



PRESS RELEASE

**ON THE 41st MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND
A STUDY VISIT TO THE SARP-SARPI BORDER CROSSING POINT
(8-9 June 2023, Batumi)**

Upon invitation by the Union of Road Transport Associations in the BSEC Region (BSEC-URTA), the BSEC PERMIS participated in the 41st Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly, held in Batumi, Georgia on 9 June 2023, as well as in a Study visit to the Sarp-Sarpi Border Crossing Point between Georgia and Türkiye, which took place on 8 June 2023.

In his welcoming statement at the General Assembly, PERMIS Deputy Secretary General Ambassador Dimitrios Rallis, underlined that BSEC attaches great importance to its cooperation with BSEC-URTA and IRU in their joint efforts to better promote trade and road transports in the wider BSEC Region. The growing partnership of BSEC-URTA with the BSEC Organization provides a good example of cooperation of the public and private sectors in the work of international organizations. This partnership is based on concrete joint projects and actions with regard to the road transport, among which the BSEC Permit System, the digitalization of transport documents, the border-crossing facilitation, etc.

The General Assembly evaluated the BSEC-URTA activities since its previous Meeting, held in Thessaloniki on 6 October 2023, approved the Minutes of its 40th Meeting, the Activity Report on BSEC-URTA Priorities in 2023, 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.

On 8 June 2023, the BSEC PERMIS, along with participants from the BSEC-URTA member Associations, UNECE, IRU, OECD, etc. took part in the Study visit to the Sarp-Sarpi Border Crossing Point, and gained a firsthand acquaintance with the situation at the above BCP, as well as with facilities and conditions created to facilitate seamless border crossings. Exchange of views on how to further improve the efficiency of the work was also held.

All these exercises helped to take stock of the actual situation at the above borders, to define the bottlenecks and to focus on the ways for overcoming them in a most appropriate way for the sake of the overall trade and transport facilitation in the region.

The next Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly will be held in autumn 2023 in Baku, Azerbaijan.