



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

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**REPORT
OF THE NINTH MEETING
OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE
ON FACILITATION OF ROAD TRANSPORT OF GOODS
IN THE BSEC REGION (INFORMAL)**

Istanbul, 26 November 2013

1. The Ninth Meeting of the Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region was held in Istanbul, on 26 November 2012.

1. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Mikhayil VARDANIAN, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia to BSEC.

2. The representatives of the following BSEC Member States participated in the meeting:

Republic of Albania
Republic of Armenia
Republic of Bulgaria
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Ukraine

3. The representative of the BSEC Business Council attended the Meeting as Related Body.

4. The representative of the Union of Road Transport Associations in the BSEC Region (BSEC-URTA) attended the Meeting as Sectoral Dialogue Partner.

5. The representatives of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and the International Road Transport Union (IRU) also attended the Meeting as Guests.

The list of participants is attached as **Annex I**.

6. The Draft Agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The Agenda, as adopted, is attached as **Annex II**.

**STATE OF AFFAIRS WITH REGARD TO ELABORATION OF THE PILOT PROJECT
ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL VEHICLE WEIGHT
CERTIFICATE UNDER ANNEX 8 TO THE UNECE HARMONIZATION
CONVENTION**

7. The Steering Committee took note of the information provided by the Secretariat about the outcome of the Second Meeting of the Task Force on Elaboration of a Road Map for the BSEC Pilot Project on the Introduction of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate which was held in Istanbul on 25 November 2013, in particular, that:

- a) Following the invitation made at the First Meeting in Istanbul on 11 March 2013, notes were received from the Republic of Albania, Republic of Armenia, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine informing about their participation in the BSEC Pilot Project on introduction of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate in the BSEC Region. The Representative of the BSEC-URTA presented information about the state of affairs with regard to the participation in the Project noting that the Republic of Serbia expressed its interest to participate in the Project.
- b) The Delegation of Ukraine informed about accomplishment of the national legal procedures necessary for introduction of Annex 8 to the UN International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (1982) followed by their publication in the Official Bulletin of Ukraine on 1 November 2013. The Delegation of Ukraine also requested to consider the possible changes in terms of implementation and continuation of procedure.
- c) The Task Force agreed on a set of measures to be undertaken at the national level for launching the Pilot Project as it was proposed by the BSEC-URTA. The Participating States were invited to submit until 31 January 2014 information in accordance with the list mentioned in the Report.
- d) The BSEC PERMIS proposed to organize the next meeting of the Task Force in March-April 2014.
- e) The BSEC Business Council and several international organizations (UNECE, IRU and BSEC-URTA) expressed their full support to the BSEC Pilot Project and readiness to contribute to the project by their expertise.
- f) The BSEC Member States, the participants of the Pilot Project, the BSEC PERMIS and the BSEC-URTA were invited by the UNECE representative to take part in the forthcoming meetings of the WP.30 (Geneva, 4-7 February 2014).
- g) The representatives of UNECE and IRU proposed to consider the possibility of launching the Pilot Project during the session of the Administrative Committee for the Harmonization Convention (Geneva, 12 June 2014).

8. The participants of the Meeting agreed to start the Fast Track Cooperation on the Pilot Project regarding the implementation of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate under Annex 8 to the UNECE Harmonization Convention taking into account that 6 countries expressed their readiness to participate in such cooperation.

STATE OF AFFAIRS WITH REGARD TO THE PROJECT “BSEC PERMIT SYSTEM”

9. The Steering Committee considered the outcome of the Meeting of the Member-States participating in the project “BSEC Permit system” in Istanbul on 26 November 2013.

10. The participants took note of information provided by the BSEC-URTA on usage of the BSEC Permits in 2013 as well as they decided on a set of measures for the project implementation in 2014.

11. The Republic of Moldova and Romania proposed to consider the possibility of increasing the number of permits to 400 and extending the validity of permits to the third countries

transport operations. The Delegation of Ukraine showed its interest in extending the permit to the third country transport.

12. The Republic of Moldova, supported by IRU, also proposed to consider the possibility of establishing a mechanism for redistributing the unused permits.

13. Upon the request by the Delegation of the Republic of Armenia, the IRU and the BSEC-URTA submitted their relevant information on the state of affairs and last developments with regard to resolving the problem of permits usage by the Armenian hauliers.

14. Following the proposed set of measures, the Member States were invited to provide information by 15 December 2013 to set up framework of cooperation in 2014.

PERSPECTIVES OF COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT ORGANIZATIONS

15. The Member States updated the information on the state of affairs with regard to accession the UNECE transport agreements and conventions which are also essential for facilitation of road transport of goods in the BSEC region. The table is attached as **Annex III**.

16. IRU presented a review of the Union's activities and perspectives which could bring benefits to the BSEC transport cooperation, focusing in particular on concise projects of Model Highway Initiative within the Black Sea Ring Highway framework and implementation of the TIR EPD Green Lanes Concept as well as on necessity of organizing inter-regional transport events together with the IRU and other regional organizations.

17. The Steering Committee appreciated valuable contribution of the UNECE, IRU, BSEC-URTA to the mutually beneficial cooperation on facilitation of road transport of goods and on the development of road and maritime infrastructure.

18. Furthermore, the Steering Committee expressed its readiness to further contribute to the UNECE's efforts on implementation of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate under Annex 8 to the UNECE Harmonization Convention, developing Euro-Asian linkages and other activities.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

19. The date of the next meeting will be communicated to the Parties through BSEC PERMIS in due course.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

20. BSEC PERMIS addressed the issue of the Chairmanship in the Steering Committee.

21. With this regard, the BSEC PERMIS and the BSEC-URTA proposed considering the candidature of the Republic of Moldova to the post of the Chairman of the Steering Committee.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

22. The Steering Committee adopted the present Report for submission to the next Meeting of the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials and the BSEC Working Group on Transport.