BSEC Business Council proposed the reactivation of the Center for Exchange of Statistical Data which is a BSEC Affiliated Center, hosted by the State Institute of Statistics of the Republic of Turkey.

## MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TAKES PLACE AT THE BSEC HEADQUARTERS

The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology took place at the BSEC Headquarters in Istanbul, on 4-5 November 2010.

The Hellenic Republic, in its capacity as the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group, gave a presentation on the Working Group Plan of Action 2010-2012. The participants discussed and adopted the Plan of Action which is expected to serve as a basic tool for further activities and engagements to be undertaken, including the establishment of summer schools for researchers and multilateral science and technology cooperation programs.

The representative of the European Commission informed the participants on the opportunities under the Framework Programmes, making an appeal to the BSEC Member States to work together to make use of these opportunities.

The representative of the International Centre for Black Sea Studies presented the latest developments on the IncoNet EECA and IncoNet CA/SC project, while the representatives of the Black Sea ERANET project and the ERANET RUS project also made presentations.

## WORKING GROUP ON EDUCATION MEETING ORGANIZED IN ISTANBUL

The BSEC Working Group on Education held a meeting at the BSEC Headquarters in Istanbul, on 11-12 November 2010. This was the first meeting of the Working Group since 2008.

Turkey, in its capacity as the Country-Coordinator, presented the Draft Action Plan 2011-2012, which was discussed and finalized. The document was adopted shortly after the meeting through written correspondence.

Two priority issues within the Action Plan activities were agreed upon and a timetable for 2011 was set:

Within this framework, it is envisaged that a conference titled "Cooperation in the development of national frameworks of qualification" will take place in June 2011, which will be organized and hosted by Turkey. With regard to the creation of a portal for education, the participants, taking note of the presentation made by the Hellenic Republic representative, decided to proceed with implementing it by stages in the months to come.

## BSEC MEMBERS AGREE TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION IN SEISMIC RISK

A 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 in Istanbul on 9-10 December 2010.

During the two-day meeting, the Working Group and the Liaison Officers of the BSEC Network on Emergency Assistance elaborated on the ways of further strengthening cooperation in this field. Following the Joint Declaration issued by the Ministers and Heads of Agencies on Emergency Situations of the BSEC Member States in Baku on 18 September 2009, the Working Group agreed to strengthen cooperation in seismic risk and to recommend to the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to establish an Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts in Seismic Risk under the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance.

The Working Group also suggested that the issues regarding building the institutional capacity of BSEC on emergencies and the preparedness of population to different emergencies could be considered among priorities for the projects to be realized within the BSEC Project Development Fund.

The Working Group expressed its high appreciation to the Russian Federation as the Country-Coordinator in implementing the Action Plan and the Work Program and its effective coordination of activities in emergency cooperation in BSEC during its two consecutive terms as Country-Coordinator.

## BSEC HOSTS WORKSHOP ON DOING PPPs IN THE BLACK SEA REGION, THE CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA

BSEC hosted a workshop titled "Addressing the challenge of doing PPPs in specific sectors in the Black Sea Region, the Caucasus and Central Asia" on 15-17 December 2010, in Istanbul. The event was organized jointly by BSEC, the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the International PPP platform of Turkey and PPP Advisory Facility (World Bank).

Nearly 60 participants elaborated on the PPPs capacity-building delivery, how to turn PPP theory into practice as well as the legal challenges and barriers to successful PPP development and implementation in the region.

Following the discussions related to international best practices in selected sectors, the participants of the workshop visited various sites in Istanbul which represented excellent examples of the benefits of PPPs.

## TRANSPORT COOPERATION IN BSEC CONTINUES TO ADVANCE

During the Hellenic Chairmanship-in-Office of BSEC, the Steering Committee of the Black Sea Ring Highway (BSRH) continued elaboration on the main route of the BSRH, while the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea worked on the basic documents necessary for the functioning of the Ad Hoc Working Group and its future Secretariat.

At a meeting in Istanbul on 26 October 2010, the seven participating Member States of the Pilot Project on the Issuing of the BSEC Transit Permit for Trucks made an assessment of the implementation of the project and expressed their common opinion that the project was a useful tool in facilitating the international transport of goods and that the term of its implementation should be extended. At the 23rd Meeting of the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Thessaloniki, on 26 November 2010, the term of the pilot project was extended for an additional year.

## ROAD SAFETY RUNS HIGH ON THE AGENDA OF BSEC COUNTRIES

A joint UNECE-BSEC Conference on Road Safety in the BSEC Region was held in Ioannina, Greece, on 18-19 November 2010. The Conference was organized as a follow-up to the Sofia Joint Declaration on Strengthening Co-Operation in the Field of Transport in the BSEC Region adopted on 15 April 2010, in which the BSEC Member States acknowledged the significance of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 64/255 of 2 March 2010 for the BSEC region that proclaims the period of 2011-2020 as the Decade of Action for Road Safety, with the objective to reduce the forecasted level of road fatalities world-wide by increasing activities at the national, regional and global levels.



The Conference held under the Greek Chairmanship-in-Office of BSEC and hosted by the Ioannina Chamber and the Hellenic Chambers Transport Association, examined the region's critical road safety issues. About half of Europe's road fatalities occur in the countries of the BSEC region. "Improving road safety is vital for society and a top priority for the United Nations. The need for action to improve global road safety has been stressed at the first global road safety Ministerial Conference in Moscow in 2009 as well as in many General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 64/255 of 2010, which proclaimed 2011-2020 as the Decade of Action for Road Safety", said Mr. Andrey VASILYEV, UNECE Deputy Executive Secretary, when opening the Conference. "Never before has the BSEC acted so rapidly to implement a resolution of the United

Nations General Assembly. This fast response is demonstrating the importance the BSEC Organization attaches to improving road safety in its Member States. Progress has been made, but there is more work to be done in the BSEC region," said H.E. Ambassador Leonidas CHRYSANTHOPOULOS, Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS.

The UNECE-BSEC Conference is expected to contribute towards the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety and towards the recently completed UNECE project on "Improving global road safety: setting regional and national road traffic casualty reduction targets." Representatives of BSEC countries are discussing the global and European road safety issues in the context of five pillars: road safety management, safer road and vehicle design, safer road users and post crash care. They are also reporting on national progress and exchanging best practices.

At the conclusion of the conference, the "Ioannina Declaration" was endorsed. The said document reaffirms the importance of addressing the road safety issue as a matter of urgency and the need for further strengthening international and regional cooperation, invites the BSEC countries to set road safety casualty reduction targets, and the BSEC bodies to consider setting regional casualty reduction target of halving the overall number of road deaths in the BSEC region by 2020, starting in 2010, and setting appropriate implementation and monitoring mechanisms.

Since 2000, road fatalities in the BSEC members have decreased by 9 percent. The best performing countries are Greece, where road deaths have declined by almost one-third, Serbia and Turkey with decreases of about one-fourth, and the Russian Federation and Bulgaria with declines of more than 10 percent. Compared to 2000, the number of injured in 2009 in the BSEC region is higher by 43 percent.

## WORKSHOP ON ENTREPRENEURIAL EDUCATION FOR SMEs HELD IN BELGRADE

A workshop on "Entrepreneurial Education for SMEs" was held in Belgrade on 13-15 October 2010. The event was jointly organized by the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat and the Representation of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (Foundation) (KAS) for Turkey.

The aim of the Workshop was to exchange views on the national problems facing the entrepreneurial education for SMEs. The representatives of the BSEC Member States discussed the common issues and challenges facing small businesses as well as the prospects of governmental measures to improve the educational framework and strengthen the educational incentives for SMEs.

The Workshop worked out a number of conclusions and recommendations aimed at enhancing the entrepreneurial education in vocational schools and universities in the BSEC Member States.



H.E. Ambassador Traian CHEBELEU addressing the participants of the Workshop on Entrepreneurial Education for SMEs in Belgrade.



Participants of the joint BSEC-KAS Workshop on Entrepreneurial Education for SMEs, held on 13-15 October 2010, in Belgrade.

## BSEC RELATIONS WITH ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS STRENGTHENED

A delegation from the University of Belgrade, Department of International Relations, consisting of faculty members and 70 students, visited the BSEC headquarters in Istanbul on 15 November 2010. The student group was received by the Deputy Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS H.E. Ambassador Traian CHEBELEU. Information on regional cooperation and BSEC activities were provided to the students, after which an interactive discussion took place.

Also, staff members and participants of the 117th Senior Course of the NATO Defense College were given a conference on the Black Sea region and the activities of BSEC by the Executive Manager of the BSEC PERMIS Meltem GÜNEY on 6 December 2010, in Istanbul.

A delegation from the Andrassy University Budapest Department of International Relations, consisting of the Vice Dean, researchers and students of this University visited the headquarters of BSEC on 10 December 2010. The delegation was briefed by Executive Manager Meltem GÜNEY, who informed the University members of the projects of BSEC and the latest developments related to the region, after which an interactive discussion was held.

Another academic delegation that visited the BSEC PERMIS headquarters was that of the International Relations Department of the Culture University in Istanbul. The delegation, which also included foreign exchange students under the ERASMUS program, was provided information on BSEC by Executive Manager Meltem GÜNEY, followed by an interactive discussion, on 24 December 2010.



Students of the University of Belgrade during their visit to the BSEC headquarters on 15 November 2010.

## INTERNATIONAL BLACK SEA DAY CELEBRATED

A series of activities and panels were organized on the occasion of the International Black Sea Day by the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of the Republic of Turkey, in Trabzon, on 31 October-2 November 2010.

Around 400 high-level participants attended the panels, including Ministers and Former Ministers from six BSEC Member States, the UN Resident Coordinator in Turkey, EU representatives, representatives from the European Parliament, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Governor of Trabzon, rectors of universities and renowned experts.

The panels addressed issues regarding the protection of the Black Sea environment which included monitoring and impacts of and measures against pollution from shipping; monitoring and information systems for reducing oil pollution; land-based sources of pollution challenges in sustainable fisheries and biodiversity; coastal zone management activities and marine protected areas; cooperation among international organizations; and NGO and private company activities related to the Black Sea.

First Deputy Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS Ambassador Sumru NOYAN attended the International Black Sea Day events and delivered a speech in the panel entitled "Cooperation among International Organizations on the Black Sea environment", highlighting the importance of regional cooperation on environmental issues.

As is known, in order to protect the Black Sea from pollution and other adverse effects, on 21 April 1992, Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, the Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine signed the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Bucharest Convention) which was ratified by all signatories in 1994. For the effective implementation of the Bucharest Convention, its signatories adopted the Black Sea Strategic Action Plan on 31 October 1996 and hence this date has since been celebrated as the International Black Sea Action Day.

International Black Sea Action Day is a regional event designed to increase environmental awareness in all Black Sea countries and coastal communities and to celebrate their shared marine environment. It is a collaborative effort among relevant regional organizations, NGOs, national government agencies and coastal municipalities working together to protect this important shared resource. Its main objective is to promote the urgent need for greater regional cooperation against the threats facing the Black Sea and to raise public awareness of these threats, ranging from pollution and poorly regulated fishing to unsustainable coastal development.

## MODEL BSEC PARTICIPANTS VISIT BSEC HEADQUARTERS



Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS H.E. Ambassador Leonidas CHRYSANTHOPOULOS informing the students of the Montana State University on the activities of BSEC and developments related to the Black Sea region.

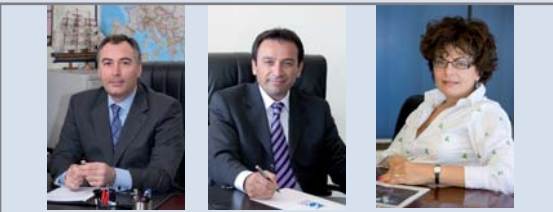
Following the first-ever BSEC simulation course that was developed and implemented at the Montana State University (MSU) during the 2010 Spring Semester, the participants of the MSU Political Science Department Model BSEC course visited the BSEC headquarters in Istanbul, on 5 September 2010.

The student group, led by Prof. Thomas GOLTZ of the MSU Political Science Department, was received by Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS Ambassador Leonidas CHRYSANTHOPOULOS. The Secretary General informed the students of the activities and developments related to the region, after which a lively interactive discussion on BSEC affairs took place.



Students of the Montana State University Political Science Department at the BSEC headquarters in Istanbul.

### NEW BSTDB PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENTS ASSUME DUTIES



President of the BSTDB Mr. Andrey KONDAKOV, Vice President Banking of the BSTDB Mr. Mustafa BORAN, Vice President Finance of the BSTDB Ms. Valentina SICLOVAN.

Following a proposal of the Government of the Russian Federation, the BSTDB Board of Governors appointed Mr. Andrey KONDAKOV President of the Bank as of 16 July 2010 for a period of 4 years, replacing Mr. Hayrettin KAPLAN (Turkey).

Also, the BSTDB Board of Directors, following a proposal by the Government of the Republic of Turkey, appointed Mr. Mustafa BORAN as Vice President Banking of the Bank, replacing Mr. Andrey KONDAKOV (Russia). The said appointment was also effective as of 16 July 2010 for a 4-year period.

Another appointment that was made by the BSTDB Board of Directors was that of Ms. Valentina SICLOVAN (Romania) who was appointed as Vice President Finance of the Bank as of 16 September 2010 for a period of 4 years, replacing Ms. Sophia KASSIDOVA (Bulgaria). The appointment was proposed by the Government of Romania.

### BSTDB CREDIT RATING UPGRADED TO A3 BY MOODY'S

The credit rating of the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank (BSTDB) has been upgraded from Baa1 to A3 by Moody's Investors Service.

The credit rating agency said that the main reasons for BSTDB's upgrade are the resilience of the Bank's asset quality, liquidity and profitability despite the very difficult environment in the Black Sea region during the global crisis.

Another important reason was an agreement among the Bank's shareholders to triple the Bank's authorized capital and double its subscribed capital which is currently being implemented. In Moody's view, the capital increase signifies the strength of shareholders' commitment to the BSTDB, demonstrated despite a very difficult macroeconomic environment for some member countries.

