



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

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REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT

BSEC Headquarters, 21-22 September 2015

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Transport was held in BSEC Headquarters on 21-22 September 2015.

2. The Meeting was chaired by Mrs. Brandusa PREDESCU, Special Representative of the Romanian Chairmanship-in-Office of BSEC

3. The following BSEC Member States participated in the Meeting:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Republic of Bulgaria
Hellenic Republic
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine

4. The representatives of the Black and Azov Seas Ports Association (BASPA), the Black Sea International Ship-owners Association (BINSAs), the Black Sea Region Association of Shipbuilders and Shiprepairers (BRASS), and the Union of Road Transport Associations in the BSEC Region (BSEC-URTA), as Sectoral Dialogue Partners, participated in the Meeting.

5. The representatives of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Central European Initiative (CEI) participated in the Meeting as Guests.

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

6. 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 RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND MEETINGS OF MINISTERS OF TRANSPORT

2.1 Follow-up of the “Chisinau Joint Declaration on Prospects of Cooperation in the field of Transport in the BSEC Region” (Chisinau, 14 May 2015)

7. The Working Group:

- a) took note of information provided by the BSEC PERMIS regarding decisions of the 32nd Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (Chisinau, 18 June 2015) related to transport activities during the Moldovan Chairmanship-in-office and, in particular, to the implementation of the Chisinau Joint Declaration on Prospects of Cooperation in the field of Transport in the BSEC Region, adopted by the Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States at their meeting in Chisinau on 14 May 2015.
- b) decided to further proceed on the aforementioned decisions within the implementation of its Action Plan for 2015-2017.

2.2 State of affairs with regard to appointment of representatives to the Working Group on Transport

8. In line with the resolution “Assessment of the work deployed in the BSEC Working Groups” adopted by the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States in Belgrade on 19 April 2007, the Working Group considered the list of representatives to the Working Group and invited the Member States to update, if necessary, information regarding their representatives by 1 November 2015. The list of representatives to the Working Group is attached as **Annex III**.

2.3 Implementation of the BSEC Economic Agenda: Towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership (2012)

9. The Working Group:

- a) took note of the BSEC PERMIS information that the timeline in the document titled “The Way Forward for an Action Plan on the Implementation of the Economic Agenda towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership” (Istanbul, 15 December 2012) envisages a second Orientation Survey for the priorities of the next medium-term period (2016-2018) to be launched in the second half of 2015;
- b) referred to the reports on the implementation of the Economic Agenda towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership submitted to the CSO in 2013 and 2014 (doc. Annex X to BS/WG/T/R(2013)2 and doc. Annex V to BS/WG/T/R(2014)2) emphasizing that most of provisions of the Goal 3 “Establishment of an Efficient Transport Network” are in the active phase of their implementation;
- c) Giving importance to all provisions of the Goal 3, decided that the priority areas for 2016-2018 will be the following:
 1. Promoting sustainable transport systems, which meet the economic, social and environmental needs of the people of the Black Sea Region, in order to reduce

regional disparities and to link the BSEC Region's transport infrastructure to European and Asian Networks.

2. Accelerating the efforts at the national level and within the BSEC framework in order to further proceed with the implementation of the BSEC projects in the field of transport, especially the Black Sea Ring Highway and the Development of the Motorways of the Sea in the BSEC Region.

3. Elaborating joint transport projects of regional impact within the framework of BSEC mechanisms, public-private partnerships, and with the participation of other regional and international organizations, including the EU and International Financial Institutions.

4. Considering the possibility of elaborating a regional integrated maritime policy in the field of Maritime Transport, Ports, Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing in the BSEC Region as an important factor for sustainable economic growth.

5. Developing modern competitive Ro-Ro, ferry and cruise lines in the Black Sea Region benefitting from international experiences, best practices, and the newest equipment and technologies on shipping safety.

6. Improving the road safety in the BSEC Region in the framework of the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011-2020).

2.4 Report on implementation of the Action Plan of the BSEC Working Group on Transport for the period of 1 July 2013 – 30 June 2015 presented by Ukraine as a Country-Coordinator of the Working Group during the mentioned period

10. The Working Group:

- a) took note of the presentation by Ukraine, the Country-Coordinator in the BSEC Working Group, of the Evaluation Report on the BSEC transport Cooperation for the period of 1 July 2013 – 30 June 2015. The said report is attached as **Annex IV**.
- b) expressed high appreciation to Ukraine for the comprehensive Evaluation Report for the said period and its valuable contribution to promotion of transport in the BSEC Region, as a Country-Coordinator of the BSEC WG on Transport during two consecutive periods of 1 July 2011-30 June 2013 and 1 July 2013 – 30 June 2015.

2.5 Consideration and Adoption of the Draft Action Plan of the BSEC Working Group on Transport for the period of 1 July 2015 – 30 June 2017 presented by Romania as a Country-Coordinator of the Working Group

11. The Working Group:

- a) considered, amended and adopted the Action Plan of the BSEC Working Group on Transport for the period of 1 July 2015 – 30 June 2017, presented by Romania as a Country Coordinator. The Action Plan is attached as **Annex V**.
- b) invited the Member States and partner-organizations to make their proposals to the Calendar of transport activities for 2015-2017.

AGENDA ITEM 3: INTEGRATED ROAD AND SEA TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK IN THE BSEC REGION. STATE OF AFFAIRS WITH REGARD TO:

3.1 Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Coordinated Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway

12. The Working Group:

- a) took note of information of the BSEC PERMIS with regard to the state of implementation of decisions of the 7th Meeting of the Steering Committee on the Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway;
- b) requested the BSEC PERMIS to receive the latest information from the BSRH JPTS on the agreed BSRH main route alignment and to inform the Member States respectively.

3.2 Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea in the BSEC Region

13. The Working Group took note of:

- a) the information provided by the delegation of Romania about arrangements for the forthcoming meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea to be held on 20th October 2015 in Bucharest and presentation of the web site of the MoS Joint Technical Secretariat managed by the Constanta Port.
- b) The position of the Hellenic Republic regarding the further development of the Motorways of the Sea. The text is attached as **Annex VI**.
- c) The position of the delegation of Ukraine with regard to items 3.1. and 3.2. The text is attached as **Annex VII**.
- d) The position of the delegation of the Russian Federation. The text is attached as **Annex VIII**.

AGENDA ITEM 4: FACILITATION OF TRANSPORT OF GOODS IN THE BSEC REGION

4.1 State of affairs with regard to implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region

14. The Working Group took note of:

- a) information by the BSEC PERMIS on the state of affairs with regard to the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region and the results of the 8th Meeting of the Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region;
- b) information by the BSEC PERMIS about the outcome of the XVIth International Conference "International Road Transport - Problems, Solutions and Development" promoting facilitation of road transport of goods, which was held in Odessa on 8-9 September 2015;
- c) invitation of the Delegation of the Republic of Turkey to the BSEC Member States to speed up the process of accession to the Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Professional Lorry Drivers Nationals of the BSEC Member States;
- d) presentation by the BSEC-URTA «Regional Cooperation – a Key to Gradual Liberalization and Facilitation of Road Transport Market in the BSEC region” providing analysis on situation regarding liberalization of transportation and facilitation of trade in the BSEC Region. The presentation is attached as **Annex IX**.

4.1.1 Project “BSEC Permit system”

15. The Working Group took note of:

- a) information on the usage of the BSEC Permits in 2014 and 2015 and arrangements done by the BSEC PERMIS for the next meeting of the Member States participating in the Project at the end of November 2015 for planning the application of permits in 2016;
- b) positions of the Hellenic Republic and the Russian Federation regarding the project.

4.1.2 The BSEC Pilot Project on introducing the International Vehicle Weight Certificate in the BSEC Region

16. The Working Group took note of information of the BSEC PERMIS regarding arrangements for the next meeting of the Member States participating in the Pilot Project.

4.2 Mutual Recognition of Diplomas/Certificates and Other Evidence of Formal Qualification for a Road Haulage Operator and a Road Passenger Transport Operator

17. The Working Group took note of the statement of the IRU representative on the need to elaborate a regional approach to recognition of qualifications of the road haulage operators and road passenger transport operators and on the need to continue elaborating the Draft Agreement on the Mutual Recognition of Diplomas/Certificates and Other Evidence of Formal Qualification for a Road Haulage Operator and a Road Passenger Transport Operator within the Ad Hoc Working Group established for this purpose.

4.3 Development of intermodal transportation

18. The Working Group:

- a) took note of the presentation of BASPA on the role of intermodal transportation in facilitating trade in the BSEC region;
- b) took note of the outcome of the 9th International Container Summit promoting intermodal transport, which was held on 10-11 September 2015 in Odessa within the Calendar of events of the Romanian Chairmanship-in-office;
- c) welcomed the decision of the Romanian Chairmanship-in-Office to convene a meeting of the Task Force on Intermodal Transportation.

AGENDA ITEM 5: BSEC TRANSPORT COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THE BSEC SECTORAL DIALOGUE PARTNERS

19. The Working Group took note of:

- a) the BSEC PERMIS information regarding cooperation in the concrete fields of transport between BSEC and UNECE, IRU, BSEC-URTA, BASPA, BRASS and BINSIA since its last meeting in Chisinau on 13 May 2015;
- b) Information by the IRU, the BSEC-URTA and the BASPA on the activities promoting facilitation of transport of goods in the BSEC Region;
- c) Information by the CEI representative about the CEI activities in transport field.
- d) Statement of the BRASS regarding the prospects of elaborating the integrated maritime policy and explanations provided by the BSEC PERMIS in that regard;
- e) Presentation of the UNECE on the recent UNECE developments in the field of transport.

20. The Working Group:

- f) Appreciated the valuable contribution of the BSEC partners to the overall efforts aimed at development of road/maritime infrastructure and facilitation of transport of goods in the BSEC Region.
- g) supported application of the Union of Road Transport Associations in the BSEC Region (BSEC-URTA) for renewal of its status as a Sectoral Dialogue Partner in the BSEC Organization for another two years period as of 1 January 2016.

AGENDA ITEM 6: DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF MULTIMODAL FERRY LINES IN THE BLACK SEA REGION, PRESENTED BY THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

21. The Working Group:

- a) Took note of the explanations provided by the delegation of the Russian Federation on the role of the Draft MoU, principles and institutional mechanism for its implementation;
- b) Took note of the positions, remarks and proposals to the Draft MoU presented by the Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, the Republic of Turkey and Ukraine;
- c) Invited the Member States to further present their proposals, comments and remarks to the Draft MoU by 30 November 2015;
- d) Requested the BSEC PERMIS to provide by 30 November 2015 its legal opinion on the provisions of the Draft MoU related to the institutional mechanism for its implementation and legal procedures related to the entry into force, amendments to be made, validity and termination of the MoU;
- e) Requested the BSEC PERMIS to circulate to the Member States by 10 December 2015 a consolidated draft MoU containing proposals, remarks and comments of the Member States to the text;
- f) Decided to continue consideration of the Draft MoU during the BSEC Russian Chairmanship-in-office.

AGENDA ITEM 7: PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND (PDF) AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT (PMU) PROJECTS

22. The Working Group:

- a) took note of the PERMIS' information on the financial situation in the PDF.
- b) invited the Member States to submit project proposals in transport field in compliance with the Guidelines of the Project Management Unit.

AGENDA ITEM 8: CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSAL TO ORGANIZE A JOINT MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUPS ON TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ON CUSTOMS MATTERS AND ON TRANSPORT

23. Following information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on the proposed Joint Meeting of the BSEC Working Groups on Trade and Economic Development, on Customs Matters and on Transport, the Working Group favored the proposal and invited the BSEC PERMIS to continue consultations with incoming BSEC chairmanships on the possibility to convene such a meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 9: STATE OF AFFAIRS WITH REGARD TO THE DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF RAILWAYS

24. The Working Group:

- a) took note of information provided by the BSEC PERMIS that consultations are being held with the Secretariat of the International Union of Railways to finalize the draft and eventually to sign it upon completion of the necessary procedures.
- b) agreed to the additional amendments proposed by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Draft MoU. The Note of the Consulate General of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Istanbul is attached as **Annex X**.
- c) Requested the BSEC PERMIS to inform the IUR Secretariat about the amendments.

AGENDA ITEM 10: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

According to the BSEC Calendar of Events, the Romanian delegation informed that the following meetings will be organized in Bucharest:

On 20 October 2015:

- In the first half of the day – the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea (MoS) and
- In the second half of the day – the Meeting of Experts for the Preparation of the Final Documents of the Meeting of the Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States.

The Romanian capital will host on 21 October 2015 the Meeting of the Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States.

In this regard, the Romanian delegation invited the Ministers of Transport and also the representatives of the BSEC Ministries, international transport organizations and the BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partners to take part in the above mentioned Bucharest meetings. The invitations to the Meetings and the relevant documents will be sent by the Romanian side in due time.

AGENDA ITEM 11: ADOPTION OF A REPORT OF THE MEETING

25. The Working Group adopted the present Report to be submitted to the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States and the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials.