

## ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

## **Permanent International Secretariat**

## PRESS RELEASE ON THE 43<sup>rd</sup> MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND A STUDY VISIT TO THE PORT OF DURRES

(18-19 April 2024, Tirana)

Upon invitation by the Union of Road Transport Associations in the BSEC Region (BSEC-URTA), the BSEC PERMIS participated in the 43<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly, held in Tirana on 19 April 2024, hosted by the Association of Albanian Enterprises for International Road Transport (ANALTIR).

In his address to the Assembly, the BSEC PERMIS Deputy Secretary General Ambassador Dimitrios Rallis, stressed that the many years of fruitful cooperation of BSEC with the IRU, BSEC-URTA and their member associations - are the most convincing evidence of their joint efforts to better promote trade and transports in the BSEC Region. In this context he appreciated the valuable contribution of BSEC-URTA in the work of BSEC, in particularly its active participation in the BSEC Working Group on Transport and the Task Force on Intermodal Transportation, held on 12-13 March 2024. He underlined that increased attention should be paid today to the promotion of joint control procedures reducing waiting time for vehicles at national border crossing points (BCPs) and facilitating customs checks; introduction of e-Permit, e-TIR, e-CMR, e-Visa for professional drivers and other innovative tools facilitating trade and transportation.

The General Assembly evaluated the BSEC-URTA activities since its previous Meeting, held in Baku on 27 October 2023, approved the Minutes of its 42<sup>nd</sup> Meeting, as well as took note of the report on the outcome of the meeting of the BSEC-URTA Management Council, held prior to the General Assembly. It also discussed border-crossing problems, Black Sea Ro-Ro solutions, as well as services offered to the road transport operators.

On 18 April 2024, the participants to the BSEC-URTA General Assembly took part in the Study visit to the Port of Durres, during which they were informed on main activities of the Port, its infrastructure and utilities, legal framework, as well as conditions created for investors.

The next Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly will be held in September 2024 in Uzbekistan.