After several years of hard work since being awarded an investment grade rating, the BSTDB has just joined the group of A-rated financial institutions working in the Black Sea region. "We are confident that this rating - higher than that of any of the Bank's shareholding countries - will increase BSTDB's ability to access international capital markets on competitive terms, thus facilitating the implementation of our developmental mandate in the region" stated Mr. Andrey KONDAKOV, BSTDB President. He added that "the Bank will continue its efforts to create conditions for further rating upgrade, including through exploring the possibility of attracting a new AAA-rated shareholder."

### BSTDB SUPPORTS ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN GREECE AND IN THE BLACK SEA REGION

BSTDB made available a EUR 20 million corporate loan to construction company Terna S.A. (GEK-Terna Group, Greece) to support its investment program in Greece and the Black Sea region.

The financing will be used for the Company's construction projects in the sectors of energy and infrastructure, which include, among others, two thermal power stations in Greece (in Megalopolis and the Rhodes island).

BSTDB involvement will support important infrastructural investment projects of a leading Greek construction company with expanding cross-border activities in the Black Sea region, including in the BSTDB member countries of Albania, Bulgaria, Romania and Russia.

"As a development bank, BSTDB gives high priority to supporting energy and infrastructure as key sectors contributing to the economic development and integration of the countries of the Black Sea region. We are also committed to increase our operations in Greece to support the country in the current challenging economic situation," stated the BSTDB President Mr. Andrey KONDAKOV at the signing of the loan agreement.

### BSTDB SUPPORTS HIGH-TECH SECTOR DEVELOPMENT IN GREECE AND IN THE BLACK SEA REGION

BSTDB made available a EUR 15 million senior corporate loan to Velti S.A to finance its activities and expansion in Greece and other countries of the Black Sea region.

The proceeds of the loan will be used to finance the working capital and investment needs of Velti, as well as the company's acquisition or expansion in the Black Sea region.

The importance of the financing in the current challenging market conditions illustrates the confidence BSTDB has in providing financing to well-managed companies. The operation has a significant regional dimension as well as high developmental impact arising from the retaining of employment posts in Greece and in other BSTDB member countries, including Bulgaria, Russia and Ukraine, where VELTI has offices.

"This project demonstrates the bank's intention to significantly increase the operations portfolio in Greece providing the much-needed financing under the current challenging economic conditions," stated the BSTDB Secretary General Mr. George KOTTAS, signing the loan agreement.



BSEC BC Secretary General Ms. Eftychia BACOPOULOU, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic H.E. Mr. Spyros KOUVELIS and BSTDB President Mr. Andrey KONDAKOV opening the stand at the Thessaloniki International Fair.

### BSTDB PARTICIPATES IN THE 75TH THESSALONIKI INTERNATIONAL FAIR TOGETHER WITH BSEC BUSINESS COUNCIL

BSTDB and BSEC Business Council (BSEC BC) opened a joint stand at the Thessaloniki International Fair. The ceremony was opened by Mr. Andrey KONDAKOV, BSTDB President and Ms. Eftychia BACOPOULOU, BSEC BC Secretary General.

H.E. Mr. Spyros KOUVELIS, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic and the BSEC Chairman-in-Office welcomed the participation of the BSTDB and BSEC BC in the Fair and expressed the support of the Greek Government for regional cooperation and to the activities of the two organizations.

BSTDB President Mr. Andrey KONDAKOV said that the BSTDB contributes to the efforts of the Greek government to accelerate

the regional cooperation with an emphasis on green technologies, environmentally friendly and energy efficient projects. Those areas are operational priorities for the Bank in the region and BSTDB is getting increasingly engaged in relevant investment projects. The Bank also pays special attention to the support for the Greek economy during this time of uncertainty and challenge. BSEC BC Secretary General Ms. Eftychia BACOPOULOU urged the Greek business community to become actively involved with the activities of the BSEC BC, specifically under two new cooperation networks encouraging environmentally-friendly "green" projects and women's entrepreneurship.

Additional information on the event can be found on page 7.

### BSTDB JOINS MASTER COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH IFC TO HELP BRIDGE FINANCING GAPS IN THE BLACK SEA REGION

BSTDB became the seventh development finance institution to join a Master Cooperation Agreement led by the International Finance Corporation (IFC), which helps bridge private sector financing gaps in emerging markets by making it easier and faster for lenders to co-finance projects with IFC.

The IFC's Master Cooperation Agreement standardizes steps that lenders take when joining IFC to co-finance projects, increasing efficiencies and saving borrowers and lenders time and costs throughout the life of a loan. IFC created the agreement in response to calls by G20 nations for increased collaboration among international financial institutions to help meet private sector financing shortfalls during the global financial crisis.

"IFC and the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank share a desire to support economic development and regional cooperation in the 11 countries of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation region," said Mr. Rashad KALDANY, IFC Vice President for Asia, Eastern Europe, Middle East and North Africa at a signing ceremony to formalize the cooperation. "The Master Cooperation Agreement allows us to work together more effectively and get funding to where it is needed more quickly."

Mr. Andrey KONDAKOV, President of BSTDB said, "Joining the Master Cooperation Agreement is an important step for BSTDB to further strengthen our cooperation and coordination with IFC and peer financial institutions in supporting investors and companies in our member countries to promote the development of infrastructure, energy, financial sector and other key areas."

### BSTDB JOINS A NEW EQUITY FUND FOR INVESTMENTS IN SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

BSTDB joined a newly established private Emerging Europe Accession Fund (EEAF) together with European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the European Investment Fund (EIF), DEG (the German Investment and Development Company), Acquina Partners - a Swiss-based private institutional investor and a group of individual investors. The Fund is managed by Axxess Capital which has successful experience in managing similar facilities - Balkan Accession Fund and Romanian American Enterprise Fund.

EEAF's targeted capitalization is of EUR 150 million and the Fund had the first close at EUR 94 million. The BSTDB capital commitment is EUR 7 million. The Fund will invest in private businesses in South Eastern Europe, with a main focus on Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey. EEAF will target equity investment addressing lower mid-market well-established companies, enjoying competitive advantages and good growth prospects in their industries and across the region. The Fund will make investments in the range of EUR 5-20 million with special attention to B2B services, manufacturing, logistics and distribution, financial services, healthcare and IT&C.

### BSTDB SUPPORTS BUSINESS COOPERATION IN THE BLACK SEA REGION

BSTDB sponsored the Black Sea Business Forum organized by TUSKON, Turkish Business Confederation, under the auspices of the BSEC Parliamentary Assembly in Trabzon. Andrey KONDAKOV, BSTDB President, spoke in the opening ceremony of the event gathering over 500 business participants from the region, together with H.E. Mr. Mehmet Ali SAHIN, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of the Republic of Turkey, Mr. Bülent ARINC, Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey, Dr. Recep KIZILCIK, Governor of Trabzon and Mr. Rizanur MERAL, TUSKON President.



BSTDB sponsored the Black Sea Business Forum organized by the Turkish Business Confederation under the auspices of the BSEC Parliamentary Assembly in Trabzon.



## PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION (PABSEC)

### 36th PLENARY SESSION OF THE PABSEC GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADDRESSES ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN INTER-CULTURAL AND INTER-CIVILIZATION DIALOGUE

The 36th Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly was held in Trabzon on 2-4 November 2010. The meeting was opened by Mr. Mehmet Ali ŞAHİN, PABSEC President, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey. The participants were also addressed by Mr. Volodymyr LYTVYN, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Mr. Bülent ARINC, Deputy Prime-Minister, State Minister of Turkey, Mr. Kemalettin GÖKTAS, Head of the PABSEC Turkish National Delegation, as well as Mr. Vassilios BORNOVAS, Consul General of the Hellenic Republic in Istanbul, representing the Hellenic BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office. The President of the Republic of Turkey, H.E. Mr. Abdullah GÜL, sent a greeting message to the participants of the General Assembly.

The General Assembly was attended by the national delegations of Armenia, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine. BSEC and its Related Bodies were represented by the First Deputy Secretary General of the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat Ambassador Ms. Sumru NOYAN and the President and the Secretary General of the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank Mr. Andrey KONDAKOV and Mr. George KOTTAS, respectively. Among Observers and guests were representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus, the French Senate and National Assembly, the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Eurasian Economic Community, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Turkic-Speaking Countries, the Black Sea Universities Network and the Marmara Foundation.

The topic of the General Debate was "The role of parliaments in inter-cultural and inter-civilization dialogue as a basis for regional and international cooperation."

The PABSEC members conducted debates on the Reports and Recommendations drafted by the PABSEC specialized Committees during their autumn meetings on "The Condition of the Marine Environment in the Black Sea Region", "Enhancement of Cooperation between the PABSEC and the European Parliament" and "Cultural Cooperation in the BSEC Region: Experiences, Opportunities and Challenges." The Assembly adopted Recommendations on these subjects addressed to the Parliaments and Governments of the Member Countries and to the Organization of the BSEC.

The Assembly discussed the activities carried out by BSEC, in particular the results of the Coordination Meeting of the BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office, the CSO, BSEC Related Bodies and the BSEC PERMIS, held in Istanbul on 23 June 2010, as well as the ministerial meetings held during the Hellenic Chairmanship-in-Office.

The members endorsed the Progress Report of the Parliamentary Assembly and adopted the budget for the Financial Year 2011.

Concurrently with the PABSEC General Assembly, the "The Black Sea Business Forum" was organized by the Confederation of Businessmen and Industrialists of Turkey (TUSKON) in Trabzon, on 2-3 November 2010 and a joint meeting was held between the business people and parliamentarians.

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure, following the end of the Thirty-Sixth Plenary Session, on 4 November 2010, Mr. Volodymyr LYTVYN, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, assumed the six-month term Presidency of PABSEC.



Family photo at the 36th Plenary Session of PABSEC General Assembly in Trabzon.

### PABSEC COMMITTEES FOCUS ON MARINE ENVIRONMENT, COOPERATION WITH EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND CULTURAL COOPERATION IN THEIR AUTUMN MEETINGS

During autumn 2010, the three PABSEC Committees debated and drafted recommendations on topics of major importance for the countries of the Black Sea region.

The 35th Thirty-Fifth Meeting of the Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee was held in Kyiv on 29-30 September 2010. Mr. Konstantinos TSIARAS, Member of the Committee (Greece), presented a Draft Report on "The Condition of the Marine Environment in the Black Sea Region", while the Draft Recommendation on the same subject was presented by Mr. Gagrik MINASYAN, Chairman of the Committee (Armenia). The principal objectives of the process of improving national policies of the BSEC Member States on the protection of the marine environment were defined as formulation of concrete strategies, action plans and programmes, making reforms in marine environment related legislation, establishment of separate state structures dealing with the protection of the marine environment and marine security and the involvement of the civil society in issues concerning the marine environment.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held in Moscow on 16-17 March 2011. The main topic of the agenda will be "GMO (genetically modified organisms) use in the BSEC

countries: economic and environmental aspects." Mr. Georgi GOGUADZE, Vice-Chairman of the Committee (Georgia) has been designated as Rapporteur.

The PABSEC Legal and Political Affairs Committee held its 36th Meeting in Brussels, on 13-14 October 2010, within the European Parliament premises, at the invitation of Mr. Libor ROUCEK, Vice-President of the European Parliament.

The main item on the agenda was "Enhancement of Cooperation between the PABSEC and the European Parliament." PABSEC seeks to make joint efforts with the European Parliament to establish a more comprehensive framework of cooperation based on commonly shared objectives by using the instruments that the two organizations have at their disposal for promoting international parliamentary dialogue.

The 37th Meeting of the Committee will be held in Baku, on 6-7 April 2011. The meeting is expected to address "The role of parliaments in providing legislative support for enhancing scientific and technological progress."

The Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee, in its 35th meeting on 15-16 September 2010, in Bucharest,

discussed "Cultural Cooperation in the BSEC Region: Experiences, Opportunities and Challenges." The Rapporteur was Mr. Volodymyr SKUBENKO (Ukraine) and the Recommendation was presented by Mr. Alexandros DERMENTZOPOULOS, Chairman of the Committee. It was acknowledged that the variety of cultural identities and values of the BSEC region represents a key resource for enhancing political dialogue, developing economic cooperation and ensuring stability through mutual knowledge and appreciation of the countries' cultural assets. The ways how BSEC and its Related Bodies could further enhance their cooperation in the field of culture were discussed.

The representative of the Black Sea Universities Network (BSUN) informed the participants on developing the BSUN Digital Archive for Preserving and Promotion of the Cultural Heritage of the Black Sea and the Caspian Seas Regions.

The 36th Meeting of the Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee will be held on 30-31 March 2011, in Yerevan. The main subject on the agenda will be "Observance of the international sanitation standards of the World Health Organization in the BSEC Member-States." Mr. Vardan KHACHATRYAN (Armenia) has been designated as Rapporteur on this topic.



35th Meeting of the Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee in Kyiv, on 29-30 September 2010.



Participants of the 36th Meeting of the PABSEC Legal and Political Affairs Committee, held at the European Parliament premises in Brussels in October 2010.



Participants of the 35th Meeting of the PABSEC Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee, organized in Bucharest, on 15-16 September 2010.



## BSEC BUSINESS COUNCIL (BSEC BC)

### BSEC BC SECRETARY GENERAL PARTICIPATES IN SALZBURG TRILOGUE 2010

The BSEC BC Secretary General Ms. Eftychia BACOPOULOU participated in the annual international dialogue forum "Trilogue Salzburg 2010" on 20-22 August 2010, in Salzburg, providing the contribution of the BSEC BC on this year's thematic entitled "Building Blocks for Ethical Market Economies in the 21st Century-Perspectives on Qualitative Growth from Europe, Black Sea Region and Beyond".

"Trilogue Salzburg" is a prominent intellectual hub that brings together high-ranking politicians, business leaders and cultural ambassadors to discuss cross-cutting global issues, focusing on ways to confront the socio-political challenges being faced by Europe and the international community. This year's roundtable was moderated by the Former Federal Chancellor of Austria, Dr. Wolfgang Schüssel and hosted 33 selected persons, including Ministers of Foreign Affairs, academicians, representatives of international organizations, business people, people from the arts. The BSEC BC was invited to enhance its cooperation with the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Bertelsmann Foundation (Bertelsmann Stiftung), the annual organizers of the Trilogue.



Group photo at the international dialogue forum "Trilogue Salzburg 2010" held on 20-22 August 2010, in Salzburg.

### BSEC BC AND BSTDB PARTICIPATE JOINTLY TO THE 75TH THESSALONIKI INTERNATIONAL FAIR



Joint BSEC BC-BSTDB stand at the 75th Thessaloniki International Fair.

The BSEC Business Council jointly participated with the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank (BSTDB) to the 75th Thessaloniki International Fair on 11-19 September 2010, setting up an information stand of a total area 48 m2 in the Thessaloniki International Exhibition Center. The opening ceremony of the joint stand took place with the participation of the members of the Greek Government, state officials, representatives of the Embassies and Consulates and the business community.

On behalf of the Greek Chairmanship-in-Office of BSEC, H.E. Mr. Spyros KOUVELIS, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic, welcomed the joint participation of the BSTDB and BSEC BC in the Fair. Deputy Minister KOUVELIS expressed the support of the Hellenic Government for promoting regional cooperation through BSEC. He also expressed support for the activities of the two BSEC Related Bodies, especially those which promote green technologies, energy efficiency and environmentally friendly projects, constituting priorities for the Hellenic Chairmanship.

The joint stand was widely visited, while both of the two BSEC Related Bodies attracted substantial interest from the business people and the press. In addition to brochures and other promotional materials, a questionnaire prepared by the BSEC BC International Secretariat was distributed. The questionnaire aims at collecting statistical data concerning the BSEC BC's visibility, measuring its access capability to the business community of each BSEC country and contributing to the definition of its new role. The questionnaire, the original text of which is in English, will be gradually translated into all the languages of the BSEC Member States, so that it can be made full use of in other similar events. Given the success of the event, the BSEC BC International Secretariat invited all the Members of the BSEC BC Board of Directors to further consider similar business promotional events.

### WORKSHOP ON HYDROGEN ENERGY IN THE BLACK SEA REGION ORGANIZED AT THE BSEC HEADQUARTERS



Group photo following the workshop entitled "Interactions on Scientific and Commercial Opportunities in the Field of Hydrogen Energy in the Black Sea Region" held at the BSEC headquarters in Istanbul, on 9-10 November 2010.

workshop entitled "Interactions on Scientific and Commercial Opportunities in the Field of Hydrogen Energy in the Black Sea Region." The event took place at the BSEC headquarters in Istanbul, on 9-10 November 2010.

The workshop falls under the activities scheduled for promoting the new BSEC BC initiatives in green business. The event aimed at reviewing the state of the art technologies in hydrogen energy, presenting the BSEC countries' activities in this field, informing of the suitable co-financing frameworks and industrial activities and realizing a brokerage session for pilot and commercial projects.

Around fifty experts, scientists and representatives from the industry and the banking sector of the BSEC Member States, IEA-HIA and its member countries and international financial institutions participated in the workshop and exchanged information on the latest developments regarding hydrogen energy technology and its applications. Proposals on the promotion of hydrogen technology in the BSEC countries were presented. These proposals will be further elaborated to be officially presented to BSEC, in particular within the framework of the new Green Energy Task Force. The event was the first of its kind that focused on the Black Sea area. In the context of the workshop, UNIDO-ICHET

presented the ECOCARAVAN, a vehicle developed by UNIDO-ICHET through the funding of GEF and the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Turkey. The ECOCARAVAN is a platform to demonstrate the practical applications of renewable energy resources and hydrogen energy in Turkey.



ECOCARAVAN presented by UNIDO-ICHET during the workshop on Hydrogen Energy.

### BSEC PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND (PDF)

A decision was taken by the Steering Committee of the BSEC Project Development Fund to finance two new projects at its Sixteenth Meeting in Istanbul, on 31 March 2010.

One of the projects is entitled "Renewable Energy Sources (RES)." It will be carried out by institutions from Turkey (Lead Partner), Bulgaria and Romania.

The second project is on "Introducing Climate Change in the Environmental Strategy for the Protection of the Black Sea (ICEBS)." The UNDP offices in Greece, Moldova and Turkey will carry it out. The PDF funding for this project will be complementary to the contribution to be provided by the Government of Austria which is one of the most active Observers in BSEC, holding this status since 1995. Through the UNDP, Austria has pledged EUR 150.000 to the joint BSEC-UNDP ICEBS project which will be implemented in the 2010-2011 period.



## INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR BLACK SEA STUDIES (ICBSS)

### FIFTH ANNUAL LECTURE FEATURING UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Mr. Achim STEINER, UN Under-Secretary General and Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme speaking at the Fifth ICBSS Annual Lecture.

The Fifth ICBSS Annual Lecture was imparted by Mr. Achim STEINER, United Nations Under-Secretary General and Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). The event was organized in cooperation with the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Hellenic Chairmanship-in-Office of BSEC and UNEP in Athens, on 24 November 2010. H.E. Mr. Spyros KOUVELIS, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic, delivered the welcome address.

UN Under-Secretary General and Executive Director of UNEP Mr. STEINER spoke on the "Opportunities for a Transition to a Green Economy in the Wider Black Sea Region," underlining the importance of the adoption of a "green economy" even by countries affected by the global economic crisis. Regarding the Black Sea area that is currently facing serious environmental challenges, Mr. STEINER noted that a green economy constitutes a unique chance for the Black Sea countries to promote regional cooperation that will generate new opportunities for development in the coming years. He also expressed his support for the BSEC Hellenic Chairmanship's campaign under the motto "The Black Sea Turns Green." The recorded version of the lecture's webcast is available from the ICBSS website [www.icbss.org](http://www.icbss.org).



UN Under-Secretary General and Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme Mr. Achim STEINER, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic H.E. Mr. Spyros KOUVELIS and ICBSS Director General Dr. Zefi DIMADAMA at the Fifth ICBSS Annual Lecture.

### NEW POLICY BRIEF: GREENING THE BLACK SEA

The latest ICBSS Policy Brief, co-authored by ICBSS Director General Dr. Zefi DIMADAMA and Ms. Alexia TIMOTHEOU, was published in November 2010 and is available for free download from the ICBSS website. Titled "Greening the Black Sea: Overcoming Inefficiency and Fragmentation through Environmental Governance", the Policy Brief recommends a new strategic policy that implies the incorporation of the horizontal environmental perspective into all sectoral policies, with a view to achieving legal compliance, efficiency, legitimacy, and networking.



### S&T COOPERATION FOR EASTERN EUROPE, CENTRAL ASIA AND SOUTH CAUCASUS CONTINUES

The ICBSS continues to coordinate the EU funded projects S&T International Cooperation Network for Eastern European and Central Asian Countries (IncoNet EECA) and for Central Asian and South Caucasus Countries (IncoNet CA/SC). In this context, the ICBSS organized an IncoNet EECA Workshop on cooperation in the field of "Social Sciences and Humanities" (SSH) in Athens, in October 2010. The workshop brought together leading researchers from both the EU and EECA countries, who during a lively brainstorming session, identified topics of mutual EECA - EU interest that could be included in the future calls of FP7 and constitute a valuable input for the European Commission. More information on the projects is available at [www.inco-eeea.net](http://www.inco-eeea.net) and [www.inco-casc.net](http://www.inco-casc.net).

### ICBSS ACTIVITIES PROMOTE REGIONAL COOPERATION

As a partner in the project "Facilitating Political Dialogue in the Baltico-Mediterranean Axis" co-funded by the Anna Lindh Foundation, the ICBSS participated in a Seminar on "(Inter-) Regional civil society cooperation: Challenges and future perspectives in the Mediterranean, Baltic Sea and Black Sea regions" held in Athens, in October 2010.

In November 2010, the ICBSS concluded its work on the "EU-Black Sea Observatory" project that aimed at monitoring and analysing developments in the Black Sea region through policy research, media observation and other related research activities. Deliverables, such as the Black Sea News Update and the Brief on Visa Policy Developments are available on the ICBSS website.

The ICBSS participated in the Black Sea Business Forum on "The New Era of Green Entrepreneurship" co-organised by the Hellenic Federation of Enterprises and the Federation of Industries of Northern Greece under the auspices of the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Thessaloniki, in November 2010.

The ICBSS briefed European Commission officials on its activities in the framework of an Information Programme organized by the Greek Diplomatic Academy and the Directorate General for Personnel and Administration of the European Commission in Athens, in October 2010.



## BSEC-HELLENIC DEVELOPMENT FUND (BSEC-HDF)

A considerable number of prospective applicants have responded to the open Call for Proposals in Renewable Energy Sources and Energy Efficiency for public use buildings. The BSEC-HDF Committee which met on 16 November 2010 examined the eligible applications officially submitted and created a shortlist with the most favorable projects. Furthermore, the Committee took note of the draft projects and concept ideas that are expected to be submitted by the end of January 2011.

With regard to supporting clean energy solutions in the Black Sea region, BSEC-HDF co-sponsored the BSEC Workshop "Interactions on Scientific and Commercial Opportunities in the Field of Hydrogen Energy in the Black Sea Region." The said Workshop was organized by the BSEC Business Council, UNIDO-ICHET and IEA-HIA under the Hellenic Chairmanship "Black Sea Turns Green," at the BSEC headquarters in Istanbul, on 9-10 November 2010.

In addition to providing a total budget of 400,000 Euros for grants under the ongoing Call for Proposals, BSEC-HDF envisages organizing a photography competition in 2011 for strengthening awareness in the Black Sea region on the uses of sustainable energy for environmental protection with a particular dimension for water. The said photo competition is planned to be implemented with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and The Coca Cola Company (TCCC) under the Regional Water Partnership "Every Drop Matters".

More information on the BSEC-HDF is available at [www.bsecprojects.com](http://www.bsecprojects.com) or by sending e-mail to [info@bsec-hdf.org](mailto:info@bsec-hdf.org).