



# ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

## Permanent International Secretariat

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### REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE ON INTERMODAL TRANSPORTATION IN THE BLACK SEA REGION

Online, 12 March 2024

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Task Force on Intermodal Transportation was held online on 12 March 2024.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Ivan TOKATLY, Chief Specialist of the Division of Cooperation with International Organizations, Department of International Cooperation and European Integration of the Ministry for Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development of Ukraine, as a representative of the Country-Coordinator of the BSEC Working Group on Transport.
3. The participants were welcomed by Ambassador Dimitrios RALLIS, Deputy Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS.
4. The following BSEC Member States participated in the Meeting:  
  
Republic of Albania  
Republic of Armenia  
Republic of Azerbaijan  
Republic of Bulgaria  
Republic of Moldova  
Romania  
Russian Federation  
Republic of Serbia  
Republic of Türkiye  
Ukraine
5. The representatives of the Union of Road Transport Associations in the BSEC Region (BSEC-URTA) and the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR) 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 Road Transport Union (IRU), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Permanent Secretariat of the Transport Community (TCT) and the Permanent Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Commission (IGC) TRACECA participated in the Meeting as Guests.

7. The List of Participants of the Meeting is attached as **Annex I**.
8. The Draft Agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The Agenda, as adopted, is attached as **Annex II**.

**AGENDA ITEM 2: APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE TASK FORCE ON INTERMODAL TRANSPORTATION IN THE BLACK SEA REGION**

9. The participants of the Meeting took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS regarding the appointment by the Member States of their representatives to the Task Force.
10. The updates to the list were provided by the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Serbia. The newly updated List of Representatives is attached as **Annex III**.

11. The Task Force reiterated its invitation to the BSEC Member States to timely update, whenever necessary, the information regarding their representatives, in order to facilitate the further functioning of the Task Force.

**AGENDA ITEM 3: NATIONAL POLICIES AND MEASURES IN SUPPORT OF INTERMODAL TRANSPORT. NEW DEVELOPMENTS AND BEST PRACTICES IN INTERMODAL TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS**

12. The Task Force took note of the:
  - a) Information, provided by the BSEC PERMIS on its participation in numerous events, related to intermodal transport, held since the last meeting of the Task Force.
  - b) Presentation made by the representative of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) 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), data and information digitalization, automation in freight transport, voluntary targets for intermodal transport, ways to create demand for intermodal transport and the Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units (CTU Code).
  - c) Presentation made by the representative of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), focused on key findings and recommendations of the Report on “Realising the Potential of the Middle Corridor”, presented in December 2023 in Paris, which looks at the Middle Corridor’s potential for intermodal transport and at the challenges that must be overcome to realize it.
  - d) Presentation made by the representative of the Union of Road Transport Associations in the BSEC Region (BSEC-URTA) on congested border-crossing points in the BSEC Region, measures in support of intermodal transport, activities of BSEC-URTA for the development of multimodal transport, as well as actions that are or can be taken to create more business-cases for intermodal/combined transport.
  - e) Presentation made by the delegation of the Republic of Türkiye on intermodal transport operations in Türkiye (railways, maritime, Ro-Ro), national policies and regulations to support intermodal transport, as well as a case study on intermodal transport.

f) Information, provided by the delegation of Ukraine, on latest developments in combined transport in Ukraine, core indicators of transportation volumes, transportation of export freights, as well as on new policies and measures aimed to foster intermodal transport.

13. On the basis of the above presentations, the Task Force exchanged views on recent developments in intermodal transport and logistics in the BSEC Region and decided to continue the practice of monitoring new trends and developments in the intermodal transport and logistics industry at its future meetings, in line with the “BSEC Economic Agenda: Towards a sustainable future of the wider Black Sea area”, adopted by the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States on 15 December 2023.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4: INTELLIGENT TRANSPORT SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN INTERMODAL TRANSPORT. NATIONAL EXPERIENCES AND CHALLENGES FACED WITH DIGITALIZATION OF TRANSPORT DOCUMENTS**

14. The participants discussed practical ways of introduction of intelligent transport systems and advanced technologies to the needs of the BSEC Region, as well as exchanged information and best practice on how modern information and communication technologies can assist in making intermodal transport systems more attractive among different modes of transport.

15. The Task Force took note of the:

a) Presentation made by the representative of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) on latest developments in operationalizing the e-CMR Additional protocol, challenges and key elements to be observed, activities of the UNECE Group of Experts on e-CMR, Guidance note on the legal aspects of e-CMR (available at: [eCMR Brochure EN.pdf \(unece.org\)](#)), etc.

b) Presentation made by the representative of the BSEC-URTA Member Association - the Hellenic Federation of Road Transport (OFAE) on developments of an electronic consignment note (e-CMR) in Greece and the BSEC Region, focused on business administration, pilot results and challenges in operationalizing the e-CMR Additional protocol, environmental and other benefits of e-CMR.

c) Presentation made by the representative of the International Road Transport Union (IRU) on intermodal transport operations, new guidelines for the usage of the TIR and e-TIR procedures for intermodal transport, customs procedures when e-TIR for intermodal transport would or would not be applied, as well as the latest solutions to accelerate e-TIR implementation.

d) Information, provided by the delegation of Ukraine, on intelligent transport systems and technological developments in intermodal transport in Ukraine.

16. The Task Force agreed to continue exchanging best practices on intelligent transport systems or other technological developments related to intermodal transport, and to look more closely into opportunities for supporting the digitalization efforts.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5: INTERMODAL TRANSPORT TERMINALS**

17. The Task Force took note of the presentation made by the delegation of Ukraine, on the activity of the State Enterprise “Commercial Sea Port “Chornomorsk” (ferry lines, railway and ferry complex, terminal capacities, public-private partnership projects, etc.).

18. The delegation of the Russian Federation provided information on the matter.

19. The participants further discussed the possibilities of setting up a viable network of intermodal terminals as logistic platforms, instrumental in developing intermodality in the BSEC Region.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6: MEASURES AND SOLUTIONS TO ASSIST THE SECTOR TO ENHANCE ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE**

20. The Task Force took note of the:

a) Presentation made by the representative of the Russian Federation, on national transport policy towards decarbonized transport, with a focus on Transport Strategy of the Russian Federation until 2030 with forecast until 2035, Strategy of socio-economic development with low greenhouse gas emissions until 2050, etc.

b) Presentation made by the representative of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR) on CPMR activities and priority policy areas, development of multimodal/combined transport, the CPMR's position and work for a more sustainable and climate-resilient transport system, the Fit for 55 package, as well as the role of maritime ports.

c) Presentation made by the representative of the Permanent Secretariat of the Transport Community (TCT) on sustainable and green mobility initiatives in the European Union and Western Balkans, Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy for the Western Balkans, multimodal and digital logistics initiative measures, as well as current projects and initiatives.

21. The Task Force exchanged views on the matter and decided to continue the practice of monitoring measures and solutions aimed to assist further greening of the intermodal transport and logistics industry.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7: BSEC COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ON INTERMODAL TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS**

22. The Task Force took note of the BSEC PERMIS information regarding the BSEC cooperation with the international organizations and the BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partners and appreciated the valuable contribution of the partners to the BSEC cooperation on transport.

23. The Task Force reiterated the importance of active involvement in the BSEC activities of the UNECE, TCT, IRU, BSEC-URTA, TRACECA and other international organizations, in order to achieve complementarity in the work on intermodal transportation.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 8: DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

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

#### **AGENDA ITEM 9: ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

25. No issues were raised under this Agenda Item.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 10: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING**

26. The Task Force adopted the present Report for its submission to the next Meeting of the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials.