



# ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

## Permanent International Secretariat

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26 March 2025

BS/WG/T/R(2025)1

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

Online, 26 March 2025

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Transport was held online on 26 March 2025.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Gafgaz ADIGOZALOV, as a representative of the Azerbaijani BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office.
3. The following BSEC Member States participated in the Meeting:
  - Republic of Armenia
  - Republic of Azerbaijan
  - Republic of Bulgaria
  - Georgia
  - Republic of Moldova
  - 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 Arab Republic of Egypt attended the Meeting as Observers.
6. 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.
7. The representatives of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the International Road Transport Union (IRU), the International Road Federation (IRF), the International Transport Forum (ITF), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and the Permanent Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Commission TRACECA participated in the Meeting as Guests.

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 Azerbaijan, the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, and Ukraine. 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: EVALUATION REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT FOR THE PERIOD OF 1 JANUARY 2023 – 31 DECEMBER 2024**

14. The Working Group took note of the Evaluation Report on implementation of the Plan of Action of the BSEC Working Group on Transport for the period of 1 January 2023 – 31 December 2024, presented by Ukraine, as the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group during the mentioned period. The said Report is attached as **Annex IV**.

15. The Working Group expressed appreciation to Ukraine, as the Country-Coordinator of the BSEC Working Group on Transport, for the comprehensive Evaluation Report and the valuable contribution to promotion of transport in the BSEC Region.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BSEC ECONOMIC AGENDA: TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE OF THE WIDER BLACK SEA AREA**

16. The Working Group exchanged views on further steps and modalities of cooperation in the field of transport in line with the updated BSEC Economic Agenda, as well as considered the implementation of the priority actions for the first medium-term (2024-2026), agreed at its previous meeting, held on 13 March 2024.

17. The delegation of the Russian Federation informed the participants on implementation of the BSEC Economic Agenda at the national level, focusing on latest developments in the

field of transport and facilitation measures, traffic volume along international transport corridors, national digital transportation and logistics platform (“GOSLOG”), driverless technologies, sustainable development goal on transport, as well as road safety priorities.

18. In order to ensure tangible results, the BSEC PERMIS invited the Member States to submit to PERMIS **by 1 October 2025** information on their national policies and measures aimed at achieving the goals and objectives of the BSEC Economic Agenda in the field of transport. Based on the received inputs, an Implementation Report will be prepared.

19. The Working Group 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.

### **AGENDA ITEM 6: IMPROVING ROAD SAFETY IN THE BSEC REGION IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF ACTION FOR ROAD SAFETY (2021-2030)**

20. The Working Group took note of the:

- Presentation delivered through a video message by Mr. Dimitris MANDALOZIS, President 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 2024”, published on 31 December 2024, 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-2024>.

- Outcomes of the 4<sup>th</sup> Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety, held in Marrakech, Morocco from 18 to 20 February 2025, which brought together leaders and experts from around the world to review progress at the midpoint of the Decade of Action for Road Safety (2021-2030), setting the stage for more concrete actions during the second half of the decade, with the objective of halving fatalities and serious injuries by 2030.

21. 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 7: INTEGRATED ROAD AND SEA TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK IN THE BSEC REGION:**

#### **a. Coordinated Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway**

22. The Working Group took note of the Report of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Steering Committee on the Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway, held online on 7 October 2024, and encouraged the Parties to the Memorandum of Understanding for the Coordinated Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway to take further steps for its implementation.

23. The Working Group invited the leadership in the BSRH Steering Committee to organize the next meeting of the latter during the second semester of 2025, in cooperation with the BSRH Joint Permanent Technical Secretariat (BSRH JPTS), the BSEC PERMIS and in consultations with the incoming BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office.

24. The delegation of the Republic of Armenia informed on the priorities of the Armenian Chairmanship in the BSRH Steering Committee and the Ad Hoc WG on the Motorways of the Sea for the period of 1 November 2024 - 31 October 2026, underlining the importance of the BSRH and MoS projects, as well as the need for further development of road infrastructure, transport and shipping connectivity and the development of dry ports for the landlocked countries.

25. The delegation of the Russian Federation informed on the implementation of the MoU for the Coordinated Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway at the national level.

26. The delegation of Ukraine made a Statement.

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

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

28. The Working Group took note of the outcomes of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea, held online on 8 October 2024, and encouraged the Parties to the Memorandum of Understanding on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea at the BSEC Region to take further steps for its implementation.

29. 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 2025, in cooperation with the MoS Joint Technical Secretariat, the BSEC PERMIS and in consultations with the incoming BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office.

30. The delegation of Ukraine made a Statement.

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

### **c. PABSEC Report and Recommendation on Transport Infrastructure as a Means of Development in the BSEC Member States**

32. The Working Group took note of information provided by Ms. Milena LJUBINKOVIC, Secretary of the Committee on Economic and Development Policy of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) on the Report and Recommendation on “Transport Infrastructure as a Means of Development in the BSEC Member States”, adopted at the Sixty-Fourth Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly in Yerevan on 11 December 2024. The above Recommendation contains proposals for the Parliaments and Governments of the BSEC Member States, related to transport infrastructure, and includes an invitation addressed to the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to consider this Document. The Report and Recommendation are available at: <https://www.pabsec.org/reports/reports-and-recommendations>.

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

### **a. Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods**

33. The Working Group took note of the outcomes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region, held online on 6 November 2024, and encouraged the Parties to the Memorandum of Understanding on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region to take further steps for its implementation.

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

- Presentation delivered by Mr. Vincent ERARD, Senior Director of Strategy and Development of the International Road Transport Union (IRU) on the “2030 freight forecasts: Trends and projections for the EU”, providing a comprehensive overview of the latest road freight volume figures and projections to 2030, latest road freight trends, EU road freight activity and volume indicators, driver shortages and freight performances, as well as 2030 EU road freight volume forecast.

- Presentation made by Mr. Guillaume GAY, Software Engineer, Sustainable Transport Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) on the current interconnections to the e-TIR system, e-TIR National Application (NA) features, customs authorities interconnection projects, first operational corridor using the e-TIR NA, as well as single country projects. The participants were also informed on the outcomes of the UNECE Workshop on advancing the e-TIR implementation, held in Geneva on 12 March 2025.

- Presentation made by Mr. Cengiz ARIKAN, Data Scientist of the Istanbul Centre of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), focused on the development of road transport in the BSEC Region, logistics performance, trade statistics and facilitation indicators, as well as policy recommendations.

- Presentation made by Mr. Alpdoğan KAHRAMAN, Deputy Secretary General of the Union of Road Transport Associations in the BSEC Region (BSEC-URTA) 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, recent positive developments in border crossings, as well as outcomes of the Meeting of the BSEC-URTA Working Party on Digitalization, held on 5 March 2025.

- Presentation made by Ms. Delia COSTESCU, representative of the National Union of Road Hauliers from Romania (UNTRR) on Travel Centers of Europe, one of the biggest and most modern petrol stations in Europe, the new secure and safe truck parking area, which was inaugurated by UNTRR in 2024.

35. The Working Group encouraged the BSEC PERMIS to continue its collaboration with IRU and BSEC-URTA 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 Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region in the second semester of 2025.

### **b. Project “BSEC Permit System”**

36. The Working Group took note of the Conclusions of the Meeting of the BSEC Member States participating in the Project “BSEC Permit System”, held online on 5 November 2024, underlining the importance of the BSEC Permit System as a useful tool in international transport of goods and reiterating its invitation to the BSEC Member States who so far do not participate in the BSEC Permit Project, to join it.

37. The BSEC PERMIS made a presentation on the development of the BSEC Permit System in the period of 2010-2025, distribution of permits among the Member States participating in the project, introduction of a new sample of permits for the year 2025 (with a barcode), as well as prospects for further development of this system.

38. The BSEC-URTA representatives informed on their current activities and efforts, aimed to digitalize the BSEC Permit System and increase its geographical coverage.

39. The delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan informed on the current position of the country concerning the BSEC Permit System.

### **c. Development of Intermodal Transportation**

40. 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.

41. The participants took note of the:

- Information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on its participation in the International Black Sea Rize-Ayder Forum on “Logistics and Transportation in the Black Sea Region”, held in Rize, Türkiye on 28 September 2024;

- Presentation made by Mr. Goran ANDREEV, Border Crossing Expert of the Permanent Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Commission TRACECA, focused on projects 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 between the railway operators on electronic data exchange.

### **AGENDA ITEM 9: COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THE BSEC SECTORAL DIALOGUE PARTNERS**

42. The Working Group took note of the BSEC PERMIS information regarding the BSEC cooperation with other international organizations and the BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partners in the concrete fields, since its last meeting, held on 13 March 2024, and appreciated the valuable contribution of the partners to the BSEC cooperation on transport.

### **AGENDA ITEM 10: DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

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

### **AGENDA ITEM 11: ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

44. No issue was raised under this Agenda Item.

### **AGENDA ITEM 12: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING**

45. 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.