



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

29 April 2026

BS/WG/T/R(2026)1

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT

Online, 29 April 2026

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Transport was held online on 29 April 2026.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Archil KARAULASHVILI, Director of the Directorate for Security Policy, International Organizations and Euro-Atlantic Integration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, as a representative of the Georgian BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office.
3. The following BSEC Member States participated in the Meeting:
 - Republic of Albania
 - Republic of Armenia
 - Republic of Azerbaijan
 - Georgia
 - Hellenic Republic
 - Republic of Moldova
 - Republic of North Macedonia
 - Romania
 - Russian Federation
 - Republic of Serbia
 - Republic of Türkiye
 - Ukraine
4. The representative of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) participated in the Meeting as a BSEC Related Body.
5. The representatives of the Union of Road Transport Associations in the BSEC Region (BSEC-URTA) participated in the Meeting in the capacity of the BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partners.
6. The representatives of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the International Transport Forum (ITF), the International Road Transport Union (IRU), the International Road Federation (IRF), the European Secure Parking Organization

(ESPORG), and the Permanent Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Commission TRACECA participated in the Meeting as Guests.

7. The representative of the Joint Permanent Technical Secretariat of the Black Sea Ring Highway (JPTS BSRH) also attended the Meeting.

8. The participants were welcomed by Ambassador Dimitrios RALLIS, Deputy Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS.

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

10. 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 AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FOLLOW-UP OF THE DECLARATIONS AND JOINT STATEMENTS ADOPTED BY THE MINISTERS OF TRANSPORT

11. The Working Group took note of information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on the state of implementation of the relevant Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and of the Declarations and Joint Statements adopted by the Ministers in charge of Transport of the BSEC Member States.

AGENDA ITEM 3: APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT

12. The Working Group considered the List of representatives to the BSEC Working Group on Transport and took note of the updates to it, provided by the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania and the Russian Federation. The newly updated List of Representatives is attached as **Annex III**.

13. The Working Group invited the BSEC Member States to timely update, whenever necessary, information regarding their representatives in the Working Group, in order to facilitate a direct communication between the BSEC PERMIS and the relevant Ministries.

AGENDA ITEM 4: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BSEC ECONOMIC AGENDA: TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE OF THE WIDER BLACK SEA AREA. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON FURTHER ACTIONS

14. The Working Group:

- Exchanged views on further steps aimed at implementing the BSEC Economic Agenda in the field of transport, with particular focus on the priority actions for the first medium-term (2024-2026), agreed at its meeting, held on 13 March 2024, and further discussed at the meeting, held on 26 March 2025.

- Considered proposals for enhancing efficiency of the Working Group on Transport, put forward by Romania, the Russian Federation and Ukraine in their national contributions to the Report on the implementation of the BSEC Economic Agenda, and, with a view of taking appropriate steps, decided to start discussing them within the framework of the activities of the BSEC Steering Committee on the Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway (BSRH), the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea (MoS) and the Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods.

- Reiterated its invitation to the BSEC Member States to elaborate on possible joint projects of regional impact in transport field, in line with the goals set forth in the BSEC Economic Agenda.

15. The BSEC PERMIS invited the Member States, who have not yet done so, to provide their written proposals aimed at strengthening the effectiveness of the Working Group on Transport and other transport-related bodies, in line with the goals set forth in the BSEC Economic Agenda.

16. The following presentations related to the implementation of the BSEC Economic Agenda in the area of transport and logistics were delivered by:

- Ms. Lika BITSADZE, Head of Transport Corridor and Logistics Development Division of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia, on the development of road and port infrastructure in Georgia, enhancing coordination of border procedures, logistics standards, multimodal transport systems, etc.

- Ms. Daria SPIRIDONOVA, Consultant of the International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation, on latest developments in the field of transport and facilitation measures, traffic volume along international transport corridors, national digital transportation and logistics platform (“GOSLOG”), intelligent transport systems and digital technologies, road safety priorities, sustainable development goals on transport, as well as outcomes of the First International Transport and Logistics Forum, held in St. Petersburg on 1-3 April 2026.

17. The Working Group agreed to decide on its priority areas for the second medium-term (2027-2029) at its next meeting, giving importance to all provisions of the Goal 3 of the BSEC Economic Agenda, as well as taking into account the implementation of the priority actions identified for the first medium-term (2024-2026).

AGENDA ITEM 5: IMPROVING ROAD SAFETY IN THE BSEC REGION IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF ACTION FOR ROAD SAFETY (2021-2030)

18. The Working Group took note of the:

- Presentation delivered by Mr. Brendan HALLEMAN, Senior Advisor of the International Road Federation (IRF), on the IRF activities, with a particular focus on road safety issues, relevant data and statistics, internationally agreed targets for infrastructure, the Ten Step Plan Framework for safer road infrastructure, existing knowledge and practice for safe mobility and road designs, as well as road safety solutions.

- Presentation made by Ms. Véronique FEYPELL, Senior Project Manager on Road Safety of the International Transport Forum (ITF), devoted to the ITF “Road Safety Annual Report 2025”, published on 18 February 2026, which provides an overview of road safety performance for the countries participating in the ITF’s permanent Working Group on Road Safety. Based on the latest data, the document describes recent road safety developments in these countries. The Report is available in full at: <https://www.itf-oecd.org/road-safety-annual-report-2025>. Ms. FEYPELL also informed the participants on the outcomes of the 8th ITF/IRTAD International Conference on International Road Traffic Safety Data, held in Athens on 15-17 April 2026. More information at: <https://www.nrso.ntua.gr/irtad2026/>.

19. The Working Group underlined the importance of addressing road safety issues and the need to further strengthen cooperation and knowledge sharing in this field. It was decided to continue discussions at the next meeting of the Working Group.

AGENDA ITEM 6: NATIONAL POLICIES AND MEASURES IN SUPPORT OF INTERMODAL TRANSPORT. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN INTERMODAL TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS

20. The Working Group discussed recent developments in intermodal transport and logistics in the BSEC Member States, new government policies and business measures affecting intermodal transport, as well as practical ways on introduction of advanced technologies responding to the needs of the BSEC region.

21. The participants took note of the:

- Presentation made by Mr. Lukasz WYROWSKI, Economic Affairs Officer of the UNECE Sustainable Transport Division, on the activities of the UNECE Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24), related to the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC), Protocol on Combined Transport in Inland Waterways to the AGTC Agreement, data and information digitalization, automation in freight transport, targets for intermodal transport, ways to create demand for intermodal transport and the Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units (CTU Code).

- Presentation made by Mr. Vadim PONOMARENKO, Digital Solutions Development Expert of the Permanent Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Commission TRACECA, on pilot project and initiatives towards digitalization, introduction of e-CIM/SMGS consignment note for use along selected TRACECA routes, the relevant Action Plan, as well as a draft Agreement on the Application of Electronic Documents along the International Transport Corridor TRACECA.

- Presentation made by Ms. Mariia HREBENIUK, Chief Specialist of the Division for Cooperation with International Organizations, Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry for Development of Communities and Territories of Ukraine, on the Ukrainian transport system, ferry operations and security risks, new developments in intermodal transport and logistics, as well as cooperation projects.

- Information provided by PERMIS on its participation on 3 December 2025 in an expert panel Webinar on “Rail cyber-security in a time of technological and regulatory transformation”, organized by the Global Railway Review, one of the leading sources of information and analysis in the rail sector.

22. The delegation of the Russian Federation made a Statement.

23. The delegation of Ukraine made a Statement.

AGENDA ITEM 7: PASSENGER TRANSPORT INDUSTRY IN THE BLACK SEA REGION - NEW DEVELOPMENTS AND BEST PRACTICES

24. The Working Group discussed recent developments in passenger transport industry, underlining the strategic importance of passenger mobility in fostering regional integration, economic growth, and social inclusivity across the BSEC region.

25. The participants took note of the:

- Presentation made by Mr. Alpdoğan KAHRAMAN, Deputy Secretary General of the Union of Road Transport Associations in the BSEC Region, on the BSEC-URTA's passenger transport survey, border-crossing issues, main challenges for passenger transport and key recommendations, as well as recent developments related to the Schengen Entry/ Exit System (EES) and its impact on the road transport sector. Mr. KAHRAMAN also informed the participants on the activities of the newly established BSEC-URTA Working Party on Passenger Transport, the primary objective of which is to analyze the current status, future prospects and needs of passenger transport across the BSEC region, as well as identify local challenges and findings in passenger transport.

- Presentation made by Mr. Erman EREKE, General Delegate of the International Road Transport Union (IRU) on the IRU's current activities related to passenger transport, as well as on a joint project of IRU – Geneva Graduate Institute, the main purpose of which is to conduct academic research with particular attention to the role of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the passenger road transport industry and how IRU can help SMEs adapt to evolving market trends, considering environment sustainability, social integration, technology and development.

AGENDA ITEM 8: FACILITATION OF TRANSPORT OF GOODS IN THE BSEC REGION

a. Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods

26. The Working Group took note of the outcomes of the Meeting of the BSEC Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods, held on 5 November 2025, and encouraged the Parties to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region to take further steps for its implementation.

27. Furthermore, the Working Group took note of the:

- Information provided by the BSEC-URTA International Secretariat on the current situation at the most congested border-crossing points (BCPs) between some BSEC Member States, possible solutions for the reduction of waiting times at BCPs, as well as recent developments in border crossings.

- Presentation made by Mr. Dirk PENASSE, General Manager of the European Secure Parking Organization (ESPOG), on the development of safe and secure truck parking areas in the EU and beyond, EU Parking Standards for Safe and Secure Areas certification, innovation and best practices, as well as the European Wellbeing Initiative.

28. The Working Group encouraged the BSEC PERMIS to continue its collaboration with partner transport organizations on the issues of facilitation of road transport of goods, and, in order to further discuss possible practical steps, suggested to organize the next meeting of the BSEC Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the second semester of 2026.

b. Project “BSEC Permit System”

29. The Working Group took note of the outcomes of the Meetings of the BSEC Member States participating in the Project “BSEC Permit System”, held on 26 November 2025 and 28 April 2026, underlining the importance of the BSEC Permit System as a useful tool in international transport of goods.

30. The participants took note of the presentation made by Mr. Alpdoğan KAHRAMAN, BSEC-URTA Deputy Secretary General, related to the Hotline for carriers using BSEC permits (<https://bsec-urta.org/hotline>), which was established at the initiative of PERMIS and could help truck drivers in emergency needs. It was underlined that this Hotline, operated by BSEC-URTA, may prove very useful in emergency situations.

AGENDA ITEM 9: INTEGRATED ROAD AND SEA TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK IN THE BSEC REGION:

a. Coordinated Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway

31. The Working Group took note of the Report of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Steering Committee on the Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway, held on 11 November 2025, and encouraged the Parties to the MoU for the Coordinated Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway to take further steps for its implementation.

32. The Working Group invited the leadership in the BSRH Steering Committee to organize the next meeting of the latter during the second semester of 2026, in cooperation with the BSRH Joint Permanent Technical Secretariat (BSRH JPTS), the BSEC PERMIS and in consultations with the incoming BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office.

b. Development of the Motorways of the Sea in the BSEC Region

33. The Working Group took note of the Report of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea, held on 12 November 2025, and encouraged the Parties to the MoU on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea at the BSEC Region to take further steps for its implementation.

34. The Working Group invited the leadership in the MoS Ad Hoc Working Group to organize the next meeting of the latter during the second semester of 2026, in cooperation with the MoS Joint Technical Secretariat, the BSEC PERMIS and in consultations with the incoming BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office.

AGENDA ITEM 10: COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THE BSEC SECTORAL DIALOGUE PARTNERS

35. The Working Group took note of the BSEC PERMIS information regarding the BSEC cooperation with the BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partners and other international organizations in the concrete fields, since its last meeting, held on 26 March 2025, and appreciated the valuable contribution of the partners to the BSEC cooperation on transport.

AGENDA ITEM 11: DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

36. The date and venue of the next Meeting will be communicated in due course.

AGENDA ITEM 12: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

37. No issue was raised under this Agenda Item.

AGENDA ITEM 13: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

38. The Working Group adopted the present Report for its submission to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials and the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs.