



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

12 November 2019

BS/WG/T/R(2019)1

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT

BSEC Headquarters, 12 November 2019

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Transport was held at the BSEC Headquarters on 12 November 2019.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Ms. Charikleia LAMPOGLOU, Head of Unit, Department for European and International Affairs, Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport of the Hellenic Republic.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:
 - Republic of Armenia
 - Republic of Azerbaijan
 - Republic of Bulgaria
 - Hellenic Republic
 - Republic of Moldova
 - Romania
 - Russian Federation
 - Republic of Turkey
 - Ukraine
4. The following BSEC Related Bodies participated in the Meeting:
 - Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC)
5. The following BSEC Observers attended the Meeting:
 - Republic of Italy
 - United States of America
6. The representative of the Union of Road Transport Associations in the BSEC Region (BSEC-URTA) participated at the Meeting as a Sectoral Dialogue Partner.
7. The representative of the International Road Transport Union (IRU) participated at the Meeting as Guest.
8. The List of Participants of the Meeting is attached as **Annex I**.

9. 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

10. The Working Group took note of the PERMIS information about the state of implementation of decisions of the 39th and 40th Meetings of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States (respectively, 14 December 2018, Baku, and 28 June 2019, Sofia), the outcome of the Informal Meeting of the Ministers of Transport and Heads of Delegation of the BSEC Member States (Leipzig, 22 May 2019) organized by the Bulgarian BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office, and decisions of the 54th Meeting of the PABSEC Legal and Political Affairs Committee (Sochi, 25-26 September 2019).

11. The Working Group duly noted the Chairman's Conclusions, presented by Bulgarian Chairmanship-in-Office on the outcome of the Informal Meeting of Ministers of Transport of the Member States of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (22 May 2019, Leipzig).

12. The Working Group considered the BSEC presence at the Summit as an effective tool for presenting to the rest of the world the Organization's achievements in the sector of transports and for enhancing the visibility of the BSEC Organization.

13. The Working Group decided to consider the PABSEC Report "Legal and Political Aspects of the Development of Transport Routes in the BSEC Region" and the PABSEC Recommendation on the subject after their eventual adoption at the PABSEC General Assembly to be held on 20-21 November 2019 in Sofia.

AGENDA ITEM 3: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT FOR THE PERIOD OF 1 JULY 2017 – 30 JUNE 2019

14. The Working Group took note of the Evaluation Report on implementation of the Action Plan of the BSEC Working Group on Transport, for the period of 1 July 2017 – 30 June 2019, presented by Romania, as the Country-Coordinator of the BSEC Working Group during the mentioned period, and decided to submit it for consideration of the Committee of Senior Officials. The said report is attached as **Annex III**.

15. The Working Group expressed appreciation to Romania for the valuable contribution to promotion of transport in the BSEC Region, as the Country-Coordinator of the BSEC WG on Transport during two consecutive periods of 1 July 2015 – 30 June 2017 and 1 July 2017 – 30 June 2019.

AGENDA ITEM 4: CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT ACTION PLAN OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT FOR THE PERIOD OF 1 JULY 2019 – 30 JUNE 2021

16. The Working Group considered, amended and adopted the Action Plan of the BSEC Working Group on Transport for the period of 1 July 2019 – 30 June 2021 presented by the BSEC PERMIS as the Coordinator of the Working Group.

17. The Working Group invited the incoming BSEC Chairmanships-in Office, a Country-Coordinator of the Working Group on Transport, presidencies in the BSRH Steering Committee, MoS AHWG, FRTG Steering Committee, BSEC PERMIS, BSRH JPTS and MoS JTS to provide for better coordination of activities for the proper implementation of the Action Plan.

18. The Member States and partner organizations were invited to communicate to the BSEC PERMIS their proposals to the Calendar of transport activities for 2019-2021. The said Action Plan is attached as **Annex IV**.

AGENDA ITEM 5: NOMINATION OF A COUNTRY-COORDINATOR OF THE WORKING GROUP

19. The Working Group noted that as of 1 July 2019 no one country presented its candidacy for the post of a Country-Coordinator and invited the Member States to present their candidacies for this post. At the same time, the BSEC PERMIS, in the capacity of the Coordinator of the Working Group, was requested to take the proper actions ensuring the implementation of the Action Plan of the BSEC Working Group on Transport for the period of 1 July 2019 – 30 June 2021.

AGENDA ITEM 6: APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT

20. 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 took note of the updates to it.

21. The delegations of the Republic of Armenia, Republic of Azerbaijan, Russian Federation and Ukraine provided updates to the said List.

22. The Working Group invited the Member States, who have not yet done it, to update information regarding their representatives by 1 January 2020. The list of representatives to the Working Group is attached as **Annex V**.

AGENDA ITEM 7: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE COORDINATED DEVELOPMENT OF THE BLACK SEA RING HIGHWAY

23. The Working Group took note of the Report of the 11th Meeting of the Steering Committee on the Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway, held at the BSEC Headquarters on 11 November 2019, and encouraged the Parties to the Memorandum of Understanding for the Coordinated Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway to undertake concrete steps for achieving the goals of the MoU.

24. The delegations of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Azerbaijan informed the participants about the recent developments with regard to the Black Sea Ring Highway project at the national level.

25. The delegation of the Russian Federation made a statement. The said statement and the Verbal Note of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs N2062-n-des, dated 11 March 2016, are attached as **Annex VI**.

26. The delegation of Ukraine reiterated its position expressed in the Verbal Note of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine No.: 51/23-010-1377, dated 16 May 2019. The said Note is attached as **Annex VII**.

AGENDA ITEM 8: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MOTORWAYS OF THE SEA IN THE BSEC REGION

27. The Working Group took note that the Draft Report of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea, held at the BSEC Headquarters on 11 November 2019, was not adopted due to absence of consensus.

28. The Working Group encouraged the Parties to the Memorandum of Understanding on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea at the BSEC Region to take the necessary steps for the implementation of the MoU.

AGENDA ITEM 9: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE FACILITATION OF ROAD TRANSPORT OF GOODS IN THE BSEC REGION

29. The Working Group took note of:

- the Report of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region (FRTG Steering Committee), which was held at the BSEC Headquarters on 27 November 2018.
- information on the usage of the BSEC Permits in the years of 2010-2019.
- Summary Proceeding of the Study-visit and Round Table of representatives of Customs Authorities of the BSEC Member States and the BSEC-URTA Member Associations to the border crossing point (BCP) Kapıkule – Kapitan Andreevo, organized on 27 May 2019, and the Resolution of the 35th Meeting of the BSEC URTA General Assembly on Facilitation of Border Crossing held in Istanbul on 28 May 2019.

30. The Working Group invited the FRTG Steering Committee to undertake further actions aimed at facilitation of international freight road transport taking into account innovative technologies in this field. The Working Group suggested convening its next meeting back-to-back with the Working Group on Customs in order to give the comprehensive consideration of problems of road transport at border crossing points.

31. The Working Group noted the importance of adherence by the BSEC Member States to major UNECE International Agreements and Conventions in the field of transport for the implementation of the MoU on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the Region.

AGENDA ITEM 10: COOPERATION ON INTERMODAL TRANSPORT

32. The Working Group underlined the importance of development of sustainable intermodal transport and logistics system providing additional transport options to existing and future trade flows in or through the BSEC Region, and invited the incoming Romanian BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office to convene a meeting of the Task Force on Intermodal Transportation during the first semester of 2020. The Working Group recommended to the Task Force to take into account the activities of the UNECE Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24) in this area of cooperation.

33. The delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan informed the participants on the projects, such as Baku-Tbilisi-Kars Railway Line, the new Baku International Sea Trade Port and recent developments in the North-South Transport Corridor, which contribute to the development of the international intermodal transport.

AGENDA ITEM 11: STATE OF AFFAIRS WITH REGARD TO THE DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF MULTIMODAL FERRY AND PASSENGER LINES IN THE BLACK SEA REGION

34. The Working Group took note of the Report of the Meeting of the Experts of Interested Member States for considering the Draft Memorandum of Understanding on the Development of Multimodal Ferry and Passenger Lines in the Black Sea Region, which was held on 15 April 2019 at the BSEC Headquarters, and invited the interested Parties to deploy additional efforts to finalize the draft revised text for its eventual adoption.

35. The delegation of the Hellenic Republic expressed its will to expedite the elaboration of the said MoU.

AGENDA ITEM 12: COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THE BSEC SECTORAL DIALOGUE PARTNERS

36. The Working Group took note of the BSEC PERMIS information regarding BSEC cooperation with the UNECE, ITF, IRU, IRF, BSEC-URTA, BASPA, BRASS and BINSAs in the concrete fields and appreciated the valuable contribution of the partners to the BSEC cooperation on transport.

37. The Working Group welcomed the strengthening of the BSEC-ITF cooperation resulted in numerous activities promoting BSEC and its activities on transport.

AGENDA ITEM 13: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

38. No issue was raised under this Agenda Item.

AGENDA ITEM 14: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

39. The Working Group adopted the present Report for its submission to the Committee of Senior Officials and the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs for their consideration.