



16 November 2017

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**REPORT  
OF THE MEETING  
OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP  
ON TRANSPORT**

**Kyiv, 16 November 2017**

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Transport was held in Kyiv, Ukraine, on 16 November 2017.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Viktor DOVGAN, Deputy Minister of Infrastructure of Ukraine for European Integration.
3. The following BSEC Member States participated in the Meeting:  
  
Republic of Armenia  
Republic of Azerbaijan  
Republic of Bulgaria  
Hellenic Republic  
Republic of Moldova  
Romania  
Russian Federation  
Republic of Serbia  
Republic of Turkey  
Ukraine
4. The representatives of the Union of Road Transport Associations in the BSEC Region (BSEC-URTA), as Sectoral Dialogue Partner, participated in the Meeting.
5. The representative of the International Road Union (IRU) participated in the Meeting as a Guest.
6. The List of Participants of the Meeting is attached as **Annex I**.
7. The participants were welcomed by Mr. Viktor DOVGAN, Deputy Minister of Infrastructure of Ukraine for European Integration, and Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES, Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS.
8. The Draft Agenda of the Meeting was discussed, amended and adopted. The Agenda, as adopted, is attached as **Annex II**.

**AGENDA ITEM 2; CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT FINAL DOCUMENT OF THE MEETING OF MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF TRANSPORT OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES**

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9. The Working Group considered, amended and agreed on the text of the Draft *Kyiv Joint Declaration of the Ministers in Charge of Transport of the BSEC Member States "Development of Infrastructure in the BSEC Region and Effective Realization of Joint Projects"*. The Draft will be submitted for adoption during the Meeting of the Ministers in Charge of Transport of the BSEC Member States in Kyiv, Ukraine, on 17 November 2017. The text of the final draft is attached to the present Report as **Annex III**.

### **AGENDA ITEM 3: DISCUSSION ON THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF TRANSPORT OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES**

10. The Working Group considered, amended and agreed on the text of the Draft Report of the Meeting of the Ministers in Charge of Transport of the BSEC Member States (Kyiv, Ukraine, 17 November 2017). The text of the draft Report is attached as **Annex IV**.

### **AGENDA ITEM 4: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND MEETINGS OF MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF TRANSPORT:**

#### **a/ State of affairs with regard to implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Coordinated Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway**

11. The Working Group took note of the Report of the Informal Meeting of the Steering Committee on the Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway, which was held at the BSEC Headquarters on 15 May 2017.

12. The Working Group took also note about the Conclusions of the Informal Meeting for the Implementation of the BSRH and the MoS projects, which was held in Istanbul on 9 September 2016, and welcomed the PERMIS initiatives in order to revitalize the Black Sea Ring Highway (BSRH) and the Motorways of the Sea (MoS) projects, to enable their coherent promotion and to prepare the compilation of comprehensive files for both projects, to be used, in a coordinated way, with all potentially interested entities, including, in particular, IFIs.

13. The Delegations exchanged information about activities on the development of the BSRH route at the national level.

14. Furthermore, the Working Group reiterated its call to 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 and agreed on the following:

a) To raise awareness for the projects, including through BSEC participation in relevant international meetings.

b) To steer discussions to issues of practical value for the implementation of the Memoranda on the Coordinated Development of the BSRH and the Development of the Motorways of the Sea at the BSEC Region.

c) To encourage Member States to program the preparation of feasibility studies for the selected segments of the projects in their territory in order to form a portfolio of bankable projects and to facilitate the attraction of interest of BSTDB and other IFIs.

15. The participants agreed to further consider the form and text of a BSRH sign post that could be visibly placed on the segments of the Black Sea Ring Highway according to the internal regulations of each Member State.

16. Finally, the WG welcomed the intention of the BSEC PERMIS to organize an informal Meeting for the Implementation of the BSRH and the MoS projects.

**b/ State of affairs with regard to implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea in the BSEC Region**

17. The Working Group took note of the Report of the Informal Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea, which was held at the BSEC Headquarters on 15 May 2017, and reiterated its call to the Parties to the Memorandum of Understanding on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea at the BSEC Region to proceed further with achieving goals of the MoU.

18. The WG agreed to proceed with further activities on the development of the Motorways of the Sea using the pattern discussed and agreed under the previous Agenda item.

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

19. The National Delegations, IRU, BSEC-URTA and AsMAP of Ukraine exchanged information on the state of affairs with regard to transport facilitation at the national and regional level.

20. The Working Group took note of the Report of the Informal Twelfth Meeting of the Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region, which was held at the BSEC Headquarters on 19 October 2017, and invited the Member States to consider the recommendations, mentioned in the Report, related to trade and transport facilitation.

21. The Working Group also took note of the BSEC PERMIS' presentation, surveying the physical and non-physical barriers at the cross-border points, made at the BSEC-IRU-BSEC URTA Seminar on Trade and Transport Facilitation in the BSEC Region, which was held at the BSEC Headquarters on 18 October 2017.

22. Furthermore, the Working Group took note of information of the BSEC PERMIS on the state of affairs with regard to the Project "BSEC Permit System", implemented with the participation of interested Member States, and on arrangements made for the usage of the BSEC Permits in 2018.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: CONSIDERATION OF THE EVALUATION REPORT OF ROMANIA, AS A COUNTRY-COORDINATOR, ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT, FOR THE PERIOD OF 1 JULY 2015 – 30 JUNE 2017**

23. 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 2015 – 30 June 2017, presented by Romania, as the Country-Coordinator of the BSEC Working Group during the mentioned period. The said report is attached as **Annex V**.

24. 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 for the period of 1 July 2015 – 30 June 2017.

25. Furthermore, the Working Group expressed also appreciation to the UNECE, IRU, BSEC-URTA, BRASS, BASPA and BINSAs for the continuous support of the overall BSEC

efforts in achieving goals of the Economic Agenda towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership, mentioned in the Evaluation Report.

**AGENDA ITEM 6: CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT 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 WORKING GROUP**

26. The Working Group considered and adopted 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 Working Group.

27. The Member States and partner organizations were invited to communicate to the BSEC PERMIS their proposals to the Calendar of transport activities for 2017-2019. The said Action Plan is attached as **Annex VI**.

**AGENDA ITEM 7: CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF MULTIMODAL FERRY AND PASSENGER LINES IN THE BLACK SEA REGION**

28. The Working Group took note of information of the BSEC PERMIS about proposals to the Draft Memorandum of Understanding on the Development of Multimodal Ferry and Passenger Lines in the Black Sea Region since its last meeting.

29. The participants agreed to continue consideration of the Draft Memorandum of Understanding at the next meeting of the Working Group and invited the interested Member States to convey their proposals on the MoU, if any, to the BSEC PERMIS by 31 December 2017.

30. The Working Group took note of information of the Delegation of Ukraine, presented at the meeting, about the state of affairs with regard to its cooperation on multimodal transport and success achieved in this field with its partners.

**AGENDA ITEM 8: CONSIDERATION OF THE BSEC PERMIS INITIATIVE ON THE “BSEC STAND PROJECT”**

31. The Working Group welcomed the initiative of the BSEC PERMIS to explore ways of increasing the visibility of BSEC in the framework of the next International Transport Forum (Leipzig, 23-25 May 2018), including through the operation of a “BSEC Stand” and the scheduling, with the cooperation of the Chairmanship-in-Office, of an informal meeting of the Heads of Delegation of BSEC Member States present at the Forum.

32. Furthermore, the Working Group invited the BSEC Related Bodies concerned, the Technical Secretariats of the BSRH and the MoS as well as the BSEC partners in the field of transport to contribute to this endeavor.

**AGENDA ITEM 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

33. No issues were raised under this Agenda item.

**AGENDA ITEM 9: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING**

34. The participants adopted the Report of the Meeting of the BSEC Working Group for its submission to the Ministers in Charge of Transport, Committee of Senior Officials and the Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs.