



PRESS RELEASE

**ON THE 40th MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND
THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT
(6-7 October 2022, Thessaloniki)**

On 6 October 2022, the BSEC PERMIS, represented by Ambassador Dimitrios Rallis, Deputy Secretary General and Mr. Sergii Kravchenko, Project Coordinator, participated in the 40th Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly, hosted in Thessaloniki by the Hellenic Federation of Road Transports (OFAE).

In his welcoming statement Ambassador Rallis underlined that many years of the joint fruitful work of BSEC with the IRU, BSEC-URTA and their member associations are the bright evidence of the joint efforts of the public and private sectors in seeking innovative approach for the improvement of regional transport infrastructure networks, removal of physical and administrative barriers, and for the increase of the transit capacity of the regional trade flows.

The PERMIS representatives reiterated the importance of establishment of the *BSEC-URTA Working Group on Digitalization*, as a real practical platform for discussions on possible digital solutions, the third online meeting of which was held on 22 September 2022, as well as of the newly established *UNECE Group of Experts on the Operationalization of the e-CMR*, the activity of which could be of interest to BSEC.

The General Assembly evaluated the BSEC-URTA activities since its previous Meeting, held in Istanbul on 27 May 2022, approved the Minutes of its 39th Meeting, the Activity Report on BSEC-URTA Priorities in 2022, the BSEC-URTA Working Program for 2023, as well as took note of the verbal report on the outcome of the meeting of the BSEC-URTA Management Council, held prior to the General Assembly.

On 7 October 2022 Ambassador Rallis and Mr. Kravchenko also participated in the Regional Conference on International Road Transport "*Northern Greece: building international transport "Bridges"*", organized by OFAE.

In his statement the PERMIS Deputy Secretary General highlighted that BSEC focuses on the problems that most seriously affect road-transport in the region, in particular border-crossing delays, lack of digitalization, lack of information exchange, the need to further develop the BSEC permit project and extend it to more Member States, etc. To this end, the BSEC Organization has been actively coordinating efforts with its transport partner organizations, first of all, with IRU and BSEC-URTA in taking practical steps, aimed at facilitating border-crossings.

The next Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly will be held in spring 2023 in Georgia.