



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

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REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT

BSEC Headquarters, 13-14 October 2014

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Transport was held in Istanbul on 13-14 October 2014.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES, Coordinator of the Hellenic BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office.
3. The following BSEC Member States participated in the Meeting:
 - Republic of Albania
 - Republic of Armenia
 - Republic of Azerbaijan
 - Republic of Bulgaria
 - Georgia
 - Hellenic Republic
 - Romania
 - Russian Federation
 - Republic of Turkey
 - Ukraine
4. The representative of the BSEC Business Council, as a BSEC Related Body, participated in the Meeting.
5. The representatives of the Black and Azov Seas Ports Association (BASPA), Black Sea Region Association of Shipbuilders and Shiprepairers (BRASS) and Union of Road Transport Associations in the BSEC Region (BSEC-URTA), as Sectoral Dialogue Partners, participated in the Meeting.
6. The representatives of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Joint Technical Secretariat of the Motorways of the Sea (JTS MoS) and PLASKE JSC participated in the Meeting as Guests.
7. The BSEC PERMIS Secretary General, Ambassador Victor TVIRCUN, welcomed the participants.

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. Implementation of resolutions, decisions, recommendations of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and follow-up of the Sofia Joint Declaration on greening transport in BSEC Region “Through enhanced BSEC regional co-operation towards a safe and sustainable transport” (Sofia, 16 April 2014).

9. The Working Group:

- considered the state of affairs with regard to implementation of decisions of the 29th Meeting (Yerevan, 12 December 2013) and 30th Meeting (Varna, 19 June 2014) of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States related to transport cooperation.
- decided to amend the Action Plan of the BSEC Working Group on Transport for the period of 1 July 2013 – 30 June 2015 with the new provision 18 h:
“Will take into account the environmental dimension in its work in accordance with the Sofia Joint Declaration on greening transport in BSEC Region “Through enhanced BSEC regional co-operation towards a safe and sustainable transport”, adopted by the Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States at their Meeting in Sofia, Republic of Bulgaria, on 16 April 2014”. (The updated text of the Action plan is attached as **Annex III**).
- Invited the Member States to timely update, whenever necessary, information regarding their representatives in the Working Group. The newly updated list of representatives is attached as **Annex IV**.

2.1 The Way Forward for an Action Plan on the Implementation of the “Economic Agenda towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership”.

10. The Working Group took note of:

- the Report on the activities of the Working Group on the implementation of the BSEC Economic Agenda 2012, prepared by BSEC PERMIS in consultation with Ukraine, as the Country-Coordinator, in line with document “The Way Forward for an Action Plan on the Implementation of the “Economic Agenda towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership”, and in accordance with a new template of reporting. (**Annex V**)
- information of Ukraine about state of affairs with regard to implementation of the Action Plan of the BSEC Working Group on Transport for the period of 1 July 2013 – 30 June 2015 (the Action Plan) and activities undertaken. The Calendar of planned and implemented activities is attached as **Annex VI**.

11. The Working Group invited:

- the Member States, Sectoral Dialogue Partners and partner-organizations to make their proposals to the Calendar of transport activities for 2015-2016.
- Ukraine, as the Country Coordinator, to submit by 15 June 2015 an Evaluation Report on the implementation of the Action Plan, in order to enable Romania, as the succeeding Country-Coordinator of the Working Group as of 1 July 2015, to prepare a new Action Plan for the next biannual period.

12. The Working Group decided to consider the Evaluation Report of Ukraine and the new Action Plan by Romania at its next meeting.

2.2 The “Guidelines for the BSEC Project Management Unit”

13. The Working Group:
- took note of the presentation on the Guidelines for the BSEC Project Management Unit, delivered by the BSEC PERMIS. The participants also received booklets “Guidelines for the BSEC Project Management Unit”.
 - invited the Member States to submit project proposals in compliance with the Guidelines.

AGENDA ITEM 3. Integrated road and sea transport infrastructure network in the BSEC Region. State of affairs with regard to:

3.1 Coordinated Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway

14. The Working Group:
- took note of the Report of the 7th Meeting of the Steering Committee on the Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway (BSEC Headquarters, 29 September 2014).
 - acknowledged the importance of decisions of the 7th Meeting for practical implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Coordinated Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway (BSRH MoU).
 - invited the Parties to confirm the BSRH main route and its connections passing through their territories by notifying the BSEC PERMIS and the BSRH JPTS by 30 October 2014.
15. Upon receiving the official information by the Parties, the final version of the main route and its connections will be circulated to the Member States through BSEC PERMIS and BSRH JPTS.

3.2 Development of the Motorways of the Sea in the BSEC Region

16. The Working Group took note of:
- activities and the Report of the meeting of the Ad Hoc WG on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea (BSEC Headquarters, 30 September 2014), presented by the MoS JTS as well as of the Status Report on implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea in the BSEC Region, to be presented to the CSO on request of the Ad Hoc WG.
 - the proposal of BASPA to include the Port of Skadovsk (Ukraine) and the Port of Zonguldak (Turkey) to the list of the MoS ports, taking into account the existing ferry line between them.
17. The Working Group invited the Member States concerned to consider the proposal of BASPA and present their opinions to the Ad Hoc WG.

AGENDA ITEM 4. Facilitation of Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region:

4.1 Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region

18. The Working Group took note of:
- information by the BSEC PERMIS on the state of affairs with regard to the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region.
 - presentation by the BSEC-URTA about the activities undertaken for the implementation of the BSEC Pilot Project on the Introduction of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate (IVWC) and the Project of the BSEC Permit.

- finalization of legal procedures in the Republic of Moldova for the introduction of the IVWC and the issuing of the first IVWC Certificate for a road transport operation to Georgia transiting Ukraine.

19. The Working Group welcomed the Republic of Moldova as the first country to introduce the IVWC under the BSEC Pilot project as well as the recognition of the latter by Georgia and Ukraine.

20. The Working Group invited:

- the Parties to the MoU to take the necessary further steps for the implementation of the MoU in accordance with the agreed deadlines in the Time-Table on the Implementation of the MoU.
- the Member States, participating in the BSEC Pilot Project on the Introduction of the IVWC, to consider the necessary measures for its implementation at the next meeting of the Task Force, to be convened in March-April 2015.

4.2 Development of intermodal transportation

21. The Working Group took note of:

- information by the BSEC PERMIS that the meeting of the Task Force on Intermodal Transport, scheduled for May 2014, was postponed and the next meeting will presumably take place in the first part of 2015.
- information by the Delegation of Ukraine about the International Seminar on Intermodal Transportation in the Black Sea Region, which was held within the framework of the 8th International Black Sea Container Summit 2014 in Odessa, Ukraine, on 11-12 September 2014, and a Summary, containing recommendations on intermodal cooperation, presented by the Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine.

22. The Working Group invited:

- the interested Member States, which have not yet done so, to inform by 30 January 2015 about their representatives to the Task Force.
- the interested Member States to submit their proposals regarding the objectives, mandate and function of the Task Force to be summarized in a relevant Draft Document for further consideration.

AGENDA ITEM 5. Strengthening legal capacity of BSEC transport cooperation.

5.1 Elaboration of Terms of Reference of the BSEC Working Group on Transport

23. The Working Group considered and amended the Draft Terms of Reference of the BSEC Working Group on Transport and requested the BSEC PERMIS to submit it to the CSO. (**Annex VII**)

5.2. Consideration of a Draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the International Union of Railways.

24. The Working Group discussed and approved in general the text of the “Draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the International Union of Railways”. (**Annex VIII**)

25. The Working Group invited Member States wishing to further present comments, remarks or proposals to the above Draft MoU should do so before 15 January 2015.

5.3 PABSEC Report “The Role of Parliaments of the BSEC Member States in Enhancement and Regulation of International Passenger and Cargo Transportation in the BSEC Region”.

26. The Working Group:

- took note of the Draft Report “The Role of Parliaments of the BSEC Member States in Enhancement and Regulation of International Passenger and Cargo Transportation in the BSEC Region” approved by the PABSEC Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee at its 43rd meeting in Batumi, Georgia on 29 September 2014.
- decided to consider the Report and Recommendations at the next meeting after their adoption by the PABSEC General Assembly and to invite, in this regard, a PABSEC representative to make the relevant presentation on the issue.

5.4 Draft Memorandum of Understanding on the Development of Multimodal Ferry Lines in the Black Sea Region, presented by the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation

27. The Working Group exchanged views on a Draft Memorandum of Understanding on the Development of Multimodal Ferry and Passenger Lines in the Black Sea Region, presented by the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation.

28. The Working Group took note of:

- comments and proposals to the MoU received from Georgia and Ukraine.
- the outcome of consultations, on the sidelines of the present meeting, between the delegations of the Russian Federation and Ukraine on the amendments presented by the Ukrainian side to the text of the Draft MoU with a Verbal Note. The text as agreed between the two delegations is attached as **Annex IX**.

29. The Working Group:

- decided to continue working on the attached text of the Draft MoU at its next meeting.
- invited the Member States to present their proposals to the Draft MoU by 15 December 2014.
- requested the BSEC PERMIS to compile all remarks and proposals to the Draft MoU and disseminate them prior to the next meeting of the WG.
- took note of information provided by the Delegation of the Hellenic Republic on its intention to communicate the soonest possible to the Member States, via the BSEC PERMIS, proposals referring to the MoU.

AGENDA ITEM 6. BSEC transport cooperation with international organizations and the BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partners.

30. The Working Group took note of:

- information by the BSEC PERMIS about the state of affairs with regard to transport cooperation with the BSEC Related Bodies, international organizations and the BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partners.
- information of the UNECE representative about a number of transport policy activities undertaken by the UNECE Transport Division in 2014, as well as about the activities with regard to the implementation of the UNECE strategy on Intelligent Transport Systems and the UN Decade on Road Safety (2010-2020). (**Annex X**)
- invitation of the UNECE to the BSEC Member States to take part in the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) meeting in Geneva on 24-26 February 2015 and meetings of relevant UNECE working parties.
- support of the BSEC-URTA to the UNECE activities related to the implementation of international legal instruments.
- presentation by the representative of BRASS.

AGENDA ITEM 7. Discussion on the Draft Joint Declaration of the Meeting of Ministers of Transport of BSEC Member States

31. The Working Group considered, amended and agreed on the text of the Draft “Thessaloniki Joint Declaration on the Development of Cooperation in the field of Transport in the BSEC Region - Integrated intermodal and logistics solutions”. The Draft will be submitted for adoption during the Meeting of the Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States in Thessaloniki, Greece, 25 November 2014. The text of the final draft is attached to the present Report as **Annex XI**.

32. The Working Group also took note of the comprehensive presentation “Integrated intermodal and logistics solutions in the BSEC Region”, highlighting advantages of the intermodal transportation, which was made by the Delegation of the Hellenic Republic. The presentation is attached as **Annex XII**.

AGENDA ITEM 8. Any other business

33. No issues were raised under this Agenda item.

AGENDA ITEM 9. Adoption of the Report of the Meeting

34. The Working Group adopted the present Report to be submitted to the Meeting of the Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States and to the Meeting of the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials.